

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy, High 43, low 27.
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MAGIC VALLEY

Haphazard: Truck spill closes portion of Idaho Highway 27 for several hours.
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MONEY

Graying on the job: Average age of Idaho's work force rises.
Page E1

WEEKEND

The play's the thing: A new acting troupe seeks to bring contemporary theater to the Magic Valley.
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SPORTS

Playoffs: The boys basketball postseason started Thursday night.
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OPINION

Nursing home oversight: Family provides the front line in overseeing long-term care facilities, today's editorial says.
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COMING UP

Faith of our fathers
T.E. Methodist church celebrates centennial this weekend.
Saturday in The Times-News

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GROWING CITY



Andrew Swensen, left, and his uncle Marlon Swensen and brother Benjamin Swensen stand in a field off of Washington Street South and Orchard Drive in Twin Falls Thursday. The Swensens want to build a 21,500-square-foot grocery store as part of the proposed Orchard Park Plaza commercial development to serve residents in the southwest area of town. "I've been amazed by the rapid growth in this part of town over the past 10 years," said Swensen's Markets co-owner Benjamin Swensen, a Twin Falls native who grew up on Orchard Drive.

Developers propose grocery store, shopping plaza

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — El Camino Avenue resident Harold Caldwell has watched new houses spring up by the hundreds in his southwest Twin Falls neighborhood.

To reach a full-sized supermarket, many of these new residents drive across town.

"They need a store out here, bad," Caldwell said.

They're likely to get one, if neighbors like the idea and city officials approve.

Swensen Development Co. LLP — which consists of investors, the owners of Swensen's Markets and the owners of Force Engineering LLP — on Thursday announced plans to build a 21,500-square-foot Swensen's

Market grocery store to anchor a proposed commercial development on the southeast corner of Washington Street South and Orchard Drive.

The new grocery store would be designed with the capability of expanding to about 40,000 square feet, said Andrew Swensen of Twin Falls, who is a partner in Swensen Development, president of Force Engineering and co-owner of Swensen's Markets. The latter is an "independent" grocery business with a 40-year history in Twin Falls.

Inside the new full-service supermarket would be a video rental area, a sit-down eatery with hot deli foods, a film processing center and an in-store pharmacy with a drive-up window, he said.

Swensen Development has an agreement to purchase five acres inside the proposed 17-acre Orchard Park Plaza from landowner Don H. Peters of Boise, and the grocery store would be built on a portion of the five acres.

White Pine Development Co., of which Peters is an managing member, and Swensen Development hope to gain city officials' approval for a planned-unit development and fill the rest of the space with a variety of businesses.

In short, they'll try to line up local, regional or national retailers that offer whatever services the neighbors say they need, Swensen said.

"I think that what they're proposing is something that is really needed down in that area,"

city planning director LaMar Orton said Thursday.

Until public hearings before the city's planning and zoning board and the City Council, Orton can't be sure how the public will react. "But I don't see any major issues here," he said.

Off Park Avenue, just west of Oregon Trail Elementary School, many homes are springing up in several new subdivisions, Orton said. Off Pheasant Road is a planned subdivision that's going through "final" planning, where Orton expects to see some roads and homes built this year. And within half a mile of Washington Street South, a number of other housing subdivisions are in various stages of development.

"I believe that having services close to neighborhoods is important," he said.

Please see PLAZA, Page A2

ISDB workers may get 'at-will' status

State Board seeks more leeway in ability to dismiss employees

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

BOISE — Life is finally getting back to normal since Angel Ramos, the former superintendent of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, resigned in a settlement last June after a prolonged conflict with the State Board of Education, says Rep. Donna Pence, D-Gooding.

"That's why she chooses her words carefully."

"Our community has really

been thrown into a bit of chaos," Pence said Thursday. "We need to put this behind us."

The chaos to which Pence referred to is the State Board's suspension of Ramos and then later his negotiated resignation less than three years after he was hired to head the school.

The Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind was established at the state's inception as an agency under the jurisdiction of the State Board. The agency oversees about 800 disabled



students statewide, with about 40 of them living on a campus in Gooding and returning to their homes on weekends.

According to the law, the superintendents and employees of the school now cannot be dismissed without cause.

"When Ramos first came to the school, he had been considered quite the catch. He's deaf, which made it easy for him to

relate to the disabled students he would work with, plus the former Fulbright Scholar had authored several books and was a well-known advocate for the deaf throughout the nation.

Then suddenly, the State Board put Ramos on administrative leave. A year-and-a-half later, Ramos left for good after settling for \$150,000.

The action spooked workers at the Gooding school, said Ray Lockery, a deaf advocate for the hearing impaired.

"They're afraid if they say the wrong thing, they could lose their jobs," he said.

In the wake of the much-publicized case,

Please see ISDB, Page A2

North Korea boasts it has nuclear weapons

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea boasted publicly Thursday that it has nuclear weapons and said it will stay away from disarmament talks, dramatically raising the stakes in the dispute. The Bush administration called on Pyongyang to give up its atomic aspirations so life can be better for its people.

North Korea's harshly worded pronouncement posed a grave challenge to President Bush, who started his second term with a vow to end North Korea's nuclear program through six-nation disarmament talks.

"We ... have manufactured nuclear for self-defense to cope with the Bush administration's ever-more undisciplined policy to isolate and stifle the (North)," the North Korean Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

U.S. negotiators said North

Korean officials claimed in private talks that they had nuclear weapons and might test one. The North's U.N. envoy also said the country had "weaponized" plutonium from its pool of 8,000 nuclear spent fuel rods.

But Thursday's statement was the first claim directly from North Korea's state media that it has a nuclear weapons, confirming the beliefs of experts that the country has one or two atomic bombs. North Korea is not known to have performed nuclear tests, and it kicked out inspectors in 2002, so there is no way to verify its claims.

The United States and South Korea, the North's main rivals, played down the revelation and urged the North to return to the six-nation talks that began in 2003 and also include China, Japan and Russia. Analysts suggested the move may be a tactic aimed at getting more compensation in exchange for giving up its nuclear weapons program.

Defense points to boyfriend

By Patti Murphy
Times-News correspondent

BOISE — On the fourth day of testimony in the Sarah Johnson double-murder trial, defense attorney Bob Pangburn tried to paint a picture of Johnson's former boyfriend, Bruno Santos, as a drug dealer and gang member with a possible tie to the killings.

But two investigators called to the stand by the state maintained that they had never found any evidence linking Santos with the murders of Alan and Diane Johnson on Sept. 2, 2003.

Sarah Johnson, 31, is accused of killing her parents with a hunting rifle in their Bellevue home. She is being charged as an adult and faces life in prison if convicted.

Pangburn questioned Blaine County Sheriff's Detective Steve Barkus at length about what he knew of Santos' drug use and gang connections. Barkus testified that he had "looked



Sarah Johnson sits in a Boise courtroom Monday where she is on trial for murder in connection with the deaths of her parents. In cross-examinations Thursday, Johnson's defense team suggested her former boyfriend may be responsible for the slayings.

Kid Works back under investigation

Child care center fires employee after 2-year-old wanders off

By Candace Baltz-Snylle
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — Less than three weeks after the Kid Works Child Care Center's owner lost her license, the facility is under a new investigation, this time for losing a 2-year-old.

The Department of Health and Welfare is investigating a Feb. 7 incident in which a young boy left the child care center's back yard and wandered around for about 15 minutes before being found by a neighboring restaurant's waiter. The child was not hurt and was returned to Kid Works.

"It's just ironic," said Kathy James, director of Health and Welfare's Child and Family Services.

Kid Works' owner Cristy Shirley lost her license Jan. 24 in connection with an incident earlier that month where she left a baby in the facility after closing.

It was the second such incident in a year at the facility. The first incident, in February 2004, was investigated by Health and Welfare, and the facility was required to create new closing guidelines.

The guidelines were not followed on Jan. 5, 2005, when the second baby was left locked in the building.

"It's kind of amazing that here we are again," James said. "I just don't understand."

Shirley told The Times-News she was called to Kid Works around 5:50 p.m. Monday night because of an emergency.

"He was on his way to the bathroom with seven other kids and ran off through the emergency exit in our cafeteria," Shirley said. "His teacher didn't see him leave and didn't realize he was gone for a minute or two. He wandered down the ramp, then over by the Little Friends play equipment, and then to a car behind Garibaldi's. A waiter saw him playing with the door on the car and helped to bring him back."

Shirley, who is still the owner of Kid Works but no longer the manager, said the person who was in charge of the box has been fired.

"It doesn't matter if it was intentional or not," she said. "It was negligent, and we have a zero tolerance policy now."

James said Health and Welfare personnel will be discussing the incident with parents of the center and workers at the facility.

"If they didn't know the child was gone, then there would be an issue on supervision," James said. "I'm loving you was the child

Please see DAYCARE, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Near average temperatures with mostly sunny skies. Highs: Lower 40s.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows: 20s.
Tomorrow: Rain showers, mainly with some wet snow showers. Highs: 40s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Scattered clouds. Highs: 40s.
Tonight: Fair to partly cloudy. Lows: 20s.
Tomorrow: Rain or mixed showers. Highs: 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS.
Mild temperatures and sun today will switch to wet snow showers on Saturday as a cold front moves through. Sunday will be cooler with a few lingering flurries.



Weather key: 1st digit = temperature, 2nd digit = precipitation, 3rd digit = cloud cover, 4th digit = wind speed, 5th digit = visibility.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes historical and forecast data.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Table with 2 columns: Sunrise, Sunset. Includes times for today and tomorrow.

MOON PHASES

Table with 4 columns: Feb 16, Feb 24, Mar 3, Mar 10. Includes moon phase names and times.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table with 2 columns: Moonrise, Moonset. Includes times for today and tomorrow.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Boise, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello with their respective forecasts.

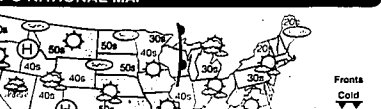
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Denver, Chicago, and New York with their respective forecasts.

WORLD FORECAST

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

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



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CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver with their respective forecasts.

The Times-News Publisher

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Johnson

Continued from A1
into Bruno Santos pretty extensively... and had no information that he was in a gang.

Plaza

Continued from A1
That's for the sake of both the neighborhood's quality of life and the city's transportation flow.

Orchard Park Plaza

Continued from A1
That's for the sake of both the neighborhood's quality of life and the city's transportation flow.

What comes next?

Continued from A1
Meeting the neighbors: Orchard Park Plaza developers will hold an informal open house from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 24 at Depot Gift - 545 Shoshone St.

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Home delivery: daily and Sunday, \$4.35 per week; Saturday and Sunday only, \$2.50 per week.

Know the score?

Read The Times-News sports pages to see how your favorite team is doing.

Daycare

Continued from A1
Young Children, a group that advocates for stricter state oversight of the child care industry, said Thursday that this latest incident is another example of why reform is needed.

ISDB

Continued from A1
Liziced Ramos departure, the State Board asked the House Education Committee on Thursday to narrow the bill's scope.

Regulations may not have prevented this, but maybe requiring education of all staff members who work with children, and more inspections may have helped, she said.

Continued from A1
The legislation also would put the heads of the Eastern-Idaho Technical College and Idaho State University under the same at-will status.

Mall information

The Times-News (UP'S 631-080) is published daily at 132 Fairfield St. W., Twin Falls, by Lee Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises.

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NATION

Bush takes sales pitch on the road

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — President Bush, on a trip to pitch his Social Security plans, tried on Thursday to calm restless Republicans who fear the political consequences of supporting his idea for personal retirement accounts.

"I believe candidates are rewarded, not punished, for taking on tough issues," Bush said. "I say that to give assurance to the members of Congress who may feel somewhat fearful of taking on the issue."

Counting Bush's stop later in the day in Pennsylvania, the president has visited seven states since the Jan. 20 inauguration to host Social Security events, all town hall-style meetings with a campaign trail flair.



President Bush.

On one side outside a performing arts center in Raleigh, men sold Bush inauguration and political buttons. On the other side, a boisterous group of protesters waved neon yellow, commercially made signs that said "Hands off this Social Security." A homemade one said "Mr. Bush, where is my invitation to the Raleigh town hall meeting?"

The message, scrawled next to a sad face, was a critique of the friendly crowds assembled for the events. The president

got plenty of praise from the audience inside. One man thanked Bush for bringing faith back to the White House, a standing ovation followed.

Bush is trying to mobilize support for his efforts to change Social Security, in addition to reassuring workers over age 55 that their benefits will not change under his proposal.

Bush's plan would allow younger workers to divert two-thirds of their Social Security taxes into private accounts that could be invested in stocks and bonds. Contributions would be capped at \$1,000 a year, at first, then rise by \$100 annually. The rest of the Social Security taxes would continue to go into the system to help pay traditional benefit checks.

It's unclear how much lower those traditional checks would be because all Social Security benefits are likely to be reduced in the future, but the system on sound financial footing.

"If you've retired, the system is in good shape for you," Bush said at a community college in Blue Bell, Pa., outside Philadelphia. "You don't have a darn thing to worry about. I don't care what the spinners say. You're in good shape. The system will meet its promises to you."

He tried to lure support from moderate Democrats and Republicans, including some worried that they will lose voters' support in the 2006 midterm elections.

Defense rests case in trial linking Zoloff, murders

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Defense lawyers who say their teenage client killed his grandparents because his mind was clouded by the antidepressant Zoloff rested their case Thursday without calling the youth to testify.

Prosecutors in the case of Christopher Pittman, 15, were expected to call reply witnesses later in the day, and the murder case was likely to go to the jury Friday.

Pittman was 12 when he shot Joe Pittman, 66, and Joy Pittman, 62, to death with a pump-action shotgun as they slept in their rural Chester County home in November 2001.

Prosecutors say he was angry

at his grandparents for disciplining him.

For its final witness Thursday, the defense presented testimony from a psychiatrist and former Food and Drug Administration official that the antidepressant kept Pittman from knowing right from wrong.

"The whole sequence of actions was rash and frantic and done at a high level of anger — anger that was chemically induced," said Richard Kapit, who at the FDA once handled applications and safety reviews of antidepressants like Zoloff.

HOMELESS, BUT STILL A VETERAN

Program gives burial with honor

DALLAS (AP) — Harold Dean Harris died homeless and destitute in an abandoned building and might have gone to a pauper's grave if not for the military papers found in his wallet.

An Army veteran, he was buried Thursday with full military honors. No friends or family came, and no old Army buddies swapped stories. But it was a soldier's farewell, the morning air broken by a 21-gun salute fired by a group of paralyzed veterans.

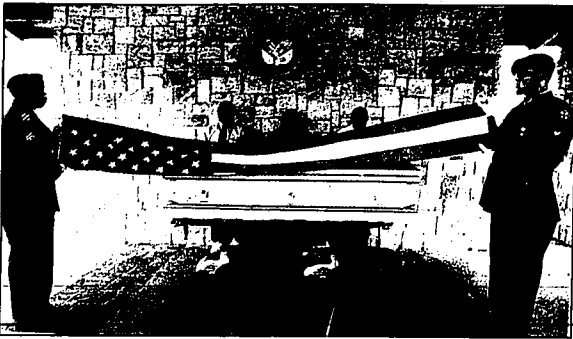
Harris, 63, and another homeless-Army-veteran, Hayden Glyn Kresge, 53, were laid to rest at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in partnership between the Veterans Affairs Department and a nationwide funeral home network that has paid for military burials for more than 300 homeless vets over the past two years.

Very little was known about either man, both of whom served two-year Army stints decades earlier. Military officials could not immediately say where the two men served. Neither had relatives or friends at their brief, back-to-back ceremonies.

A few VA officials came to pay tribute, and a group of homeless men acted as pallbearers.

"Without you who came out on this cold day, these men would have had to go to their graves alone," said Cindy Simpson, of Dignity Memorial Funeral Providers, the funeral home network.

Disabled American Veterans chaplain Cynthia Burks received the flag from Harris' flag-draped casket. Moving with military precision, Michael Riley, deputy commander of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, wheeled forward to give Burks three polished brass rounds from the rifle volleys, representing duty, honor and country.



U.S. Army honor guards from Fort Hood, Texas, Sgt. Kristopher Tate, left, and Spc. Patrick Debor, right, fold a flag in front of the casket carrying the body of homeless veteran Harold Dean Harris as other homeless veteran pallbearers look on in the background.

"When one is in need, we'll be right there beside them," Burks said tearfully. "It was an honor to accept this flag."

The Rev. Alton Jones, a former homeless veteran himself, officiated at both services. He called on the few gathered to look ahead to a life without sickness, sorrow or homelessness, and sang a verse of "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder."

Jamie Jewell, another funeral home representative, said neither man had as much as a photograph among their belongings. But "obviously, Mr. Harris was proud of his service,"

she said, "because he had his papers in his wallet."

Veterans are eligible for Dignity burials if they were homeless-and-honorably discharged and no one comes forward to claim the body. Dignity pays costs not covered by the VA, such as the casket and a hearse. Volunteers stand in for absent loved ones.

"I really feel every veteran deserves full military honors, especially homeless veterans who die alone," Riley said. "No matter what their health was after they left the service, the fact remains that they did

serve our country. To me, it's the highest honor a person could do."

Kresge, who served from 1971 to 1973, died Jan. 21 after being taken to a Dallas hospital. He suffered from hardening of the arteries, high blood pressure and diabetes. A chaplain knew of his military service and passed the information on.

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NATION

Dieticians say kids should skip juice and stick with water, milk

The Associated Press

Soda in a sippy cup? Most parents wouldn't dream of it. But researchers say that when a baby's bottle or cup is filled with juice - even the 100 percent, all-natural, no-sugar-added stuff - parents might as well be pouring Pepsi.

A growing body of science is linking sweet drinks, natural or otherwise, to a host of child health concerns, everything from bulging bellies to tooth decay.

All of these beverages are largely the same. They are 100 percent sugar," Dr. David Ludwig, an expert on pediatric obesity at Children's Hospital Boston, said recently. "Juice is only minimally better than soda."

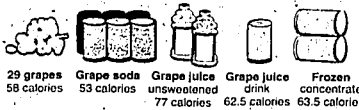
The trouble is that parents who are quick to limit a child's soft drink consumption often overlook or even encourage juice indulgence thanks to the beverage's good-for-you image.

But that image can be overstated. Though healthy in moderation, juice essentially is water and sugar. In fact, a 12-ounce bottle of grape soda has

Kids' juice adds unnecessary calories

The nutritional benefit of fruit juice is only minimally better than soda and with similar calorie counts, the choice of juice over soda is not necessarily healthier.

Comparing calories of fruit with a half cup for each drink



SOURCE: Department of Agriculture

159 calories. The same amount of unsweetened grape juice packs 228 calories.

The \$10 billion juice industry maintains that a conclusive link between its products and obesity has yet to be established, but researchers say sugar, sugar, and sweet drinks of any kind must be consumed with care.

Overuse of juice is a relatively recent phenomenon. Before the rise of soda, juice and other sweetened drinks during the latter half of the 20th century, water and milk were children's

primary beverages. In a nation where nearly a third of children are either overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, health officials now say high-calorie beverages have little place in a young child's diet.

"With the possible exception of milk, children do not need any calorie containing beverages," Ludwig says. "What is needed to replace fluid loss and satisfy thirst is the same beverage we've been drinking for millions of years, and that's water."

Burglars target Greenwich mansions

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP) - In this gated world of great riches, wealth is protected behind high stone walls, intercoms, security cameras and warning signs. And still burglars are managing to break into the mansions of Greenwich.

About 15 homes have been burglarized in the past few months in Greenwich, many in the towns so-called "back country" where celebrities and corporate executives live.

The burglars have taken at least \$750,000 worth of expensive jewelry, fur coats, cash, credit cards and cameras. They have an eye for the finer things, leaving behind inexpensive jewelry.

"They like stones, diamonds and rubies, emeralds," said Detective Tom Powell. "They like fur coats, too. They'll pry a safe off the floor if they can get that."

disabling alarm systems and knocking down grand entrances.

"They have some refined skills," Powell said. But he added: "They will be brought to justice. Of that I'm confident."

Authorities suspect the Greenwich break-ins were carried out by the same burglars, and believe they are operating in at least four other states: New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Maryland.

None of the town's famous residents, who include actors Ron Howard and Mel Gibson, have been victimized, police say.

The burglars know the well-to-do are often away from home on business or winter vacations. And neighbors live so far apart on one- to three-acre properties that witnesses to the crimes are rare.

Police have increased patrols in the exclusive neighborhoods of Greenwich, where the medi-

um price of a house is \$1.55 million. Authorities are also advising residents to take more precautions.

George Whitmore, president of a neighborhood group where the burglars have been active, thought he was safe living on a cul-de-sac. But his neighbors were promptly hit by thieves when they went out to dinner and the movies for a few hours.

"The pattern apparently was identified and the burglars came in," Whitmore said. "We advised them to make sure their homes look like they're occupied."

Residents say they are worried about the burglaries. But Whitmore acknowledged "there is a lot of wealth here to be picked up illicitly" and noted that this is not the first time thieves have come looking for riches in Greenwich.

N.Y. civil rights lawyer guilty of aiding terrorists

NEW YORK (AP) - A veteran civil rights lawyer was convicted Thursday of crossing the line by smuggling messages of violence from one of her jailed clients - a radical Egyptian sheik - to his terrorist disciples on the outside.



Lynne Stewart

The jury deliberated 13 days over the past month before convicting Lynne Stewart, 65, a firebrand, left-wing activist known for representing radicals and revolutionaries in her 30 years on the New York legal scene.

Stewart slumped in her chair as the verdict was read, shaking her head and later wiping tears from her eyes. Her supporters gasped upon hearing the conviction, and about two dozen of them followed her out of court.

chanting, "Hands off Lynne Stewart!"

She vowed to appeal and blamed the conviction on evidence that included videotape of Osama bin Laden urging support for her client. The defense protested the bin Laden evidence, and the judge warned jurors that the case did not involve the events of Sept. 11.

"When you put Osama bin Laden in a courtroom and ask the jury to ignore it, you're asking a lot," she said. "I know I committed no crime. I know what I did was right."

Doctor violates Iraqi embargo

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) - An Iraqi-born doctor was convicted Thursday of operating a charity that violated a former U.S. embargo and defrauding donors who gave \$5 million to help his native country.

The federal jury convicted Dr. Rafiq Dhaif of conspiring to violate the embargo, tax evasion and Medicare fraud after a trial that lasted more than three months. Dhaif, an oncologist, was acquitted of money laundering.

Defense attorney Deveraux Carnick said Dhaif was the victim of post-Sept. 11 anti-Muslim sentiment. "If he were not a Muslim, he never would have been charged or brought to trial," the attorney said.

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Insurgent violence kills more than 50 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A car bomb detonated by remote control exploded Thursday in Baghdad, killing two Iraqis but wounding a U.S. military convoy as insurgent violence claimed more than 50 lives. Clashes between Iraqi police and rebels erupted along a major highway southeast of the capital.



An Iraqi boy watches U.S. Army soldiers on patrol in Mosul, Iraq. Two U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi bystander were wounded in fighting in Mosul on Thursday.

With violence on the rise after the Jan. 30 election, Iraqi officials announced they would seal the country's borders for five days this month around a major Shiite religious holiday. Last year during the holiday, about 180 people were killed in suicide attacks at Shiite shrines.

The car bomb detonated on Tahrir Square, the heart of Baghdad, shattering the vehicle and setting several other cars on fire. At least two Iraqis were killed and two others were wounded, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. James Hutton said.

An American military patrol had just passed through the area but there were no U.S. casualties, Hutton said.

Most of the violence Thursday targeted Iraq's security forces, part of an apparent insurgent campaign to undermine public confidence after police and soldiers managed to prevent catastrophic attacks during the elections.

The biggest attack occurred in Salman Pak, 12 miles southeast of Baghdad, when insurgents attacked Iraqi policemen who came to look for weapons, showing them with machine-gun fire, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar rounds, police said.

Iraq's Interior Ministry said 14 policemen were killed, 65 were wounded and six were missing after the two-hour gunbattle. Four insurgents also died in the fighting, the ministry said.

American troops evacuated several of the wounded, the U.S. command said, and residents said American helicopters were prowling the skies.

"We were on patrol to search for weapons," wounded police-

man Waad Jassim said from his hospital bed. "When we arrived, they opened heavy fire at us. There were many of them, and some were charging out of houses."

Rahmaniayah neighborhood of western Baghdad late Thursday, and residents said the blast occurred near a small Shiite mosque. Witnesses said there were casualties but police had no report.

Elsewhere, bodies of 20 Iraqi truck drivers who had been shot were found dumped on a road, their hands bound behind their backs, police Capt. Ahmed Ismail said. Some of the trucks were owned by the government, Ismail said.

Gunmen fired on an Iraqi police patrol Thursday in Baqouba, north of Baghdad, triggering a gunbattle that killed a civilian and wounded two police officers, officials said. Assaults also killed a police lieutenant in Baqouba.

Five bodies in Iraqi National Guard uniforms were found Thursday in the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. Hospital director Ala al Ani said residents reported that the slain men were among 15 guardsmen who went missing recently. Two insurgents were killed Thursday in clashes with U.S. forces north of Ramadi, residents and hospital officials said.

A strong explosion shook the

Abbas fires security forces after attacks

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas fired top Gaza security commanders Thursday, Palestinian officials said, hours after militants fired dozens of mortar shells and homemade rockets at Jewish settlements there, breaking a 2-day-old cease-fire.

An official said on condition of anonymity that Abbas dismissed chief of public security Brig. Gen. Abdel Hakeem Majadeh, police chief Sabh al-Ajed, three other senior commanders and several lower-ranking officers.

Palestinian Cabinet Secretary Hassan Abu Libdeh said Abbas took "punitive measures against officers who did not undertake their responsibilities, which led to the latest developments in Gaza," dismissing several commanders and accepting the resignations of others.

Despite a cease-fire declared Tuesday, Hamas militants launched more than 30 mortars and rockets at settlements Thursday, causing no casualties or damage.

Militants also stormed a prison in Gaza, freeing Hamas suspects.

"These are very dangerous developments, and they violate the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority," Abu Libdeh said. "No one can continue with these violations."

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Plates clashed like rumpling up of carpet

Digital images released by the British Royal Navy's HMS Scott show the seabed at the epicenter of the Dec. 26 earthquake that caused the tsunami.

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The collision forced ridges to form up to 4,950 feet (1,500 meters) high

NOTE: Deep areas shown in dark purple and blue; ridges caused by plate collision in red, green and yellow.

SOURCES: HMS Scott UK; Southampton Oceanography Centre

Images indicate ruptures near tsunami epicenter

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — The first images of the seabed that was rocked by the earthquake that triggered Asia's catastrophic tsunami revealed huge ruptures spanning several miles along the Indian Ocean's floor.

The United States, meanwhile, said it was preparing to more than double its pledge for tsunami relief to \$950 million.

The images of the seabed were from a British naval ship collecting data off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island that could be used to help governments develop a tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean region.

There are features which we would think are something like the Grand Canyon would look," Tim Henscock, a scientist aboard the HMS Scott, told BBC News. "You can see huge piles of mud maybe a few hundred meters thick."

The images show "slide scars" more than six miles wide result-

ing from the 9.0 magnitude quake on Dec. 26, the world's biggest in 40 years.

President Bush said he would ask Congress for \$950 million — up from \$350 million committed for tsunami relief so far — a pledge that would put the United States atop of the list of donors to the disaster.

Australia has promised \$910 million, followed by Germany's \$660 million, the European Commission's \$624 million and Japan's \$540 million.

"We will use these resources to provide assistance and to work with the affected nations on rebuilding vital infrastructure that re-energizes economies and strengthens societies," Bush said in a statement.

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EDITORIAL

Gooding case shows family members must monitor care

Finding quality long-term care is an issue that will hit close to home for everyone, if it hasn't already. So the investigation into resident abuse at the Gooding Rehab and Living Center should grab the attention of anyone who has, or is about to have, a loved one in long-term care.

Nursing care employees and state agencies play a role in making sure residents receive their full care. But family members have to take a lead in observing and reporting problems in long-term care centers.

Our view: The probe into a Gooding nursing care unit shows that family must be alert and provide oversight. **What do you think?** We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Bureau of Facility Standards just completed a nine-day investigation into the Gooding facility and discovered some serious cases involving care for two residents. One case involved a resident who was forcefully given a flu shot against that patient's individual wishes. (The resident's guardian requested it.) Another revolved around one resident who suffered bedsores.

As a result, Pocatello-based Northwest Bec-Corp, owner of the Gooding facility, fired the administrator, assistant administrator, behavioral health unit director and a registered nurse. A detailed report will be released in the coming weeks. The facility will respond with an action plan to correct the problems in the ensuing 90 days.

The cases of abuse at the Gooding facility reflect bad decisions by a few employees, but not all of them. Most nursing care practitioners for the elderly have a devotion and sensitivity that goes the extra mile. It's intensive work and requires a heartfelt effort every day to provide for aging patients. That said, the state's investigation produced some necessary results. Furthermore, some smoke may have preceded the fires put out by the state last week.

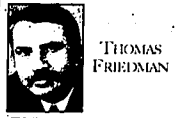
Each year the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services conducts a survey from inspections and complaint investigations at living care facilities. The survey lists deficiencies that range from the small to the serious. In last month's report, Gooding Rehab and Living Center had the highest number of deficiencies in the Magic Valley with 27. That number went up from the previous year's 26. The facility also had the largest percentage of high-risk patients with bed sores (19 percent).

"There's no question that generally the more deficiencies you have, the larger problem you've got," said Ross Mason, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Welfare. One official at Northwest Bec-Corp said, "the resident abuse could have been avoided had the employees of the facility simply self-reported" to the "bureau" of Facility Standards in each instance.

But how does self-reporting stop abuse? Last week's abuse already occurred for that particular case? Self-reporting is merely a way to lessen the impact of state regulatory inspection and corrective investigations. This just goes to show that the real key to awareness of possible long-term care abuse lies in the hands of family members. Family members have to play a role in making sure Mom, Dad or Grandma receive the care they need. They must be alert to the environment, the care and the relationships between patients and staff. Mason says residents should observe as much as possible, and not be shy about what they see. They can also ask to see the state's written inspection reports for each facility. Those steps are a good start. Not every long-term care patient has family around to assist him in his health care needs. But for those who do, the watchful eye of oversight can go a long way to help.

Dems must awaken to Iraq's new dawn

In the past week, I've received several e-mail notes from Democrats about the Iraq elections, or heard comments from various Democratic lawmakers — all ways along the following lines: "Remember, Vietnam also had an election, and you recall how that ended." Or, "OK, the election was nice, but none of it was worth \$100 billion and 10,000 killed and wounded." Or, "You know, we've actually created more terrorists in Iraq — election or not."



THOMAS FRIEDMAN

I think there is much to criticize about how the war in Iraq has been conducted, and the outcome is still uncertain. But those who suggest that the Iraq election is just beanbag, and that all we are doing is making the war of terrorism worse as a result of Iraq, are speaking nonsense.

Here's the truth: There is no single action we could undertake anywhere in the world to make the threat of terrorism that would have a bigger impact today than a decent outcome in Iraq. It is that important. And precisely because it is so important, it should not be left to Donald Rumsfeld. Democrats need to start thinking seriously about Iraq — the way Joe Biden, Joe Lieberman and Hillary Clinton have. France — the mother of all blue states — can do it, so, too, can the Democrats. Otherwise, they will be absenting themselves from the most important foreign policy issue of our day.

What Iraq is now embarking on is the first attempt — ever — by the citizens of a multithentic, multicultural Arab state to draw up their own social contract, their own constitution, for how they should share power and resources, protect



minority rights and balance mosque and state. I have no idea whether they will succeed. Much will depend on whether the Shiites want to be a wise and inclusive majority and whether the Sunnis want to be a smart and collaborative minority.

There will be a lot of trial and error in the months ahead. But this is a hugely important horizontal dialogue because if Iraqis can't forge a social contract, they can be ruled only by iron-fisted kings or dictators with all the negatives that flow from that.

But — but — if Iraqis succeed in forging a social contract in the hardest place of all, it means that democracy is actually possible anywhere in the Arab world.

Democrats do not favor using military force against Iran's nuclear program or to compel regime change there. That is probably wise. But they don't really have a diplomatic option. I've got one: Iraq, Iraq is

our Iran policy. If we can help produce a representative government in Iraq — based on free and fair elections and with a Shiite leadership that accepts minority rights and limits on clerical involvement in politics — it will exert great pressure on the ayatollah-dictators running Iran.

In Iran's sham "Islamic democracy," only the mullahs decide who can run. Over time, Iranian Shiites will demand to know why they can't have the same freedoms as their Iraqi cousins right next door. That will drive change in Iran. Just be patient.

The war on terrorism is a war of ideas. The greatest restraint on human behavior is not a police officer or a fence: It's a community and a culture. Palestinian suicide bombing has stopped not because of the Israeli fence or because Palestinians are no longer "desperate." It has stopped because the Palestinians had an election and got out as soon as we can. But trying to finish the job there, as long as we have real partners, is really important — and any party that says otherwise will become unimportant.

— Egypt and Syrian-occupied Lebanon both have elections this year. Watch how the progressives and those demanding representative government are empowered in their struggle against the one-man rulers in Egypt and Syria — if the Iraq experiment succeeds.

We have had a huge price in Iraq, and it goes out as soon as we can. But trying to finish the job there, as long as we have real partners, is really important — and any party that says otherwise will become unimportant.

— Egypt and Syrian-occupied Lebanon both have elections this year. Watch how the progressives and those demanding representative government are empowered in their struggle against the one-man rulers in Egypt and Syria — if the Iraq experiment succeeds.

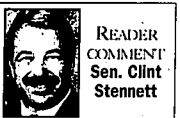
Thomas L. Friedman is a columnist for *The New York Times*.

Senate dampens trust in open government

The Idaho Constitution was designed by forward-thinking men who advanced a government open to the people. As founding Sen. Aaron Parker explained, the idea was to turn "the electric light of publicity upon every act of the legislature." And so it was written in our Constitution, Article III, section 12, that "the business of each house, and of the committee of the whole shall be transacted openly and not in secret session."

This idea of open government was again set forth in the Idaho Code in 1974 when the Idaho Legislature passed the open public meeting law, which extended the Constitution's intentions to all agencies of the government. These intentions are not ambiguous. They clearly dictate that government should be open to the public.

Last week, the Idaho Senate voted contrary to the spirit of our Constitution and Idaho Code. The Senate (S-20-9) to change the Senate Rules permit committee meetings to be closed to the public at any time for any reason with a two-thirds vote of the committee. This majority party's leadership argues that they will still allow the public into committee meetings and that the closure of the committees has and will remain rare. The practice may continue to be rare, but what the Senate did was remove any impediment for closing its business meetings to the public. In my mind, the majority party gave the Senate an unconstitutional power. No other government agency is allowed to close its meetings to the public without following the law. Clearly, the public is the loser.



READER COMMENT Sen. Clint Stennett

Prior to last week, the Senate agreed to abide by the same laws as all other governing authorities in Idaho. Yet last week, the Senate also voted to amend the Idaho Code to make itself accountable to its own set of rules rather than Idaho Code. The majority leadership has determined it derives its power to operate under its own rules from the Constitution and not the laws of Idaho. As senators, we should not hold ourselves above the very laws we impose on the citizens of this state. Yet, this was clearly a move to ensure that the current open meeting laws could not be applied to Senate committees. More specifically than the Constitution, this statute mentions that all meetings of any standing, special or select committee shall be open to the public at all times. Again, this premise of open government is not ambiguous.

Every issue we deliberate will affect the public in some fashion. We are servants of the public, and the public deserves to know what we spend our time, what we are discussing and why we make the decisions

that we do. The public must trust its government. We should work to earn that trust. The designers of our Constitution believed in a transparent government because abuses of power occur when we permit secrecy. Secrecy becomes a slippery slope into government that is the demise of a democracy.

The public wants an open government. The constitution is clear on this issue. Each senator takes an oath of office to support the state Constitution. This oath does not allow for us to pick and choose which parts we are to uphold and which parts we can ignore. I will acknowledge that our Constitution gives the Senate the right to create its own rules but it should not be at the expense of other Constitutional provisions, Idaho Code and public involvement. Clearly, what happened last week is unhealthy for our democracy.

Senate Minority Leader Clint Stennett, District 2, serves District 25, Blaine, Camas, Gooding and Lincoln counties.

Sen. Clint Stennett

Correction

Thursday's editorial on a deregulation bill from Qwest Communications Inc. needs one item of correction. One of the bill's new provisions would use the highest regulated price for basic

telephone service previously approved by the PUC and already being paid by customers in Idaho to serve as a price ceiling or maximum price for at least three years. *The Times-News* regrets the error.

The Times-News

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

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The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 400 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley offices: mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

Prescription costs more dire than Social Security

President Bush is pushing to amend Social Security. If the government had kept its hands out of it in the past, it would have saved billions. In my opinion, the issue of prescription medicine needing an overhaul is more important at this time. The price of prescription medicine has escalated to an alarming extortion rate. The elderly and low income cannot afford medical insurance, let alone medicine insurance. If our government can't put a lid on pharmaceutical companies, they could at least make an allowance. It seems they have money when it comes to aliens. Medicare and Medicare supplements have increased dramatically in the last few years.

One Saturday, a member of our family who spends several hundred dollars a month for medicine applied for a prescription refill and was told by the pharmacist that it would cost double that day but in two days it would be the regular price. When asked why, he said "Government supervision." Having asthma is a hardship in itself. One can't control inhalers or the pollution, so how can one guess the amount of needing extra medication or end up in the hospital. Personally, I have no wax to grid for myself. I take no prescription

medicine, but it makes me furious to see this happening to people who do have to take a great number of pills. LAWRENCE W. JOHNSON Hagerman

Critic of homeschooling struck the right nerve

Gary Eller, you hit it right on the head. I couldn't have said it better. TONY PRATER Twin Falls

Doonesbury



By Gary Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



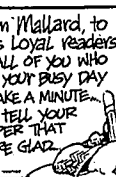
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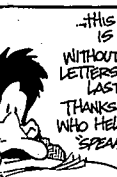
TO ALL OF YOU WHO STOP YOUR BUSY DAY TO TAKE A MINUTE AND TELL YOUR PAPER THAT YOU'RE GLAD



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THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HELP THIS DUCK SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER!



LETTERS

Prepare to act to help stop the recreational tax

What is the RAT? It is the "Recreational Access Tax" - the despicable heir to Fee-Demol in the waning months of '04. Rep. Ralph Regalia, R-Ohio, (no public lands in his district) inserted a despicable midnight stealth "rider" making hiking fees permanent! They were set to expire in '05.

This "law" carries with it a maximum fine of \$5,000 and/or jail time for not having a "hiking pass."

The federal deficit is now \$570 billion. This trashing national debt load was absolutely caused by the immoral war in Iraq - now running at \$280 billion. BushCO certainly must have your hiking fees to reduce the national debt! This is unconscionable.

What to do about it? It is time for forceful and wide scale civil disobedience. The Times-News stated in a 1999 editorial: "The recreation fee program in the Sawtooth National Forest is so egregiously bad that it deserves to be met with civil disobedience." A 1998 Times-News editorial stated: "How to cope with user fees in a national forest - don't pay." I concur 100 percent. Do not buy a hiking pass!

There are currently some excellent people in charge on the Sawtooth Forest, and they know full well in their hearts and minds that this has been a public relations disaster, that the recreation public hates it, and that the situation will only get exponentially worse. The fault lies squarely with a corrupt and environmental Republican-controlled Congress, hell bent on privatization of our public lands. This RAT monster is the tip of a very ugly public lands iceberg. Contrast RAT with the billions in pork barrel spending of Congress - it is beyond mind-boggling. How about some rational sense of perspective here? The hiking season is two months away. I implore you now to vigorously exercise your prerogative and duty as a citizen and owner of your national forest and Bureau of Land Management lands to forceful-

ly say that you will not stand for the despotism that RAT truly is! Best pay attention to this - or you will not be a "happy camper" come summer. Please speak forcefully to Sens. Craig and Crapo, Rep. Simpson, and Sawtooth Forest officials. (There is an outside chance that RAT could still be repealed! It is your recreational future on your national forest.

"We have a great country - let's save what's left of it. No more RAT!"
SCOTT PHILLIPS
Haller
(Editor's note: Scott Phillips is a retired Forest Service professional in outdoor recreation management.)

Why does Idaho allow low-level waste?

Being interested in why Idaho is taking Connecticut low-level nuclear waste, I got a reply from Bob Walker, director of the Radiation Control Program for Massachusetts. If you read between the lines, it says they have a state law prohibiting the dumping of low-level nuclear waste in their state and Idaho doesn't, so if Idaho is dumb enough to accept it, they will ship it.

I think it's time Idaho passed some laws of its own, don't you?
ROY DAVENPORT
Buhl

Judge goes overboard in 'shoplifting' case

The following case demonstrates an absurd lack of common sense by those in power.

In October 2003, my sister and son were shopping at a local retail store in Twin Falls. This particular store is noted for hiring rent-a-cops as store detectives.

My son demonstrated symptoms of discomfort, so my sister told him to wait by the deli where they would have some lunch while she went out to her car to obtain some medicine for him. Before she got back, he went out the door with the shopping cart that contained the items she intended to purchase. The store detective goes bursting out the door to confront my son with shoplifting. He then discovers my son is mentally handicapped. Instead of having the common sense to allow my sister to redirect him back into the store, the rent-a-cop escalated the situation.

We don't know why my son left the store, but he didn't follow expected behavioral patterns. I suspect a store clerk caused him to go out. It is outrageous this scenario found its way into court, that her defense attorney, Mr. Woods, went into court by the seat of his pants, unprepared, and she received a maximum sentence from Judge Charles Brumbach of one year in jail for petty theft.

I think intended shoplifters will try to conceal the items, for heaven's sake! Duh!
As a family, we try to do the best with this boy and it sure would help if others understood a little.
In March of 2004, my son was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer and, consequently, chemotherapy, has damaged a great deal of his heart muscle.

My parents are elderly and my son responds to my sister in life-sustaining ways that he won't with others. She could make the difference in his life now, as doctors' letters to the judge corroborate, but this judge will not release her even after searing half of the time.

He said, "You used your nephew to shoplift, so you don't deserve to be released." How absurd!
The family needs her help more than the jail needs her in it! This judge is over the top, insensitive, and his pride, power and prejudice may lead to the

finality of my son before my sister completes the time. He should have been more concerned about the false testimony from the prosecutor's witness. There is an accounting after this life!
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- Wheels
- Spoiler

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- Tilt/Cruise
- CD Changer
- Leather
- Slider
- Tow Pkg.
- Nari Bars
- EX4 Pkg.
- Wheels

2005 NISSAN altima
 RETAIL \$25990
SMART BUY
\$19995

#958E

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD

2002 BUICK rendezvous ex awd
 RETAIL \$22480
SMART BUY
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#7117

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#062R

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2001 BUICK lesabre custom
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#873E

- Pwr Seats
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD

2000 CHEVROLET S10 extra cab 4x4
 RETAIL \$17370
SMART BUY
\$11995

#713B

- Cassette
- Wheels
- Bed Linner
- 5 Speed

2004 CHEVROLET 1500 quad cab ls 4x4
 RETAIL \$29085
SMART BUY
\$24995

#714D

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- wheels
- Bed Liner
- Tow Pck

2002 DODGE durango slt 4x4
 RETAIL \$20995
SMART BUY
\$15995

#8360

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- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- wheels
- Roof Rack

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SMART BUY
\$11995

#069R

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD

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 RETAIL \$25910
SMART BUY
\$19995

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- On Star
- Z71
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Retirement gift?
Bill would allow routing wardens to keep guns.
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MAGIC VALLEY

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Night City Editor: Troy Foster, 735-3204

The Times-News

Friday, February 11, 2005

Section B

AROUND THE VALLEY

Bar patron faces assault charge

TWIN FALLS — Prosecutors have filed charges against a man who police say threatened his bar employee after he was denied another drink.

Larry Lynn Jones, 23, of Twin Falls, made an initial appearance in 5th District Magistrate Court Thursday afternoon on one count of aggravated assault, a felony.

On Thursday just after midnight, police were dispatched to the Oasis Bar on Blue Lakes Boulevard for a report of a man with a gun, according to an affidavit written by Gary Blanchard, an officer with the Twin Falls Police Department.

The bar's staff told police a man, later identified as Jones, became angry after they wouldn't serve him another drink, the affidavit says.

The patron began yelling and was asked to leave. As the bar employee walked Jones to the door, Jones pushed the man and reached toward the waist of his pants, saying he was going to shoot him, police say.

Jones reportedly ran southbound down an alley but was apprehended by police.

Officers did not find a gun on him but did locate a 4-inch folding knife in his pocket.

Jones' preliminary hearing was set for Feb. 18. He was released on his own recognizance.

Immigration officer speaks to group

TWIN FALLS — The resident agent in charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Boise will speak at noon Monday at a meeting of the Hispanic Business and Professionals Network at the Azilan Restaurant on Blue Lakes Boulevard North.

Blaine Dahlstrom will talk about changes to immigration enforcement because of Homeland Security measures, as well as about the role of the federal agency.

Anyone is welcome to the no-host lunch.

For more information, call Leticia Coronado at 735-3207 or Pat Marcantonio at 733-3288.

Agencies seek input from land owners

BURLEY — Riverfront property owners in the Mini-Cassia area who are interested in repair or replacement of their retaining walls are encouraged to contact Maureen Newton.

Newton has coordinated Idaho Power Co., Milner Dam, Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers and they are interested in finding out how many property owners have a drop in the water next fall and for how long the water would need to be dropped.

Affected property owners are encouraged to attend a meeting with these agencies and Newton needs to know if there are enough people interested in repairs to put a meeting together.

The agencies could also inform property owners of permits they will need and provide other information.

If you are interested in doing repairs or attending an informational meeting, please call Newton at 435-9041, and leave a message if there is no answer.

— compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% season peak**
Salmon	80%	40%
Big Wood	80%	45%
Little Wood	75%	53%
Big Lost	76%	49%
Little Lost	76%	48%
Henry Fork/Teton	75%	52%
Upper Snake Basin	71%	48%
Oakley	77%	55%
Salmon Falls	81%	56%

*A comparison of basin snowpack on this day with a 30-year average.
**An indicator of basin snowpack for the winter snow season, which peaks in late March.

Incident ruled murder-suicide

The Times-News
SITUATION — An investigation into an incident near Shoshone last month has revealed the causes of death of two people to be murder and suicide, according to information recently released by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

Crystal Torres, 22, of Shoshone, and Carlos Munoz, 31, of American Falls, died Jan. 28 on Idaho Highway 75, according to the sheriff's department.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., Lincoln County sheriff's deputies responded to a 911 call for a domestic disturbance. The suspect, Munoz, reportedly was

wanted in Power County for violating a protection order.

An investigation determined that Munoz had gone to Torres' house, forcing his way in and threatening to shoot anyone who stopped him, according to the sheriff's department.

Munoz forced Torres in the back bedroom and forced her to get into his car.

The pair drove eastbound toward Highway 75.

As authorities were responding to the domestic disturbance call, they spotted a small white car that had veered off the road.

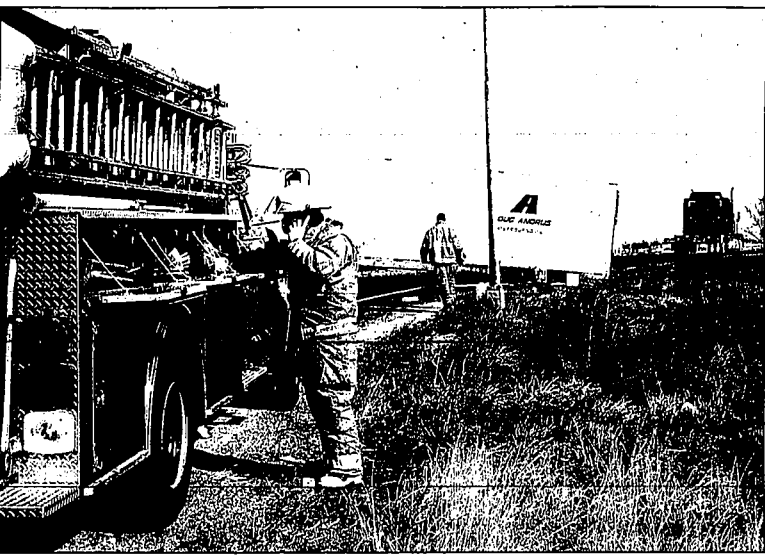
Inside the vehicle, police found two people, later identified as Torres and Munoz.

Torres, the passenger, was immediately determined to be

dead. Munoz died at the scene after emergency medical personnel attempted to give first aid to him. Evidence indicates that Munoz shot and killed Torres before turning the gun on himself, according to the sheriff's department.

The Magic Valley Critical Incident Task Force assisted with the investigation of the incident.

TRUCK SPILL



Minidoka County Fire District firefighters responded around noon Thursday to a trailer full of potentially hazardous materials that came loose from a semi truck at the Exit 208 onramp to Interstate 84.

Trailer of hazardous material crashes near Burley

By Chip Thompson
For The Times-News

BURLEY — A semi-trailer carrying "corrosive" material came loose from a truck shortly after noon Thursday at the east-bound onramp of Interstate 84's Exit 208.

Only a small amount of leakage was found and no injuries or evacuations were reported, said Lt. Dan Kindig of the Minidoka County Sheriff's Department, who acted as incident commander at the scene.

"The incident lasted about 2 miles of Idaho Highway 27 north and south of I-84 for more than seven hours.

Kindig said the refrigerated trailer was removed and the cargo was transferred to another trailer around 7:15 p.m.

Sheriff's Lt. Randy White said there was a small amount of leakage and the Magic Valley Emergency Response Team, which handles hazardous material cleanup, was called to the scene.

"When we lifted up the trailer we noticed a small amount of liquid," Kindig said. "We took the precaution to bring the haz-

mat team in to check it out."

Kindig said the trailer inside the trailer were secure and it appeared there was a small splash from one or two containers when the trailer slammed to the ground after coming loose from the truck.

"We couldn't see that the leakage (was minor) until we could get the trailer," Kindig said.

The hazardous materials team inspected each of the containers before the trailer was moved, Kindig said.

Minidoka Fire District Chief Mike Brown described the materials on the truck as a chlorine-based chemical, similar to Chlorox, and some type of acid, which, if mixed, would have created a chlorine

gas that could present a danger to those downwind of the trailer. Kindig said one of the chemicals was sulfuric acid.

The placard on the trailer identified the other chemical by the code 1791 — a hypochlorite solution, with more than 5 percent available chlorine, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's emergency response guidebook.

No evacuations were ordered, but a contingency plan was put into place in case the evacuation of homes and businesses in the area was needed, White said.

Kindig said officers were sent to homes in north Burley around 3:40 p.m. to advise resi-

dents to stay indoors as a precaution.

He added that no gas or other hazardous material was released.

The truck had picked up the trailer at the Hub Plaza truck stop near the onramp and apparently a safety pin was not inserted into the hitch mechanism of the trailer, Kindig said.

When the truck made the turn to enter the interstate, the trailer came loose and came to rest, upright, blocking the onramp, Kindig said.

A small amount of fuel used to power the refrigeration unit leaked from an auxiliary fuel tank mounted on the underside of the trailer, Kindig said.

Firefighters from the Minidoka Fire District had the fuel spill cleaned up within 20 minutes, but emergency personnel from several Mini-Cassia agencies and the Idaho State Police remained at the scene to direct traffic until the contents of the trailer could be secured.

Interstate traffic was not allowed to exit at the 208 interchange, according to a press release issued by the Idaho Transportation Department around 3:30 p.m.

“When we lifted up the trailer we noticed a small amount of liquid. We took the precaution to bring the haz-mat team in to check it out.”

— Lt. Dan Kindig, Minidoka County Sheriff's Department

Teacher helps her students start off on the right foot

By Laurie Welch
For The Times-News

DECLO — At first glance the class looks typical, but some of the kindergarten students are sitting at little desks completing a paper on the letter V, there's a group in the corner reading and a student or two are standing at a shelf searching through plastic bins looking for glue sticks.

Closer inspection reveals all of these 5- and 6-year-old students are remarkably on task.

"They are following the directions given to them by Declo Elementary School teacher Susan Anderson. No one's mind seems to be wandering, which is no small feat when you are dealing with 5-year-olds.

"I love teaching kindergarten," Anderson said. "The kids are so excited no matter what you do, and you get to see such a big growth that first year.

A kindergarten teacher for 10 years, Anderson is highly regarded by other teachers as well as parents and her students.

"She's great. She's so positive with her babies," said Trish Mendenhall, a fellow kindergarten teacher in Declo.

Anderson said there are a lot of expectations placed on kindergarten now.

Kindergarten used to be more developmental and now it is more academic, she said.

"This is the first experience these children have with school," Anderson said. "Some of the students don't have really good experiences at home and for some this is the only time somebody says, 'you did that so well' or 'you look so cute.'"

Mendenhall said Anderson connects with the students on a personal level and has a knack for explaining things and bringing the subject down to a level the children can understand.

"I love what I do, it's my thing,"

Anderson said. "That's probably why I do it well — that and I'm still a kid at heart."

Anderson sits at a little table with a small group of students who take turns reading a sentence aloud. The other students follow along and point out the words with their fingers. No one has to read twice when it is his turn to read.

Anderson keeps her students on task, which can be one of the most difficult parts of her job. But it gives her time to interact on a more personal level with the students, and that keeps the lesson fun.

Most of her kindergarten students are reading on a first- or second-grade level.

But Anderson said she does not forget that "kids need to be kids."

Anderson's students feel free to approach her with questions and she turns all her attention to that child as she answers.

"She is very upbeat and the



Kindergarten teacher Susan Anderson sits and reads with one of her students, Kelsie Hamilton, during class at Declo Elementary School earlier this week.

Laurie Welch can be reached in Burley at 678-2201, Ext. 767, or by e-mail at lwelch@southidahopress.com.



This security camera image shows the man police say robbed the D.L. Evans Bank at 215 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. on Thursday.

Man robs T.F. bank

The Times-News
TWIN FALLS — A bank on Blue Lakes Boulevard was the target of a robbery Thursday morning, police say.

Officers with the Twin Falls Police Department were called to the D.L. Evans Bank at 215 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. at approximately 11:40 a.m.

According to police, a man walked into the branch and handed a teller a note demanding money.

The suspect ran to the left on foot with an undischarged sum.

No one was injured in the incident, police say.

The suspect is described as a slender white male, 20 to 30 years old, with short hair. He is approximately 6 feet tall and was wearing a gray trench coat, a blue suit, a tie and a Fedora-style hat. He was carrying a leather briefcase.

The same bank was robbed the afternoon of Jan. 6.

The suspect in that case, described as a slender white male between 50, and 60 years old, presented a note to a teller demanding money. He did not display a weapon during the robbery.

On June 7, 2004, a man attempted to rob the D.L. Evans Bank at 212 Main Ave. S. He left with no money from the bank, but a few minutes later he robbed the Key Bank down the street of \$2,446. Fred Kirby Huffman was convicted in that crime.

Anyone with information about the crimes is asked to call the Twin Falls Police Department at 735-4357 or the Twin Falls office of the FBI at 733-5720.

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

Mother of victim sues county

SARAH... the mother of a... killed in a... lawsuit...

Idaho in brief

the outcomes of court proceedings... including Abel Leont's release on April 23 after accepting a plea agreement...

Poverty program could be eliminated in T.F.

(MAGALLO) — A program...

with branches at Idaho State University, Idaho Falls and Twin Falls aimed at fighting poverty and keeping kids in school is on the chopping block.

The TFO program, which includes Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search and Student Support Services, was targeted for elimination this week in President George Bush's \$257 trillion national budget.

By cutting it, the federal government stands to save \$457 million nationally and about \$1 million in southeastern Idaho.

Kimberly moves closer to franchise

Ordinance would allow 1 percent charge on bills

By Margaret Jones Times-News correspondent

KIMBERLY — The Kimberly City Council has approved the first reading of a new ordinance...

The ordinance allows residents' power bills. The ordinance also on Idaho Power Co. to charge a 1 percent fee on the power bill of each household.

tioned revenue from such a fee. The bulk of Tuesday's council meeting was spent discussing the meaning of a ruling for setbacks in the new Stonegate subdivision.

The matter was tabled until the council can make a visual assessment to determine if Belin will be required to move the foundation of the home he has in place.

accepted a bid from South West Irrigation for the lease of Twin Falls Canal Co. water shares the price offered for the water is \$60 a share.

The council selected May 14 as the citywide cleanup day. Residents will be able to drop unwanted items and yard waste in trash bins located at the city maintenance yard.

The fire department reported the two fire departments had reported to only four incidents in January. The Rock Creek Rural Fire Protection District answered two calls for motor vehicle accidents and the Kimberly and Hanson departments answered a false alarm in each town.

OBITUARIES

For obituary notices and information, call 735-3278 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next day publication. The email address for obituaries is obits@magvalley.com. Death notices are for next day publication and are placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message on the obituary guestbook, go to www.magvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Susan B. Marshall

Susan B. Marshall, 68, of Twin Falls, passed away on Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at the St. Luke's Hospital in Boise, Idaho.

1983. She enjoyed arts and crafts, baking, especially decorating cakes, and dearly loved her dogs.

Susan had worked for the South Central District Health Department for the past eight years until her health no longer permitted it.

Susan is survived by her children, Anna (Jeremy) Gonzalez of Nampa, Idaho, and

Michael (Susan) Prokosh of Huntsville, Texas; one sister, Kathleen Chance of South Carolina; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents. At her family's request there are no services planned. Cremation is under the direction of White Mortuary, Chapel by the Park.

Parley James 'Jim' Mecham

Parley James Mecham, 78, of Twin Falls, Idaho, passed away on Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at the St. Luke's Hospital in Boise, Idaho.

He was born July 21, 1926, in Alton, Utah, the child of Parley William and Jean (Hanks) Mecham.

Parley served in the U.S. Army as a veteran of World War II and served with the occupation forces in Japan. He was honorably discharged on Nov. 29, 1946.

He has worked for various farmers in the Leway Valley. He attended school in Carson, Nevada, and Washington for a few years and later went to school for three years at Midland.

He later purchased his property in Midland and

lived there until he moved to Carey nine years ago.

Survivors include his five sisters, Dona Hanson of Hermiston, Ore., Catherine Tolman of Rupert, Idaho, Lala McBride of Victor, Idaho, Clea Gussola of Rupert, Idaho, and Lois (Blyd) Stacking of Carey, Idaho.

Those preceding him in death were his parents and three brothers, Willis, Eldon and Lloyd.

Cremation was under the care of Wood-River-Chapel of Hailey, Idaho.

At his request, a memorial service will be held at a later date in Midland.

Manuel Gallegos Nunez

Manuel Gallegos Nunez, 68, of Hazelton, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, at his home with his loving family nearby by his side.

Manuel was born June 18, 1937, in the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Manuel J. and Dolores Nunez. He married Maria Virginia Martinez on April 10, 1963. He moved to the U.S. in 1963 and worked as a dock worker for 20 years. Manuel had a very outdoorsy working life and enjoyed fishing. He has two children who were the world to him and he never missed an opportunity to tease them. He always had his favorite time when the whole family would go to the beach. He was a very outgoing person and loved to play cards. He was a very outgoing person and loved to play cards. He was a very outgoing person and loved to play cards.

Manuel is survived by his wife, Maria of Hazelton; his children, Mayra (Sean) Keel, Hazelton, Arnoldo Gallegos, Bolando (Janie) Gallegos, Boise, Felix (Edie McClain) Gallegos, Twin Falls, Manuel (Janet) Gallegos, Jr., Gooding, Idaho, (Samuel) Hernandez, Hazelton, and his grandchildren, Michael Keel, Sidney Eric Jacob Keel, Dominique Gallegos, Isis, Alesia Gallegos, Selva Gallegos, Allie Gallegos,

Jeremiah, Marilynne, Breanna, Marcos, Hernandez, and Jacqueline Hernandez.

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 14, 2005, at St. Edwards the Confessor Church in Twin Falls. A viewing will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 13, with a rosary at 7 p.m. at White Mortuary, Chapel by the Park. Burial will be at Hazelton Cemetery.

Donna Marie Stout

Donna Marie Stout, 82, of Twin Falls, Idaho, passed away on Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at the St. Luke's Hospital in Boise, Idaho.

Donna was born on July 15, 1923, in the city of Hazelton, Idaho, to Walter Raymond Gilbert and Mary Elizabeth Gilbert.

Donna spent her childhood in Hazelton, Idaho, and attended school in Hazelton. She worked for the Hazelton School District for 20 years. She was a member of the Hazelton Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Hazelton Chapter of the United Witches of America.

Donna's 32-year career was spent in Hazelton, where she attended grade school at the Catholic grade elementary school and worked as a high school and junior high school principal. She worked in Hazelton for 20 years as an associate sales business.

Donna was a devoted member of the Hazelton Chapter of the United Witches of America. She was a member of the Hazelton Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Hazelton Chapter of the United Witches of America.

Donna and Donald made their home in Burley for the next 52 years, where they raised a family of four girls and two boys, Donnell (James) Alfred, Jean (Layne) Porter, Barbara (Mike) Jones of Provo, Utah, Brent (Nancy) Stout of Brannan, Calif., Vicki (Scott) Johnson of Waterford, Calif., and Jerry (Debbie) Stout of Hazelton, Idaho. Donna found great joy in her 23 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren and often commented that they were the

"joy of her life." Donna is survived by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brother, Earl Gilbert of St. George, Utah, and many nieces and nephews.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, sisters, Mary Gilbert and Josephine Gilbert Houghton; a stillborn brother, Thomas Andrew; and her husband, Donald.

The family of Donna Stout wishes to express a heartfelt thanks to the staff at the East Lake Care Center for the kind and loving care shown to our mother and grandmother these past five years.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, February 14, 2005, at the Provo Sunset Stake Center, 1560 N. 1100 W., Provo, Utah, with a viewing one hour prior to the services.

A second viewing will also be held from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2005, in Burley, Idaho, at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, followed by interment at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Burley, Idaho.

Arrangements are under the direction of Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, Idaho.

Feds will take over nuke facility

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Department of Energy is taking over a nuclear-waste cleanup facility at the Idaho National Laboratory from a British company that was losing money on it, according to an agreement reached between DOE and the United Kingdom's Department of Trade and Industry.

British state-owned BNFL Inc. has been trying to get out of its contract at the DOE's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility for more than a year.

Under terms of a deal announced this week, BNFL will transfer the Idaho facility it built to DOE in May. An agreement has also been reached over when BNFL will complete a contract at another DOE cleanup site in Tennessee.

According to the pact, DOE will pay BNFL \$228 million, plus another \$75 million if the British company meets some waste-shipment deadlines before May 1. The federal energy department had offered a fixed-price contract the DOE had ever put out to bid, said John Christian, BNFL's chief operating officer.

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It is a mistake to regard age as a downhill grade toward dissolution. The reverse is true. As one grows older, one climbs with surprising strides. 1500 Hwy 96/1609-1950

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Extension cord starts house fire

By Rebecca Meany Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — A faulty extension cord connected to a space heater started a fire in a Twin Falls home Tuesday morning, rendering the house uninhabitable.

The Twin Falls Fire Department was called to 1417 1/2 Ave. E. approximately 9:40 a.m., according to Battalion Chief Dick Capps.

"The fire burned the living room area and there was smoke

damage throughout," he said.

One person was home when the fire broke out, but he escaped unharmed, and no one was injured while putting out the fire, Capps said.

Eleven firefighters responded to the scene, along with three fire engines and a command rig. Firefighters worked more than an hour to suppress the flames.

"The extension cord was old and had been walked on, causing it to be unsafe, Capps said.

Capps cautioned people who use extension cords.

"Don't use extension cords in place of permanent wiring," he said. Instead, appliances should always be plugged into a wall outlet.

"Plugging space heaters into extension cords and then into a wall outlet is especially dangerous because the cord may not be rated to handle the current draw, he said.

"Even if the cord can handle it, you might move it around or a chair leg gets put on it and it pinches the cord," he said.

The initial damage estimate to the house was \$40,000.

Another fire broke out early Wednesday morning, Capps said. Firefighters responded to Superior Chain at 1773 Highland Ave. E. around 4:20 a.m.

The blaze was caused by overheated equipment in the manufacturing process, Capps said. Damage was minimum, he added.

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

Water users will hold meeting in March

IDAHO FALLS — The annual meeting of the water users of Water District 1 will be held at 9 a.m. March 1 at the Red Lion Convention Center, 475 River Parkway.

Roast beef and chicken will be served for lunch. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Wendy at 525-7171.

Assistance for handicapped or disabled individuals is available. To obtain assistance at the meeting, call Ronald Carlson, watermaster, at 525-7171 at least five days before the meeting.

Magic Valley In brief

stress, make decisions, set goals, call healthy and exercise.

Admission is free. Space is limited, and pre-registration is encouraged. Interested individuals may register by calling Tami Pearson, tobacco cessation coordinator for the health department, at 737-5945.

Library board seeks nominees to fill seat

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Public Library board is seeking nominees to fill the seat that will be vacated when current board member Jan White moves from the city.

The City Council will appoint a new trustee to serve a term starting immediately and ending Dec. 31, 2009.

Interested candidates who live within the Twin Falls city limits may call library director Susan Ash at 733-2964 or City Manager Tom Courtney at 735-7271. Formal letters of application may be delivered to the library at 201 Fourth Ave. E. through Feb. 15.

— compiled from staff reports

Class offers tips to quit smoking

HAGERMAN — South Central District Health is offering an American Cancer Society "Fresh Start Cessation" program beginning this month.

Designed to help adults quit using tobacco, the six-week course will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 22 through March 29, at the Senior Citizens Center, 104 Lake St.

The Fresh Start Cessation program is designed to build skills and knowledge to help reduce and eventually end tobacco use. Participants will learn skills to communicate better, handle

the City Council will appoint a new trustee to serve a term starting immediately and ending Dec. 31, 2009.

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— compiled from staff reports

GOODING COUNTY COURTS

GOODING — Recent activity in 5th District Court in Gooding County included the following:

Misdemeanor arraignments

Bradley Shawn Boguslavski, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; petit theft; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Matthew Daniel Chaney, driving under the influence; court trial March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Jesse Scott Cornelison; case reopened; driving under the influence; driving a vehicle without the owner's consent; pretrial March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Kyle Wayne Cornelison; case reopened; underage consumption 1/4 alcohol; driving a vehicle without the owner's consent; pretrial March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Henry Guetz-Lozanda; driving without privileges; change of plea March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Daniel Allan Park; driving under the influence (second offense); resisting a peace officer; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Russell F. Pharris; battery; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Kristopher Dew Stewart; driving under the influence; change of plea March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Ryan R. Turner; battery; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

driving amended to inattentive/careless driving \$300 fine, \$150 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Josue Valdez; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; underage consumption of alcohol; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Christopher Blinn; resisting or obstructing officers; dismissed by prosecutor; underage consumption 1/4 alcohol; \$100 fine, \$100 suspended, \$63.50 court costs. Separate case: failure to appear for a misdemeanor arraignments; \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Christopher R. Clark; driving under the influence (second offense); \$2,000 fine, \$1,200 suspended, \$70.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 365 days in jail, \$35 suspended, credit for two days served; 365-day driver's license suspension; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Antonio Martinez-Diaz; driving under the influence (second offense); \$2,000 fine, \$1,200 suspended, \$78.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 365 days in jail, \$35 suspended, credit for 22 days served; 365-day driver's license suspension; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Joseph Scott Peterson; battery; \$500 fine, \$250 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 30 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Curtis John Holton; reckless driving; dismissed by prosecutor; driving under the influence \$1,000 fine, \$600 suspended, \$78.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 180 days in jail, 178 suspended, credit for two days served; 180-day driver's license suspension; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Monty D. Slagel; hunting, possessing, exceeding the limit on migratory birds/violation of FWS regulations; dismissed by prosecutor; fishing/game - violation of misdemeanor rules, regulations and orders; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Felony arraignments

Cynthia Kaye Barnett; ball jumping; preliminary hearing Feb. 3; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Albert Peter Ventura II; two counts level conduct with a child under 16 years of age; preliminary hearing Feb. 3; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Civil

Burks Tractor vs. Vern Winnmill Jr. Seeking \$1,127.57, plus interest; attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes plaintiff \$1,127.57 on a purchase on an open account.

Idaho Collection Bureau vs. Alfred E. Albert. Seeking \$5,002, plus interest of \$889.42; attorney fees of \$1,665. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

ENGAGEMENT

HOPE-SEARS

WENDELL — Doyle and Robyn Hope announce the engagement of their daughter, Natalie Hope and Cody Sears, son of Jeff and Margo Sears of Wendell.

Hope is a graduate of Wendell High School. She received her associate's degree at Brigham Young University-Idaho and is currently attending the College of Southern Idaho.

Sears is a graduate of Wendell High School and served an LDS mission in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is currently doing his electrical apprenticeship.

The wedding is planned for



Natalie Hope and Cody Sears

Friday, Feb. 11, in the Logan LDS Temple in Logan, Utah. A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Wendell LDS Church.

Misdemeanor arraignments

Bradley Shawn Boguslavski, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; petit theft; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Matthew Daniel Chaney, driving under the influence; court trial March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Jesse Scott Cornelison; case reopened; driving under the influence; driving a vehicle without the owner's consent; pretrial March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Kyle Wayne Cornelison; case reopened; underage consumption 1/4 alcohol; driving a vehicle without the owner's consent; pretrial March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Henry Guetz-Lozanda; driving without privileges; change of plea March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Daniel Allan Park; driving under the influence (second offense); resisting a peace officer; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Russell F. Pharris; battery; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Kristopher Dew Stewart; driving under the influence; change of plea March 7; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Ryan R. Turner; battery; pretrial conference Feb. 28; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

driving amended to inattentive/careless driving \$300 fine, \$150 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Josue Valdez; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs; underage consumption of alcohol; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Christopher Blinn; resisting or obstructing officers; dismissed by prosecutor; underage consumption 1/4 alcohol; \$100 fine, \$100 suspended, \$63.50 court costs. Separate case: failure to appear for a misdemeanor arraignments; \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Christopher R. Clark; driving under the influence (second offense); \$2,000 fine, \$1,200 suspended, \$70.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 365 days in jail, \$35 suspended, credit for two days served; 365-day driver's license suspension; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Antonio Martinez-Diaz; driving under the influence (second offense); \$2,000 fine, \$1,200 suspended, \$78.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 365 days in jail, \$35 suspended, credit for 22 days served; 365-day driver's license suspension; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Joseph Scott Peterson; battery; \$500 fine, \$250 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 30 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Misdemeanor withheld judgments

Rhonda Lee Lewett-Ulrich; driving under the influence; judgment withheld for one year; \$1,000 fine, \$300 suspended, \$78.50 court costs, \$35 probation; 180 days in jail, 178 suspended, credit for one day served; 180-day driver's license suspension; open container; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Justin Lynn Burk; driving under the influence; judgment withheld for one year; \$1,000 fine, \$600 suspended, \$78.50 court costs, \$35 probation; 180 days in jail, 178 suspended, credit for two days served; 90-day driver's license suspension; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Jonathan Ware Larabee; driving under the influence; judgment withheld for one year; \$1,000 fine, \$300 suspended, \$78.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 178 suspended, credit for one day served; open container; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Child support cases

State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Joseph Earl Warren and Christina Marie Warren. Seeking of Mr. Warren: \$482 monthly support for Dominic Michael Warren and Gabriel J. Warren, plus 68 percent of children's maintenance fees; \$4,214 for his pro rata share of birth costs; attorney fees.

State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Rodrigo Tinajero and Denise Ann Price. Seeking of Mr. Tinajero: \$606 monthly support for Molly Nicole Tinajero and Gabriela A. Tinajero, plus 75 percent of children's medical expenses; attorney fees.

Divorces

Rebecca Mae Feighner vs. Preston Wade Campbell.

John Richard Mulgrew vs. Shawna Michelle Mulgrew.

Balkowitch vs. Chad A. Balkowitch.

Misdemeanor sentencing

Jared-Matthew-Bursen-reckless

Antonio Martinez-Diaz; driving under the influence (second offense); \$2,000 fine, \$1,200 suspended, \$78.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 365 days in jail, \$35 suspended, credit for 22 days served; 365-day driver's license suspension; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Joseph Scott Peterson; battery; \$500 fine, \$250 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 30 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Misdemeanor sentencing

Joel R. Reinhold, 41; resisting or obstructing officers; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, two years unsupervised probation; 180 days in jail, 180 suspended, credit for one day served; driving without privileges amended to fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 170 suspended, credit for one day served; carrying a concealed weapon without a license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Ramiro Granado Jr., 26; battery - domestic violence; dismissed by prosecutor; misdemeanor by property; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 180 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Benjamin B. Niendorf, 27; petit theft; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 180 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Maria Elena Sanchez, 27; resisting or obstructing officers; dismissed by prosecutor; disturbing the peace;

JEROME COUNTY COURTS

JEROME — Recent activity in 5th District Court in Jerome County included the following:

Misdemeanor arraignments

Jon Kent Campbell, 23; reckless driving; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Angelique J. Din, 26; driving without privileges amended to failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; passenger safety - child under four years of age or under 40 pounds not safely restrained; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Ryan R. Glodowski, 30; reckless driving; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Carla Dawn Jackson, 40; driving under the influence; open container; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; failure to provide proof of insurance; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Eric G. Julius, 29; resisting or obstructing officers; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Jose J.M. Lopez, 32; inattentive/careless driving; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Otto Junior May, 62; placing abandoned vehicles and junk in open view; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Jacob R. Nielson, 27; driving without privileges; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Darlene Jean Turner, 25; driving without privileges; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Misty Danielle Tyler, 27; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Alexis Manuel Zamudio-Bangoli, 22; driving without privileges; failure to stop/pledged from a stop sign; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge

Thomas H. Borresen.

Juvenile misdemeanor arraignments

Juan M. Mora-Hernandez, 17; driving without privileges; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; pretrial conference Feb. 14; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Misdemeanor sentencing

Adrian Guerro-Chavez, 19; providing false information to a peace officer regarding officer's identity; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, 30 days in jail, 29 suspended, credit for one day served; underage consumption of alcohol; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Jose Juarez-Gil, 21; driving without privileges; amended to failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended; failure to provide proof of insurance; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Beau J. Kemp, 21; assault - domestic violence amended to battery; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$50 public defender fee; two years supervised probation; 180 days in jail, 120 discretionary, credit for 60 days served; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Thomas H. Borresen, 53; providing false information to an officer regarding officer's identity; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs; one year unsupervised probation; 90 days in jail, 90 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Eustasio Martinez-Sanchez, 36; fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; dismissed by prosecutor; resisting a peace officer; dismissed by the court; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$300 fine, \$300 suspended; one year unsu-

pervised probation; 50 days in jail, eight suspended, credit for 42 days served; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Jessie J. Ortega, 20; possession of a controlled substance; dismissed by prosecutor; use or possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use; \$300 fine, \$300 suspended; one year supervised probation; 90 days in jail, 88 suspended, credit for one day served; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Joel R. Reinhold, 41; resisting or obstructing officers; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended; two years unsupervised probation; 180 days in jail, 180 suspended, credit for one day served; driving without privileges amended to fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 170 suspended, credit for one day served; carrying a concealed weapon without a license; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Ramiro Granado Jr., 26; battery - domestic violence; dismissed by prosecutor; misdemeanor by property; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 180 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Benjamin B. Niendorf, 27; petit theft; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 180 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Maria Elena Sanchez, 27; resisting or obstructing officers; dismissed by prosecutor; disturbing the peace;

Misdemeanor withheld judgments

Diane Marshall, no date of birth listed; failure to stop damage, leaving the scene of an accident amended to inattentive/careless driving; \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$63.50 court costs, \$35 probation fee; 180 days in jail, 180 suspended; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Misdemeanor dismissals

Brian R.L. Dallman, 25; placing debris on public/private property; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Rebecca Rance Arreola, 28; fraud - insufficient funds check; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Russell Eugene Larson, 45; driving without privileges; failure to provide proof of insurance; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Thomas H. Borresen.

Felony arraignments

Janette Pearl Lagoda, 25; two counts felony; arraignment contin-

ued Feb. 4; District Judge John K. Butler.

Felony sentencing

Brenda L. Belem, 35; possession of a controlled substance; dismissed by prosecutor; possession of a controlled substance (misdemeanor); \$300 fine, \$88.50 court costs, \$250 public defender fee; seven years supervised probation; two years determinate penitentiary time (suspended), three years indeterminate, 60 days discretionary credit for 78 days served; under the influence of a controlled substance in a public place; dismissed by prosecutor. Separate case: possession of a controlled substance; dismissed by prosecutor; District Judge John K. Butler.

Antonio Martinez-Diaz, 36; possession of a controlled substance; \$2,000 fine, \$88.50 court costs, \$250 public defender fee; eight years supervised probation; four years determinate penitentiary time (suspended), 11 years indeterminate, 90 days discretionary credit for 28 days served; manufacture of a controlled substance when children are present; dismissed by prosecutor; District Judge John K. Butler.

Terry D. Draper, 38; enticing children by the internet; amended to injury to a child; \$500 fine, \$88.50 court costs, \$250 public defender fee; 10 years supervised probation; five years determinate penitentiary time (suspended), five indeterminate, 30

days discretionary, credit for two days served; District Judge John K. Butler.

Civil

Credit Bureau of Twin Falls vs. Robert D. Also known as Bob Openshaw. Seeking \$3,895.56, plus interest of \$487.24; attorney fees of \$1,165. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

State Farm Bank vs. Matthew Wayne Romans and Tasha Marie Romans. Seeking \$3,724.14, plus interest; attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant has failed to make payments on a vehicle loan.

Child support cases

State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Guadalupe Gonzales Lucio and Amanda Dawn Lucio. Seeking of Mr. Lucio: \$227 monthly support for Michael A. Lucio, Monique Rose Lucio and Santana Lucio, plus 57 percent of children's medical expenses; attorney fees.

State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Robby D. Nab and Lucinda Ann Lamb. Seeking of Mr. Nab: \$630 monthly support for Emily Kay Hartline, plus 73 percent of children's medical expenses; attorney fees.

State of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Armondo Gabby Aragon and Melody Renee Aragon. Seeking of Mr. Aragon: \$280 monthly support for Samantha Nicole Aragon, Chloe Promise Aragon, Madeline Sky Aragon, plus 44 percent of children's medical expenses; attorney fees.

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WEST/WORLD

Bill allows retiring wardens to keep guns

BOISE (AP) — Retiring conservation officers may get to keep their guns after all...



years of service. Hansen said, "We're of some classification..."

unless they agree to purchase it. Rep. Ken Roberts, R-Donnelly, also opposed the legislation...

most, the cost to the state over a 20-year span of service would only amount to less than \$10 a year...

The legislation mirrors a practice that is already in place for Idaho State Police officers...

Regional Conservation Officer John Hansen said his office in eastern Idaho will appreciate the gift at the end of their careers.

House's most conservative members, many of whom represent eastern Idaho districts.

Rep. Lemore Barrett, R-Challis, said that "those who earn respect will usually get it."

The bills issued to Fish and Game officers are 40-caliber Glock semiautomatic pistols...

Wills pointed out that at the most, the cost to the state over a 20-year span of service would only amount to less than \$10 a year...



Britain's Prince Charles and his fiancée, Camilla Parker Bowles, arrive in the grand reception room of Windsor Castle, England...

Charles and Camilla will wed after long romance

LONDON (AP) — Thirty years after their first romance, Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles, both now graying divorcees, will finally wed in a civil ceremony...

day night, and the guests applauded. A radiant Parker Bowles, wearing a fuchsia gown, showed off her engagement ring against a black clutch bag...

In a nod to those who have not warmed to Parker Bowles, the royal family said Thursday she will never hold the title of queen but eventually will be called III Princess Consort instead.

"Of course," she said when asked by a reporter if Charles had gotten down on one knee to propose. "I'm just coming down to Earth."

In their first public appearance together since the announcement, Charles, 55, and Parker Bowles, 57, smiled broadly as they walked into a Windsor Castle reception Thursday night...

The April 8 ceremony at Windsor Castle will be a far cry from the pageantry of Charles' 1981 wedding to Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The news of the nuptials was received with warmth in Britain; where public opinion was once so hostile to Parker Bowles that shoppers pelted her with rolls in a supermarket.

Officer remains critical

NAMPA (AP) — Police have expanded the search for a man suspected of shooting a police officer to include all of Idaho, Washington and Oregon...

Meanwhile, the wounded officer, Cpl. Allen Williamson, remained in stable but critical condition at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Police are looking for 27-year-old Mariano Perez. Williamson was shot four times early Wednesday after a traffic stop turned into a pursuit...

The Idaho Press-Tribune has started a reward fund for information leading to the capture of Perez. It started the fund at Wells Fargo Bank with a \$500 donation...

Two other donation funds — one at Northwest Christian Credit Union and one at Home Federal — have also been started to help Williamson and his family with expenses, Vincent said.

Lawmakers seek to rewrite ESA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four leading GOP House members and senators announced a joint effort Thursday to rewrite the Endangered Species Act to toughen up habitat and scientific provisions.



A male California condor, an endangered species, soars in the Ventura Wilderness Sanctuary in 2004 near Big Sur, Calif. A group of lawmakers announced Thursday a joint effort to rewrite the Endangered Species Act.

The lawmakers said it was the first time members of the House and Senate tried to rewrite the 1973 act.

Environmentalists immediately criticized the plan as the latest attempt to gut the law.

law have failed, but they said this time they hoped to produce a single Endangered Species Act reauthorization bill that could be introduced in both chambers.

"We've been working on this issue for a long time," said House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo, R-Calif. "And to have the opportunity now to sit down and work across the Capitol and try to come up with legislation that does move the ball forward and begins to modernize and update the Endangered Species Act is extremely important."

Joining Pombo were Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore.; Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho; and Sen. Lincoln Chafee, R-R.I. Chafee,

among the Senate's most moderate Republicans, is a newcomer to the issue who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee's subcommittee on fisheries, wildlife and water.

The lawmakers said they had no specific legislative language yet, but listed goals including increased involvement by states, more incentives for private landowners, and strengthening scientific reviews before species are listed or critical habitat is designated.

They contended the law now creates unreasonable regulatory burdens for property owners, while failing to help many species.

"Overall we believe that the

Endangered Species Act can be less contentious and more effective," Crapo said.

Environmentalists said the act works as written. "For 30 years the Endangered Species Act has been serving as a safety net for species on the brink of extinction, and there can be absolutely no doubt the act is working, and it's one of the most popular laws in the land," said Susan Holmes, senior legislative representative at Earthjustice.

"I think if you look at the efforts that we have seen so far from Congressman Pombo, from Greg Walden, these efforts have been all-out attacks on the Endangered Species Act," Holmes added.

ISP director: Idaho needs more troopers

BOISE (AP) — A new pay plan is slowing the drain of troopers to other, higher-paying states, Idaho State Police Director Dan Chaffin told lawmakers Wednesday, but more money is needed to keep the ranks from shrinking further.

"The pay scale for Idaho's public employees is not yet in balance," Chaffin's annual budget report said. The agency has 142 trooper positions, but some of those are vacant, he said. Last year the agency had a 14-percent turnover rate, and according to an analysis done by Trooper Sam Ketchum, there are only about 30 troopers on Idaho roads at any given time.

Still, Chaffin complimented lawmakers for approving pay increases last year and giving him the flexibility to spread personnel cash around as needed.

He told the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee that he managed to take \$300,000 in unspent personnel cash, add it to the 2 percent pay increases authorized last year, and give nearly every one of his 486 employees a pay bump.

Chaffin also started a career-advancement plan that would give his staff better pay, more training and special assignments. The effort, he said, helped 10 troopers change their mind about leaving the Idaho State Police.

But the director warned his plan was a bandage approach only.

"While we have successfully slowed the exodus of trained, quality employees temporarily, we must continue to look for ways to fully fund our career pay plan," he said.

Ex-SLC Mayor acquitted of felony

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Former Salt Lake County Mayor Nancy Workman was acquitted Thursday on two felony counts of misusing public funds in a case that prompted her to abandon a re-election bid last fall.

Workman faced possible prison time for arranging for the county to hire an accountant for the Boys and Girls Club, where her daughter was a top officer. "It's done. It's over. And I have the best attorneys," Workman told reporters just after the hearing.

After the verdict, Workman bowed her head and raised her hands to eyes reddening with tears.

"It's against my rules to cry, but you can only take so much," she said.

Prosecutors accused Workman of arranging for two successive employees to be hired using about \$18,000 in health department funds after a whistleblower tipped them off to a possible problem. The employees hadn't done any work for the health department, instead worked for the nonprofit group where Workman's daughter, Aliza Wilde, was a top officer.

Pope returns to Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Waving to crowds from his brightly lit popemobile, Pope John Paul II returned to the Vatican Thursday after a 10-day hospital stay, declared cured of breathing spasms that fueled concerns about the frail pontiff's ability to remain in charge of the Roman Catholic Church.

The pope's return — a hastily arranged procession with a touch of pageantry designed to show the world he has recovered — was broadcast live on Italian television.

Hundreds of well-wishers, including doctors and nurses, applauded as the pope, in his usual white robes, was driven slowly out of the hospital grounds. John Paul looked weary as he sat in the back, accompanied by two aides, and raised his arms to bless the throngs along the 2.5-mile route to the Vatican.

Alleged five-state prostitution ring busted by police

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — A South Dakota man has been arrested for allegedly running a prostitution ring that spanned five states, including Idaho.

Bonneville County authorities are trying to have Robert S. Grueskun, 36, extradited from Sioux Falls, S.D., to Idaho Falls, where he is expected to be charged with procurement of prostitution, accepting the earnings of a prostitute and receiving pay for arranging sex. Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Bruce Pickett said.

Idaho Falls police began investigating Grueskun after a local television reporter asked authorities about advertisements for Very Good Escort Services. Detectives claimed Grueskun used the ads to recruit prostitutes and find clients willing to pay the \$240 hourly charge.

An undercover police officer posing as a prostitute allegedly spoke by phone to Grueskun, who allegedly arranged for her to have sex with clients in motels and told her to mail half of her earnings to his Sioux Falls address.

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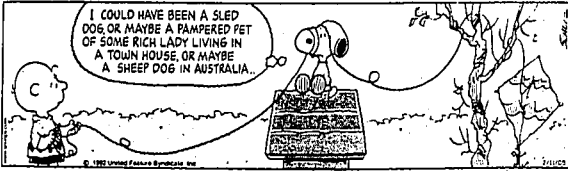
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COMICS

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



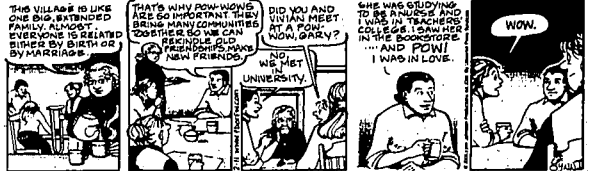
Dilbert

By Scott Adams



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis

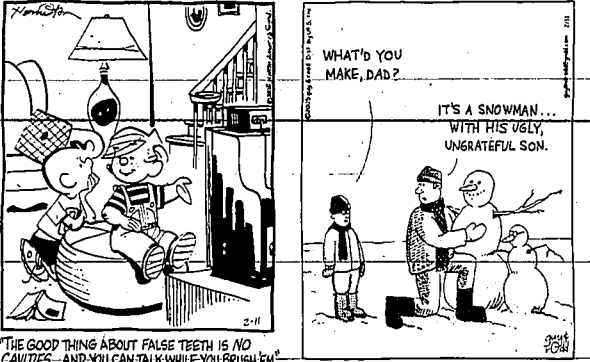


Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

Brevity

By Guy & Rod



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



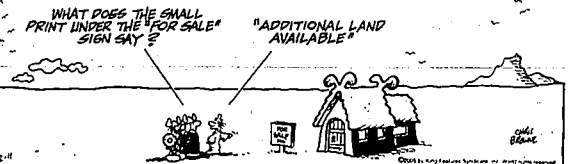
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



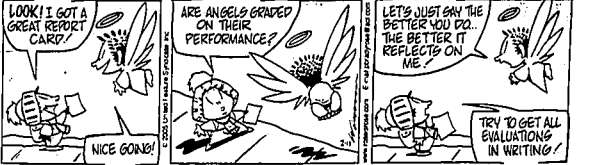
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Luan

By Greg Evans



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



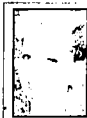
MORNING BREAK

Night-shift worker pleads for silence

DEAR ABBY: I work a night-shift job, as does my sister-in-law, who lives in my house. People who don't work nights cannot seem to understand the need for us to get our sleep during the day. They frequently call at noon, wondering why we're not up yet.

These people need to know that mine is just like midnight for people who work the day shift. Many nights I go to work on less than four hours of sleep, mainly because if people can't reach me on the house phone, they'll call my cell phone, which is the emergency number for my husband and kids.

My answering machine clearly states that I "work nights and sleep days," so please leave a message and I'll return the call. Your column is widely read, and I'm certain that a good number of other night-shift workers would appreciate it if you could spread the word. Those of us who work nights need the same amount of sleep



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

that people who work days do. —SLEEPLESS IN MISSOURI
DEAR SLEEPLESS: I'm pleased to help spread the word. For callers to bypass your answering machine and use your cell phone number is rude, inconsiderate, and could endanger your health. Sleep deprivation can cause memory problems, accidents and mistakes at work, increase blood pressure, and even compromise the immune system. In the interests of self-protection, change your cell phone number, and instruct your husband and kids not to disclose it to anyone.

DEAR ABBY: I am the happily married mother of 1-year-old and 2-year-old boys. Jonathan is the older and Kevin is my baby. Because my elderly parents live close by, we make sure they see our children often. Also, I make time every morning to talk to my mother.

It has become clear to my husband and me that Mom favors Jonathan. When Kevin was an infant, Mom would literally step over him to get to Jonathan. Until it ensued a rift, she would "jokingly" refer to Kevin as "the other one." Recently, Kevin had a violent allergic reaction to some medication. My first concern was how Jonathan reacted to his little brother's being ill. When I share a milestone with my mother, she is quick to compare Kevin unfavorably with his brother. I could list many other examples. I am saddened, disgusted and furious. I have confronted

Mother more times than I can count. Most times she denies it sometimes she says she feels Jonathan is just "special." The boys are still too young to understand, but it won't always be that way. My husband's family is not involved much in our lives, so mine is extra-important. How do I deal with this problem?

—DISTRESSED IN DAYTON
DEAR DISTRESSED: Since reasoning with your mother hasn't helped, it's time to lay down the law. Tell her either she becomes a better actress in dealing with the boys, or you'll be forced to limit her access to them. And if she doesn't shape up, act on it. Small children can sense favoritism and discrimination, and it is hurtful. Rather than blame the adult, children often blame themselves for it. So draw the line now before your little one's self-esteem is affected.

Cub Scout pops old record with \$25,000 in popcorn sales

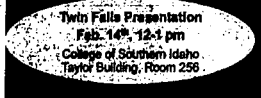
GIBSONIA, Pa. AP) — Coryn as it sounds, a Cub Scout has set a national record for selling popcorn. Ryan Cenk, 10, of the Pittsburgh suburb of Richland Township, sold \$25,006 worth of Trail's End popcorn products, popping the old record in the Scouts' annual popcorn sale by about \$5,000. Cenk more than doubled his sales with one call to ATM Corp., a company that provides mortgage lending services. The company's vice president heard the scout's spiel and decided the popcorn tips would make per-

fect gifts for employees. The company bought \$13,500 worth of popcorn. Ryan took the phone away from his car, looked up and said, "Mom, he wants 450 of the three-way tins," his mother, Colleen Cenk said. "I got on the extension to make sure there was no misunderstanding." All told, Cenk sold about 10 tons of popcorn. As a reward, Trail's End is flying Ryan to Walt Disney World. It also has been asked to speak at the company's annual sales meeting in Orlando, Fla.

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Sparkle soon returns to Sagittarius' love life

IF FEBRUARY 11 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... The pressure is temporarily off, so you can enjoy some romantic times this month and perhaps begin an intimate relationship. Others admire you, but you must be hard in May to maintain their trust. Your passion for success reaches a peak this summer and you can reach a milestone in career as well as love. Keep your eyes open for a key opportunity in September, that will affect your future in a positive way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Business matters may require your attention. Sensitivity to slights and a tendency to take offense may mar a few hours of the day, but by evening you will be ready to succumb to the charms of a seductive partner. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Professional air is necessary when dealing with colleagues — but once the ice is broken, stiff formality can fly out the window. Look forward to the stirrings of affection later tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Necessary "economies" might cramp your style, but your mind can fly to places you would not let it visit. Others in high places appreciate your whimsical humor and understanding nature.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The art of diplomacy may be necessary when brief outbursts of anger spoil the harmony. Extra work might mean working late, but you will be able to relax and unwind late tonight and tomorrow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Avoid getting caught up in emotional crossfire in the workplace or taking offense. If others are hurt, you have the stamina to plow through piles of work to leave the weekend free for fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make money by saving money. You have a head for figures today, so balance the checkbook or do work that requires a steady hand and an eye for detail. Clear your desk to enjoy the weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): To maintain your sterling reputation, remain businesslike and avoid taking liberties where others are concerned. Touchy tempers could briefly stir things up, but peace returns tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An intense desire to be a financial success may keep you hard at work all day, but passionate partners may have other ideas later tonight. Take your vita-

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

mins, as you will be maintaining a hectic pace. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A minor crisis that concerns sharing with others is receding and you can heal the breach with gentle words. Don't let emotional turmoil cause strife. The sparkle will soon return to your love life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are more articulate than usual and able to discuss emotional matters without bias. Being busy and in a rush for most of the day makes a relaxing evening at home seem inviting. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be everyone's darling and singled out for special attention, but even you can't cross the invisible line of decorum. Restrain romantic notions until the appropriate time and place rolls around.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put off that first date with a prospective heartthrob as romantic intentions might be sidetracked by business tonight. Trying to save a dollar can cause a purchase to be a poor bargain.

Virginia is for presidents

Of the first five presidents, only John Adams was not born in Virginia.

This day in history: In a marathon session on Feb. 11, 1963, the Beatles recorded their first album, producing 10 finished tracks in 10 hours. Incidentally, the non-stop singing explains why John Lennon sounds so hoarse on their last song, "Twist and Shout," recorded in just one live take.

When australian settlers sent a plutus back to England, the scientist there thought it was a hawk, perpetrated by stitching together parts of various animals. The first specimen, still on display in the British Museum of Natural History, bears marks where a scissors-wielding scientist tried to pry off its duck-like bill.

The largest cat litter ever recorded was 19 kittens born to a Siamese-Burmese mother in 1970.

You may not know that there's a "lug of War International Federation, but its specifications for an official competition-grade rope are very exact: The rope must be between 100 mm and 125 mm in circumference, free of knots and other handgrips and no less than 33.5 meters long. Almost all flu viruses first infect chickens, then pigs and then spread to humans, mutating merely along the way. South American frogs used

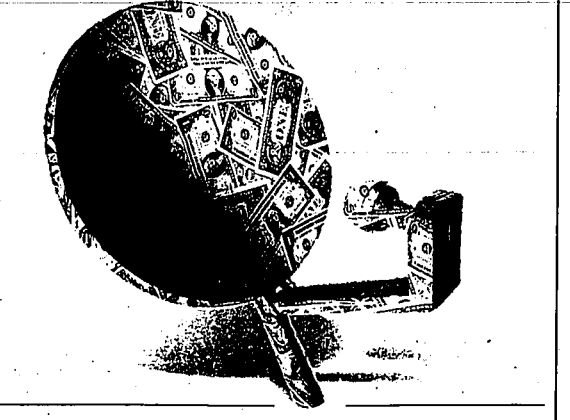


for poisoning arrows are so lethal that you could kill eight people with the poison from one frog. Perhaps the Pilgrims wore more like frat boys than we suspect: The Mayflower was supposed to land further south, Massachusetts, but as one passenger put it, "We could not now take time for further search, our victuals being much spent, especially our beer."

The average American peanut consumer eats 3.3 pounds a year.

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Familiar voices

Impressionist Rich Little will do two shows tonight and two shows Saturday, night at Cactus Petes Resort Casino in Jackpot.



A family affair

Hailey's Company of Fools will present Wendy Wasserstein's "Sisters Rosensweig" tonight and Saturday night and Sunday, afternoon at the Liberty Theater.



Bluegrass fun

Del McCoury, Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, The Gibson Brothers and Open Road will headline the Mountain Bluegrass Gathering on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon in Salt Lake City's Delta Center.



Classic ballet

Salt Lake City's Ballet West will dance Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella" tonight and Saturday night in the Capitol Theater.

Music to help

The College of Southern Idaho Jazz Band will perform tonight at Woody's in Twin Falls Old Towne as part of the day-long "From the Heart" fund-raiser for victims of last year's South Asia tsunami.

For times, dates and details, see Events Spotlight on Pages C3-4, 6, 8

The play's the thing

Mad Hatt'r hopes to bring contemporary theater to Twin Falls

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

JEROME — When Michael Johnson was a young man in Chicago, he got an acting job at the storied Edgewater Beach Hotel, cast as a spear-carrier in a production of "Anthony and Cleopatra" starring Franchot Tone, who had been famous Hollywood character actor during the 1930s and '40s.

"My role was just to stand there, wearing a loincloth and holding a spear, and I soon began to get in places I couldn't scratch," he recalled. "I was wearing body makeup from head to toe."

Personal chafing notwithstanding, Johnson stuck with acting, eventually landing theater roles in Seattle and TV work in Los Angeles before moving to Idaho, where he earned a master of fine arts degree in directing from the University of Idaho.

But for the past nine years, he's mostly stayed away from theater, working as a planner for the South Central District Health Department in Twin Falls.

Now, he's back on stage. Johnson has formed a new acting troupe—the Mad Hatt'r Theater Company, dedicated to performing contemporary theater.

It really fills a void in this area, I think," Johnson said. "There are others doing musical and classical theater, but not much contemporary theater. I'm hoping that we'll be able to collaborate with other groups on productions."

Mad Hatt'r's inaugural effort will be French playwright Yasmina Reza's dark 1994 comedy, "Art," scheduled to run on successive weekends in April.

The venue will be a room upstairs at the Paris building in downtown Twin Falls.

"It's not a large room, by any means, but I think it's adequate for our needs," Johnson said.



Michael Johnson and the newly formed Mad Hatt'r Theater Company will perform Yasmina Reza's play 'Art' upstairs at the Paris building in downtown Twin Falls in April.

"Depending on the size of the cast and the set, we can get 50 or 60 people in there."

Johnson is hoping to mount a new production every two months or so.

"I think we can do that," he said. "We have three people acting in the first production, and we're hoping to attract more interest."

Although Hailey's all-professional Company of Fools specializes in contemporary theater, it's not common on Magic Valley stages. The College of Southern Idaho Theater Department stages some contemporary plays—as does an independent Twin Falls-based CSI-spinoff troupe, the Random Acts of Theater Players.

Interested?
If you'd like to learn more about the Mad Hatt'r Theater Company, call Michael Johnson at 420-5567.

"I think there's an audience here for theater," Johnson said. "I was in a Tony Mammen production of 'Twelve Angry Men' (last summer at Twin Falls' Lamphouse Theater), and it drew good crowds."

Times-News writer Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223, or write to him at scrump@magicvalley.com.

Take a bow

Other Magic and Wood River Valley theater groups:

- **Random Acts of Theater**, Twin Falls (contemporary theater), Contact Tony Mammen, 733-9554, ext. 2778.
- **Laughing Stock Theater**, Ketchum (musical theater), Contact Kathy Wygle, 726-3576.
- **Dilettantes of the Magic Valley**, Twin Falls (musical theater), Contact Richard Dutton, 735-5397.
- **Mount Harrison Heritage Foundation**, Burley (musical theater), Contact Dennis Byington, 878-7598.
- **Oakley Valley Arts Council**, Oakley (musical theater), Contact Kent Severe, 862-3266.
- **Royal Larkspur Play Troupe**, Ketchum (contemporary theater), Contact Gary Hoffman, 725-5922.
- **Magic Valley Little Theater**, Twin Falls (musical theater), Contact Lori Hanson, 736-7136.
- **St. Thomas Playhouse**, Sun Valley (musical and contemporary theater), Contact Brian Baker, 726-5349.
- **Junior Musical Playhouse**, Twin Falls (musical theater), Contact Mark or Cyndie Hoffer, 734-3054.

Annette Bening stoops to conquer in 'Being Julia'

By Stephen Hunter
The Washington Post

There is nothing like a dame. Revenge is a dish best served cold.

The show must go on. Bromides all, these three sturdy handmaids nevertheless form the foundation of the wondrous "Being Julia," which may lack originality but makes up for it in sheer bravado and really nice clothes.

Set in a lustroously evoked London theater world of the late 1930s, when men wore hats and women pearls and both bared their fangs through smiles, the movie follows as a grand old forty-something gal of the theater fights to oust youthful usurpers and general boredom. Where's Noel Coward, you might ask, or Gertrude Lawrence? Well, if they're not here, their archetypes are.

Another archetype present is W. Somerset Maugham, upon whose novel "Theatre" the movie is based. That possibly explains its old-school stolidity as well as its three-act structure, its professional manipulation of major and minor players, the wit of its dialogue and the hardness of the steel fast behind its star's velvet glove. And translating Maugham to the screen is Ronald Harwood, an Old Salt

'Being Julia'

- **Who's in it?** Annette Bening, Jeremy Irons, Shaun Evans.
- **What it rated?** R for some sexuality.
- **Who's it playing?** Magic Lantern of Ketchum.
- **Should you go?** Julia's plot is devilish, all the more so for the delight Annette Bening conjures in setting it up and executing it.

Britt he wrote "The Dresser," also set backstage, some years ago, and dozens of other films; his script for "The Piano" won him an Academy Award.

So between them, Maugham and Harwood must know everything there is to know about the London stage.

At the same time, the film nods graciously to the classic theater movie of all time, 1950's "All About Eve." Talk about hammy rides, Annette Bening's Julia Lambert has nothing on Bette Davis' Margo Channing. Both are lionesses in winter, brought to bay by the ambitions of a youth. But both know how to fight back, which is where all the fun begins.

Bening, behind her high-voltage eyes and a fair shake at an English accent, plays the great theatrical legend Lam bert, a diva's diva whom we discover holding forth magisterially in a



Annette Bening's Julia Lambert has nothing on Bette Davis' Margo Channing.

flamboyant melodrama in her own West End theater, produced by her own husband, Michael Gosselyn (Jeremy Irons). It's not art, but it pays for several houses, a fabulous wardrobe, a tribe of servants and a comforting sense of being at the center of a theatrical Camelot. Bening clearly relishes the role — what actress wouldn't — hence the chance to out-bette Bette Davis — and her energy drives the movie forward.

As we meet her, however, we discover that the brilliant Julia is

weary. She's bored with the boards and seeking respite from the play's hammy hull. This lady needs a vacation, and since the South of France is out, she decides to rusticate in the bed of a 25-year-old American fan.

This fellow, the handsome, chipper, earnest Tom Fenmel (Shaun Evans), comes coded with a secret message: Beware the handsome, the chipper and the earnest.

In fact, he argues for the unimportance of being earnest. Anyhow, Tom the charmer soon makes the momentarily vuther-

able Julia his special friend. She's flouting her new boy toy all about the town, showering him with Garter Bank watches and sterling silver cigarette cases. But soon it's evident that he's not as loyal to her as she is, in her married, only-one-lover-at-a-time way, to him. His behavior inspires jealousy and anguish in the wiser older woman.

Meanwhile, Julia's husband is civilized and British about all this, which is to say, ironic. Shouldn't the great Irons change his name professionally to Jeremy Irons? That's a tone he does better than anybody in the world. "Oh, everybody sleeps with everybody in the theater," he says with a grin at one point. But — if you've seen "All About Eve" — you'll see this one coming — young Tom isn't as innocent as he seems. He's a climber, a schemer, a plotter. His love for Julia isn't quite the crusade of admiration, Parsifal-pure. He wants something. And then another thing. And then another.

Since this is England in the '30s, there are no scenes, only brittle repartee and stiff-upper-lip pluck. Would it think all these people had gone to Eton or something. In any event, there comes a moment when Julia understands that she's been betrayed by nearly everybody and she sets out to wreak some havoc. She stoops to conquer.

Video watch

Shark-Tale
92 minutes Dazzling animation, dim story about a bottom feeder with big dreams and a bigger mouth and a shark who

PG
dreams of being a dolphin. Voices by Will Smith, Robert De Niro and Jack Black. Crude humor, jokes.

The Notebook
124 minutes...Sudsy soap opera, satisfying more for the performance than for its melodramatic story.

PG-13
With — Ryan — Gosling, Rachel McAdams, James Garner, Gena Rowlands, Sam Shepard and Joan Allen. PG-13 (sexuality)

T-N readers can enter the Pick-the-Oscar contest

The Times-News
Think you know Oscar's business? Then enter up.
It's time for the 12th Annual Times-News Pick-the-Oscar Contest.
Forecast the winners for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Director and Best Cinematographer (that's the tiebreaker) on the ballot on Page C7 of today's paper. The reader who gets the

most categories right will win free movie tickets for himself or herself and a significant other.
The Academy Awards will be handed out on Feb. 27. Entry deadline for the contest is Feb. 22, and we'll announce the winners in the Week/End section on March 1.
Mail entries to Steve Crump, The Times-News, P.O. Box 648, Twin Falls 83303, fax it to 734-5538, or e-mail it to scrump@magicvalley.com.

WEEKEND

Orphaned dog helps lonely girl heal relationships

New to the valley 'Because of Winn-Dixie'

Based on Kate DiCamillo's best-seller about a lonely girl (AnnSophia Itoh) who adopts an orphaned dog she names Winn-Dixie (after the supermarket where she found him). The bond between girl and dog brings together the people in a small Florida town and heals her own troubled relationship with her father (Jeff Daniels). PG.

'Being Julia'

Annette-Bening bewitches in this diversion about a '30s theater Queen who rules the West End stage as Victoria did her Empire. With Jeremy Irons and Bruce Greenwood. R (sexual situations, profanity)

'Beyond the Sea'

Kevin Spacey stars as '50s and '60s pop idol Bobby Darin in this film that he also co-wrote, directed and produced. Constructed as an autobiographical musical fantasy, it is filled with credible singing and dancing on Spacey's part, but it doesn't really add up to much. Spacey doesn't shy away from portraying Darin as a self-aggrandizing self-mythologizing megalomaniac, but not only does he withhold judgment, he withholds analysis. Hindered by its own theatricality, the film feels at once heretic, defensive and coy. With John Goodman, Bob Hoskins, Brenda Blethyn and Greta Scacchi. (1:58) PG-13 for some strong language and a scene of sensuality.

'Constantine'

Keanu Reeves stars as an unhappy medium — a failed suicide with an ability to recognize the half-breed angels and demons that walk the earth in human form. With Rachel Weisz and Djimon Hounsou. R.

'Hitch'

Will Smith plays a smooth-operating New York City 'date doctor' who advises men on the art of being 'wired' but his best stuff does nothing for his own efforts to win over Eva Mendes' character. Directed by Andy Tennant. PG-13 for language and some strong sexual references.

'Pooh's Heffalump Movie'

The gang from the Hundred Acre Wood learns to accept others' differences when they encounter a young playful creature named Lumpty. Directed by Frank Nissen. G.

'Son of the Mask'

A decade after the legendary Mask of Loki wreaked havoc on the life of an unsuspecting adult, the magical mask finds its way into the possession of a child. When cartoonist Tim Avery's (Jamie Kennedy) new son is born with the Mask's spectacular powers, it turns the household upside-down and launches a kid vs. canine battle for control of the Mask. But unbeknownst to them all, Loki has come looking for his mask and is willing to do whatever it takes to get it back. With Alan Cumming, Bob Hoskins and Traylor Howard. PG.

Continuing

'Are We There Yet?'

A thuddingly miscalculated comedy starring Ice Cube as a guy who says he doesn't like children but who ends up escorting a pair of incorrigible

Big box office

- Last weekend's top-grossing movies:
1. "Boogeyman," Sony/Screen Gems.
 2. "The Wedding Date," Universal.
 3. "Are We There Yet?," Sony.
 4. "Hide and Seek," Fox.
 5. "Million Dollar Baby," Warner Bros.
- Source: Exhibitor Relations

little monsters (Philip Daniel Bolden and Aleisha Allen) on a 300-mile nightmare journey to deliver them to their attractive mother (Nia Long). The kids, however, are more scary than amusing, which is pretty clearly not what the filmmakers intended. (1:34) PG for language and rude humor.

'The Aviator'

Martin Scorsese's sleek epic biography of airman/businessman/madman Howard Hughes, by turns-soaring and sluggish. Leonardo DiCaprio gets under the skin of the increasingly eccentric entrepreneur and Cate Blanchett has a terrific turn as Katharine Hepburn. PG-13 (sexual candor, profanity)

'Boogeyman'

From producers Sam Raimi and Rob Tapert, who Americanized "The Grudge," this pulpy nonsense has little to offer in the way of entertainment or originality. Barry Watson plays an associate magazine editor plagued by memories of a horrific childhood event involving the little character. Director Stephen Kay employs the daring shadows familiar to anyone who has seen "The Grudge," as well as an assortment of overly familiar jump cuts and shock zooms to give the audience a handful of jolts. The script, however, includes needless stretches of atmospheric build-up that succeed only as smokescreen for exposition of the back story. Fright fans expecting anything special will be sorely disappointed. With Emily Deschanel. (1:26) PG-13 for intense sequences of horror and terror/violence, and some partial nudity.

'Coach Carter'

Samuel L. Jackson stars in this stand-up-and-cheer inspirational — about — the real-life basketball coach who believed that students athletes should be scholars first and jocks second. PG-13 (sexual innuendo, discreet drug references, violence, profanity)

'Elektra'

Jennifer Garner, she of the high cheekbones and "Alias" hairpiece, stars as a corsety assassin in this relentlessly solemn adaptation of the Marvel comic. It's "Kill Bill" without irony, and without Quentin Tarantino's flair — and without Uma Thurman, for that matter. PG-13 (violence, profanity)

'Finding Neverland'

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

'Hide & Seek'

The year's first laugh-out-loud-funny thriller owes much to Stephen King and not a little to the perilous path of being too self-referential. After the unex-



In this photo provided by Columbia Pictures, professional matchmaker Alex 'Hitch' Hitchens (Will Smith) tries to help Albert (Kevin James) win the heart of a woman he adores from afar in 'Hitch.'

pected death of his wife, a New York City psychologist (played by Robert De Niro with hand-wringing solemnity for most of the film) moves his traumatized 8-year-old daughter, Emily (Dakota Fanning, with hair dyed Wednesday Addams black), upstate to a large rambling home in the woods outside a rustic town. Unless you're a connoisseur of movies that are so bad they're good, "Hide and Seek" is one game you're not going to want to play. (1:40) R for frightening sequences and violence.

'The Incredibles'

A movie with the sweet soul of "Toy Story" and the boisterous spirit of "Spy Kids," Brad Bird's eye-popping cartoon boasts a pro-family, pro-reform agenda — and a witty — atomic-modern style. It resembles the way the future looked circa 1963, if pop artist Roy Lichtenstein had designed rocketships for NASA and ranchers for suburban developers. PG (animated violence, suspense, suitable for children 4 and older)

'In Good Company'

That rare intergenerational scenario in which a company man (Dennis Quaid) has more to teach than to learn from a corporate shark (Tophic Grace) who is half his age, half the man he is and hired to be his boss. With Scarlett Johansson. PG-13 (sexual innuendo, profanity)

'Lemony Snicket's Unfortunate Events'

Based on the children's book series of the same name, this is a tale of unmitigated disaster retold in a high Wildean style. Abruptly orphaned when a fire burns their parents to a crisp, the clever Baudelaire children (Emily Browning, Liam Aiken, Kara and Shelby Hoffman) are ignored, mistreated or worse by their evil uncle, Count Olaf (Jim Carrey): the spiteful, miscreant and impecunious fancy pants, who plans to kill the children and take their money. If anyone knows his way around the part of scary actor, it's Carrey. But what the movie lacks is anything that might infuse it with the sense of true dread that keeps

kids coming back for the willies. With Meryl Streep. Directed by Brad Silberling. (1:48) PG for thematic elements, scary situations and brief language.

'Million Dollar Baby'

Clint Eastwood directs, and stars with Hilary Swank and

Morgan Freeman, in this heart-breakingly great movie about a diner waitress determined to be a prizefighter. The time-honored conventions of the boxing movie are served up with absolute finesse, but then the pie goes deep and dark into themes that strike at the core of human

experience. PG-13 (violence, language, adult themes) — Steven Rea.

'National Treasure'

'National Treasure' stars Nicolas Cage as Ben Gates, a

Please see MOVIES, Page C5

Twin Falls, ID

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Jubilee House is a proven one-year recovery program with housing, job training, counseling and parenting classes for women with substance abuse problems.

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Faulkner Planetarium presents 'Hubble Vision'

T O D A Y

Planetarium/Twin Falls
The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho will present "Hubble Vision" at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families. Children under 4 are not admitted.

Comedy/Jackpot

Rich Little will do two shows at Cactus Pines Resort Casino, at 8 and 10 p.m. Tickets, which are \$25, \$30 and \$35, can be reserved by phoning (800) 881-1103.

Theater/Halley

Company of Fools will present Wendy Wasserstein's "Sisters Rosenzweig" at 8 p.m. at the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$24, can be reserved by phoning 785-6520 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>.

Variety/Twin Falls

Pure Country will play country and '50s and '60s music from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Rock/Twin Falls

Rockin' Horse will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Oasis. No cover charge. The Oasis is located at 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

Variety/Twin Falls

DJ Kurt Kruezer will perform from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Kruezer's. Cover charge is \$3. Kruezer's is located at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Theater/Pocatello

"An Enchanting Evening," a dinner show featuring Rob Newman and Lori Wilson, will be held at 7 p.m. at the Mystique Theater. Tickets, which are \$25, are available by phoning the box office at 238-8001. The Mystique Theater is located at 158 E. Chubbuck Road.

Country/Declo

The Fugitives will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Shakers. No cover charge. Shakers is located at 826 Highway 81.



Karaoke/Twin Falls

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

Karaoke/Twin Falls

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

Karaoke/Buhl

Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Garibaldi's. No cover charge. Garibaldi's is located at 113 Broadway Ave. S.

Karaoke/Rupert

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody. The Melody is located at 502 Sixth St.

Karaoke/Burley

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Cheers. Cheers is located at 163 West U.S. Highway 30.

Karaoke/Rupert

Moonlight Madness Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is located at 613 Fremont Ave.

Rock/Utah

Something Corporate will play in the Venue in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are \$15, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TDXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. In the Venue is located at 219 South 600 West.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform music by Griffes, Chausson, Ravel, Stravinsky and Ravel at 8 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from \$12 to \$47, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella," 7:30 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which are \$17, \$25, \$40 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

S A T U R D A Y

Comedy/Jackpot

Rich Little will do two shows at Cactus Pines Resort Casino, at 8 and 10 p.m. Tickets, which are \$25, \$30 and \$35, can be reserved by phoning (800) 881-1103.

Theater/Halley

Company of Fools will present Wendy Wasserstein's "Sisters Rosenzweig" at 8 p.m. at the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$24, can be reserved by phoning 785-6520 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>.

Dance/Filer

The Roseland Band will play for a Sweetheart Ball from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Roseland Crystal Ballroom. Cover charge is \$5 per person or \$9 per couple. The Roseland Crystal Ballroom is located at 523 Main St.

Rock/Twin Falls

Aternity Junction will play from 10 p.m. until closing at Woody's Sports Bar and Grill. Cover charge is \$2. Woody's is located at 213 Fifth Ave. S.

Variety/Twin Falls

Pure Country will play country and '50s and '60s music from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Variety/Gooding

Mardi Gras Party with a guest DJ will be featured from 9 p.m. to

1:30 a.m. at Toponis Restaurant. Prizes will be given for best masks and best hats. No cover charge. Toponis is located at 413 Main.

Country-Rock/Bills

C & R Express will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Outlaws and Angels Bar and Grill. A fashion show will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the band will play at 9 p.m. No cover charge. Outlaws and Angels Bar is located at 204 Highway 30.

Variety/Kimberly

44 Magnum will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Mixers. No cover charge. Mixers is located at 105 Main St.

Rock/Twin Falls

Rockin' Horse will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Oasis. No cover charge. The Oasis is located at 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

Variety/Twin Falls

DJ Kurt Kruezer will perform from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Kruezer's. Cover charge is \$3. Kruezer's is located at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Country/Declo

The Fugitives will play from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Shakers. No cover charge. Shakers is located at 826 Highway 81.

Theater/Pocatello

"An Enchanting Evening," a dinner show featuring Rob Newman and Lori Wilson, will be held at 7 p.m. at the Mystique Theater. Tickets, which are \$25, are available by phoning the box office at 238-8001. The Mystique Theater is located at 158 E. Chubbuck Road.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

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

Kimberly Road.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

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

Karaoke/Burley

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

Karaoke/Burley

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. No cover charge. The Riverside is located at 197 Highway 30 W.

Karaoke/Declo

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Kahuna. No cover charge. The Big Kahuna is located at 9 E. Main.

Karaoke/Rupert

Moonlight Madness Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is located at 613 Fremont Ave.

Country/Utah

Del McCoury, Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, The Gibson Brothers and Open Road will headline the Mountain Bluegrass Gathering beginning at 6 p.m. in the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. Tickets, which are \$22.50 and \$35, can be reserved by phoning (801) 325-SEAT or online at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. The Delta Center is located at 301 West South Temple.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform music by Griffes, Chausson, Ravel, Stravinsky and Ravel at 8 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from

\$12 to \$47, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Rock/Boise

Elsley will perform at the Big Easy Concert House at \$10 on FEB. 12. Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4027. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Rock/Utah

The Secret Machines will play the 140-1 Cafe at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TDXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The 140-1 Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella," 2 and 7:30 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which are \$17, \$25, \$40 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Planetarium/Twin Falls

The Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho will present "Greatest Wonders of the Universe" at 2 p.m., "Mystery of the Missing Seasons" at 4 p.m., "Hubble Vision" at 7 p.m. and "Led Zeppelin: Maximum Volume 1" at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families. Children under 4 are not admitted.

S U N D A Y

Theater/Halley

Company of Fools will present

Please see EVENTS, Page C4

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WEEKEND

Events

Continued from C3

Wendy Wasserstein's "Sisters Rosenzweig" at 8 p.m. at the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$10 and \$24, can be reserved by phoning 785-6520 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge. The Klover Klub is located at 402 Main N.

Country/Utah

Del McCoury, Chris Hillman, Herb Pedersen, The Gibson Brothers and Open Road will headline the Mountain Bluegrass Gathering beginning at 2 p.m. in the Delta Center in Salt Lake City. Tickets, which are \$22, 50 and \$45, can be reserved by phoning (801) 325-SHAT or online at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. The Delta Center is located at 301 West South Temple.

Rock/Utah

Eisley will perform at the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

MONDAY

Theater/Pocatello

"An Enchanting Evening," a dinner show featuring Hob Newman and Lari Wilson, will be held at 7 p.m. at the Mystique Theater. Tickets are \$30 for the Valentine's Day show, which will include flowers, chocolates and sparkling cider. Tickets are available by phoning the box office at 238-8001. The Mystique Theater is located at 158 E. Chubbuck Road.

Karaoke/Burley

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

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella," 7:30 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol

Theater. Tickets, which are \$17, \$25, \$40 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

TUESDAY

Karaoke/Burley

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

Country/Utah

Hank Williams III will perform at The Velvet Room in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Velvet Room is located at 155 West 200 South.

WEDNESDAY

Theater/Halley

Company of Fools will present Wendy Wasserstein's "Sisters Rosenzweig" at 8 p.m. at the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$24, can be reserved by phoning 785-6520 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>.

Variety/Twin Falls

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

Variety/Twin Falls

DJ Night will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Kruger's. No cover charge. Kruger's is located at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

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

Karaoke/Paul

Karaoke with Full Moon Music Madness will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Bruthrs. No cover charge. Bruthrs is located at 118 E. Idaho St.

Rock/Utah

Rise Against and Tsunami

Bomb will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella," 7:30 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which are \$17, \$25, \$40 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

THURSDAY

Theater/Halley

Company of Fools will present Wendy Wasserstein's "Sisters Rosenzweig" at 8 p.m. at the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$24, can be reserved by phoning 785-6520 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>.

Variety/Twin Falls

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

Variety/Twin Falls

DJ Night will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Kruger's. No cover charge. Kruger's is located at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Karaoke/Twin Falls

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

Karaoke/Burley

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

Karaoke/Burley

Kronkers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. The Riverside is located at 197 W. Highway 30.

Comedy/Utah

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherman of "Who's Line Is It, Anyway?" will play Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City at 8 p.m. Tickets, which are \$32, 50, \$39, 50 and \$44.50, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West Temple.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella," 7:30 p.m. in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which are \$17, \$25, \$40 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

NEXT WEEKEND

Rock/Utah

Big D and Kids Table and River City Rebels will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on FEB. 18. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Theater/Halley

Company of Fools will present Wendy Wasserstein's "Sisters Rosenzweig" at 8 p.m. on FEB. 18-19 and at 3 p.m. on FEB. 20 at the Liberty Theater. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$24, can be reserved by phoning 785-6520 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>.

Classical/Twin Falls

The Magic Valley Youth Orchestra will present its Winter at 3 p.m. on FEB. 19 in the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts auditorium. Admission is free.

Country/Idaho Falls

John Cowan will perform at the Colonial Theater in Idaho Falls at 8 p.m. on FEB. 19. Tickets, which are \$25, can be reserved by phoning (208) 522-0143. The Colonial Theater is located at 498 A St.

Dance/Utah

Ballet West will dance Sergei Prokofiev's "Cinderella" at 7:30

p.m. on FEB. 18 and at 2 and 7:30 p.m. on FEB. 19 in Salt Lake City's Capitol Theater. Tickets, which are \$17, \$25, \$40 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. The Capitol Theater is located at 50 West 200 South.

Classical/Ketchum

Cliff Mays Belser will perform at the Presbyterian Church of the Bigwood in Ketchum at 7:30 p.m. on FEB. 19, the second concert in the Sun Valley Series for the Arts Winter Music Series. Tickets, which are \$25, are available at the Sun Valley Center office in Ketchum or by phoning 726-9491.

Rock/Boise

GWAR will perform at the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. on FEB. 19. Tickets, which are \$17.50, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Rock/Utah

Entombed will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on FEB. 19. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Rock/Boise

Walls of Jericho will play The Venue at 7 p.m. on FEB. 19. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827 or online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Venue is located at 523 Broad St.

Pop/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform dance music from movies and Broadway at 8 p.m. on FEB. 19-20 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from \$20 to \$45, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Rock/Utah

Duane Peters will perform at 7

p.m. on FEB. 20 at the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Theater/Sun Valley

The Sun Valley Company's production of Stuart Ross' musical "Forever Plaid" will be staged on FEB. 20/AND 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Boiler Room. Tickets, which are \$12 for adults, can be reserved by phoning 822-2135. Kids 12 and under get in free.

THIS MONTH

Rock/Utah

Criss will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on FEB. 22. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

World music/Utah

Habib Kotte and Bamada will perform at Kingsbury Hall on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on FEB. 22. Tickets, which are \$16 and \$24, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787.

Rock/Boise

Eighteen Visions, Emery and Remembering Never will perform at The Venue at 6 p.m. on FEB. 24. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827. The Venue is located at 523 Broad St.

Rock/Utah

Acceptance and Over It will perform at the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on FEB. 24. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Classical/Twin Falls

The Magic Valley Symphony will perform its winter concert at 8 p.m. on FEB. 25 in the College of

Please see SPOTLIGHT, Page C6

Step Away From The Kitchen

Take advantage of all that the Magic Valley has to offer. From abalone to waffles, you can find just what you need to be in the mood for. So line up your apron, take a break from the kitchen, and become an

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WEEKEND

Movies

Continued from C1
cryptographer and civics geek who steals the Declaration of Independence in order to decode a treasure map encrypted on the back. PG (discrete violence, suspense)

'The Phantom of the Opera'

This white elephant of a movie that lumbers from dripping catacomb to drooping chandelier was adapted by Joel Schumacher from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway blockbuster. The dowdier in this moldering enterprise is Emmy Rossum as Christine, Beauty to the Phantom's Beast. PG-13 (violence, threat of sexual violence) — Carrie Rickey.

'The Polar Express'

Tom Hanks provides the voice and movements for five characters, including the boy hero, in this visually lavish computer animated adaptation of the Chris Van Allsburg picture book. It's about a boy in the throes of a Santa credibility crisis, who takes a magical train ride on Christmas Eve. And it feels just a wee bit padded. G (vertiginous train ride)

'Racing Stripes'

In the live-action, talking-animal genre, "Racing Stripes" is no "Babe" but should delight youngsters, although parents likely will find it sentimental in the extreme, with a plot that telegraphs every development. A widowed farmer (Bruce Greenwood) and his daughter

rescue a baby zebra (voiced by Frankie Muniz) who develops an itch for racing, unaware that he is not a horse. (1:50) PG for mild crude humor and some language.

'Sideways'

Alexander Payne's exhilarating, edgy and wryly comic buddy film about fortyish guys, a depressed intellectual and an affable lightweight, who embark on a bachelor debauch to the California wine country before the latter's marriage. With Paul Giamatti, Thomas Haden Church, Virginia Madsen and Sandra Oh. R (sexual candor, profanity, brief drugs)

'A Very Long Engagement'

Audrey Tautou is reunited with her Amelie' director in this big, beautiful love story, a World War I saga about a woman's search for her missing, believed-dead fiance. It's kind of like 'Cold Mountain' with French people, and without Jude Law. R (violence, sexuality)

'The Wedding Date'

An unmarried woman (Debra Messing) hires a professional escort (Dermot Mulroney) to accompany her to her younger sister's wedding in London, and has worth every penny. Directed by Clare Kilner ('How to Deal'), PG-13 for sexual content including dialogue.

'White Noise'

In this techie ghost story Michael Keaton plays an archi-

tect whose perfect life is disrupted when his wife (Claudia West) disappears. Such is their love and reliance on state-of-the-art communication equipment that soon after her death, she starts trying to touch base with her husband from beyond the grave. With its haunted television sets, waltzing cameras and fancy digs, 'White Noise' suggests nothing so much as a soulless remake of 'Poltergeist,' albeit one that wouldn't really be scary at all with the sound turned off. (1:41) PG-13 for violence, disturbing images and language.

'The Work and the Glory'

Adapted from Gerald N. Lund's best-selling series about early Mormon history, 'The Work and the Glory' is a love story set against the backdrop of religious intolerance on the American frontier of the early 1800s. PG.

Sources: Washington Post, Knight Ridder Newspapers

Modern Woodmen of America's 1st Annual

SAFETY KIDS CLUB **MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA**

32 HAPPY TICKETS AND A BOX OF PRIZES! **CHEER THEM ON!**

RACE TO RAINY sponsored by CASH 86.45

- DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2005
- Time: Races start at 4:00 p.m.
- PLACE: **Nazz Kart Indoor Race Track**, 302 3rd Avenue South, Twin Falls

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Gold's Gym of Twin Falls

Proceeds benefit the Magic Valley SAFE KIDS Coalition and will be used to provide child safety seats and bike helmets to Magic Valley children who need them.

The Times-News **MIX 103**

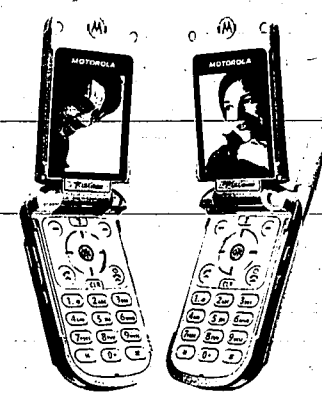
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"The Aviator"	"Phantom of the Opera"
"Because of Winn-Dixie"	"A Very Long Engagement"
"Boogeyman"	
"Coach Carter"	Bigwood Cinemas
"Hide & Seek"	"Are We There Yet?"
"Hitch"	"Hitch"
"The Incredibles"	"Million Dollar Baby"
"Meet the Fockers"	"Sideways"
"Million Dollar Baby"	SkITime Cinemas
"National Treasure"	"Hitch"
"Pooh's Heffalump Movie"	"Sideways"
"Racing Stripes"	
"Sons of the Mask"	Sun Valley Opera House
"Wedding Date"	"Are We There Yet?"
Odyssey Theater	
"Constantine"	Burley
"Elektra"	Century Cinemas
"Finding Nemo"	"Boogeyman"
"In Good Company"	"Coach Carter"
"Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events"	"Hitch"
"Sideways"	"Pooh's Heffalump Movie"
"The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie"	"The Work and the Glory"
"White Noise"	Burley Theater
"The Work and the Glory"	"The Polar Express"
Lamphouse Theater	
"Beyond the Sea"	Jerome
"A Very Long Engagement"	Jerome Cinema
	"Because of Winn-Dixie"
The Orpheum	"Hitch"
"Phantom of the Opera"	"Pooh's Heffalump Movie"
	"Sons of the Mask"
Halley/Ketchum/Sun Valley	Gooding
Magic Lantern	Gooding Cinema
	"Coach Carter"



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Spotlight

Continued from C4
 Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center auditorium. Tickets, which are \$7 for general admission, \$6 for seniors and \$4 for students, are available at Everybody's Business in the Main Valley Arts Council office and the College of Southern Idaho Bookstore.

Rock/Boise

Sugarcult, Hawthorne Heights, Antlerlin, Automotica and Plain White T's will perform at the Big Easy Concert House at 7:30 p.m. on FEB. 25. Tickets, which are \$16, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Rock/Utah

Letter Kills will perform at the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on FEB. 25. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Theater/Twin Falls

The Junior Musical Playhouse will present "Tied to the Tracks" at 7:30 p.m. on FEB. 25-26 at Roper Auditorium. Tickets, which are \$7, are available at Crowley's Soda Fountain, Kurt's Pharmacy and Hallmark and R&H Pharmacy in Twin Falls, at Arlene's Flowers in Jerome, at Sav-Mor Drug in Buhl, or from any cast member.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform Vaughan Williams' Symphony No. 2 and music by Butterfield and Barber at 8 p.m. on FEB. 25-26 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which range from \$12 to \$38, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Rock/Utah

Three Doors Down will play the Delta Center in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on FEB. 26. Tickets, which are \$29.50 and \$32.50, can be reserved by phoning (801) 325-SBAT or online at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. The Delta Center is located at 301 West South Temple.

Rock/Utah

Sugarcult, Hawthorne Heights, Antlerlin, Head Automotica and Plain White T's will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on FEB. 26. Tickets, which are \$16, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Rock/Utah

Hot Hot Heat will perform at the Venue in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on FEB. 27. Tickets, which are \$13, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. In the Venue is located at 219 South 600 West.

Rock/Boise

Papa Roach, Skindred and The F-U-nks will play the Big Easy Concert House at 7:30 p.m. on FEB. 28. Tickets, which are \$19.50, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Blues/Utah

Tinsley Ellis will perform at Eggo's in Salt Lake City at 9 p.m. on FEB. 28. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. Eggo's is located at 688 S. State St.

Rock/Utah

Bear vs. Shark will play the Lo-Fi Cafe at 7 p.m. on FEB. 28. Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

six.com. The Velvet Room is located at 155 West 200 South.

Rock/Utah

DeVotchKa will perform at Eggo's in Salt Lake City at 9 p.m. on MARCH 1. Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. Eggo's is located at 688 S. State St.

Rock/Utah

The Blood Brothers and the

Chinese Stars will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on MARCH 1. Tickets, which are \$10, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Hip-hop/Utah

Sounds of Mischief will play the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on MARCH 2. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by

phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Theater/Twin Falls

The College of Southern Idaho Theater Department will present William Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," 8 p.m. on MARCH 2-5 and 9-12, Room 119, College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center. Tickets, which are \$6 for general admission and \$4

for students and senior citizens, are available at the CSI Bookstore from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and at the CSI Fine Arts Box office from 1-4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Tickets also may be purchased by phoning 732-6784.

Theater/Oakley

The Oakley Valley Arts Council will present Frank Loesser, Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling's musical "Guy and Dolls" at 8 p.m. on MARCH 3-5, 7-8, 10-12, 14-15 and

17-19 in Howells Opera House. Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning 677-2787.

Classical/Ketchum

The Ethel String Quartet will perform at 7:30 p.m. on MARCH 4 in the Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, the third concert in the Sun Valley Center for the Arts Winter Music Series. Tickets, which are \$25, are available at the Sun Valley Center office in

Please see EVENTS, Page C8

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NEXT MONTH

Rock/Boise
 G Love & Special Sauce will perform at the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. on MARCH 1. Tickets, which are \$20, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Reggae/Utah

Jenny Cliff will perform at the Velvet Room in Salt Lake City at 9 p.m. on MARCH 1. Tickets, which are \$20, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>.

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WEEKEND

Groups will raise money for tsunami victims today with different events

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The merchants of the Historic Warehouse District and Habitat for Humanity will hold a fundraising event for survivors of the tsunami in southeast Asia.

Today, Old Towne merchants will host "From the Heart" to help these families rebuild their homes and lives. Donations will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tribes Interiors and at Woody's through the rest of the evening.

The Lamphouse Theatre will present the screening of the film, "Beyond the Sea," the Bobby Darin story starring Kevin Spacey, at 8 p.m. \$6 of each \$10 admission price will go to the tsunami fund.

The College of Southern Idaho Jazz Band will perform live from 6 to 9 p.m. at Woody's.

"It will be a night of food, fun and entertainment, all for a great cause."

— Linda Fleming, event coordinator

with \$1 from each drink sold going to the fund.

Phat Eddie's, a new Cajun restaurant and nightclub in Old Towne, will donate its \$5 cover charges for the evening.

"It will be a night of food, fun and entertainment, all for a great cause,"

great cause," said Linda Fleming, event coordinator and administrator for Habitat for Humanity of the Magic Valley.

Habitat International's twopart response to the tsunami involves working with the local officials, relief agencies and other organizations to provide transitional housing with an immediate priority to get families out of temporary shelters. Transitional houses being built consist of a permanent one-room structure with a veranda and sanitary facilities. Over time, Habitat for Humanity will work to build more permanent structures with additional rooms.

Donations also may be mailed to HHF-MV, Box 3034, Twin Falls, ID 83303-3034. Note "tsunami fund" on the check.

For more information, call Fleming 734-1057.

Times-News Pick-the-Oscar contest ballot

Please write a checkmark next to the film, actor, director or cinematography you think will win an Oscar on Feb. 27. (Return to the Times-News by Feb. 22)

Best Picture (choose one)

- "The Aviator"
"Finding Neverland"
"Million Dollar Baby"
"Ray"
"Sideways"

Best Actor (choose one)

- Don Cheadle, "Hotel Rwanda"
Johnny Depp, "Finding Neverland"
Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Aviator"
Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"
Jamie Foxx, "Ray"

Best Actress (choose one)

- Annette Bening, "Being Julia"
Catalina Sandino Moreno, "Maria Full of Grace"
Michelle Yeoh, "The Curse"
Vera Drake
Hillary Swank, "Million"

Dollar Baby"
Kate Winslet, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"

Supporting actor (choose one)

- Alan Alda, "The Aviator"
Thomas Haden Church, "Sideways"
Jamie Foxx, "Collateral"
Morgan Freeman, "Million Dollar Baby"
Clive Owen, "Closer"

Supporting actress (choose one)

- Cate Blanchett, "The Aviator"
Laura Linney, "Kinsey"
Virginia Madsen, "Side Ways"
Sophie Okonedo, "Hotel Rwanda"
Natalie Portman, "Closer"

Best director (choose one)

- Martin Scorsese, "The Aviator"
Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby"
Taylor Hackford, "Ray"
Alexander Payne, "Sideways"

Mike Leigh, "Vera Drake"

Best cinematography (choose one) (tiebreaker)

- Robert Richardson, "The Aviator"
Zhuo Xiaodong, "House of Flying Daggers"
Caleb Deschanel, "The Passion of the Christ"
John Mathieson, "The Tenth Muse"
Bruno Delbonnel, "A Very Long Engagement"

Name

Address

Phone number

Age

How many movies do you go see each month?

How many videos/DVDs do you rent in a month?

Return to Steve Crump, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls 83303, fax to 734-5538 or e-mail to scrump@magicvalley.com

Musicians headline workshop

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — David Sills and Deem Koba, jazz musicians from California, will headline the February Jazz Workshop at the College of Southern Idaho at 7 p.m. Feb. 28. The public is encouraged to attend.

Sills is a Los Angeles area saxophonist whose 2002 compact disc, "Stay Cool," has received significant airplay on jazz radio stations.

Koba, also of Los Angeles, is a freelance drummer who performs regularly with musicians in that area, including the Bayou Brass Band at Disneyland.

The musicians will work with CSI jazz students in the afternoon of Feb. 28 and then present a special performance that evening in the Fireside Lounge of the Student Union Building.

Admission is a suggested \$5 donation at the door to the CSI Jazz Studies Program. The Eagle's Nest cafe will feature two-for-one coffee drinks before the performance.

For more information about the event or about the CSI jazz program, contact Brent Jensen at 732-6765 or bjensen@csi.edu.

'Singing Janitor' auditions local talent

RUPERT — Auditions for a new variety show on PAX TV, hosted by the Singing Janitor, will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in the auditorium of Minico High School, 292 W. 100 S., Rupert.

Auditions are open to singers, dancers, dance groups, choirs, quartets, instrumentalists, comedians and any other form of entertainment. Material must be suitable for families. All ages are welcome.

Auditions are also open for a sidekick for the show's host.

For more information, call Thom Simpson at 436-0407 or 719-9283.

ANNIVERSARY

THE STODDARDS

BURLEY — Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Keith Stoddard of Burley will be honored at an open house for their 60th wedding anniversary. Friends and relatives are invited to attend from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at their home at 2031 Burton Ave. in Burley. Casual attire is welcome.

Those not able to attend are invited to call the Stoddards at 678-8591.

Stoddard and Fae Williams were married Feb. 13, 1945, in Logan, Utah.

They have lived in Burley for 45 years, where they owned and operated Stoddard Furniture and Appliance until retirement.

They are active members of the LDS Church.

They have also been active in Kaysville where they owned and operated Stoddard Furniture and Appliance until retirement.

The couple has eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



Keith and Fae Stoddard

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The Times-News: Your guide to Magic Valley

LAMPHOUSE THEATRE

223 5th Ave. S. TR. • 733-9600 Beyond The Sea PG-13 TODAY 8:00 ONLY!

Please join the merchants of Old Towne in raising money to build new homes through Habitat for Humanity International for victims of the recent devastating tsunami. Your \$10 donation helps the cause and admits you to Kevin Spacey's tribute to Bobby Darin. Come early and listen to the CSI Jazz Band at Woody's Sportsbar from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

A Very Long Engagement 2 OSCAR NOMINATIONS TODAY 4:15-7:15

Valentines Weekend Special

2 Fajita Dinners \$16.99 Choice of Beef, Chicken or Shrimp. Plus 2 Drinks & 2 Specialty Deserts. 5-9pm only on Friday, Saturday & Monday.

HAPPY BURRITO 772 Falls Avenue Turt Plaza in Twin Falls 733-9323

CELEBRATION

SILVESTER-PAULINO

TWIN FALLS — S. Mitchell "Mitch" Silvester of Twin Falls and Randy J. Paulino of Huntington Beach, Calif., announce their engagement.

Mitch is the son of Leslie and Bryan Silvester of Twin Falls. He is a graduate of Filer High School and is a wildland firefighter with the Bureau of Land Management.

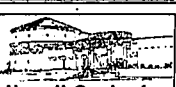
Paulino is the son of Ben Paulino of Huntington Beach, Calif., and Gwenlyn Veach of Buhl. He is a graduate of Westminster High School and the University of Las Vegas. Before opening Giftaway.net, he was a general



Randy Paulino and Mitch Silvester manager for Stuart Anderson's Black Angus Restaurants. The celebration is planned for Thursday, May 5, in Vancouver, British Columbia. A reception to honor the couple will be held Saturday, May 7, in Buhl. They will reside in Twin Falls.

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Read the Money pages in The Times-News



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TICKETS FOR ALL SHOWS Adults \$4 Students \$2 Senior \$3 Families \$9

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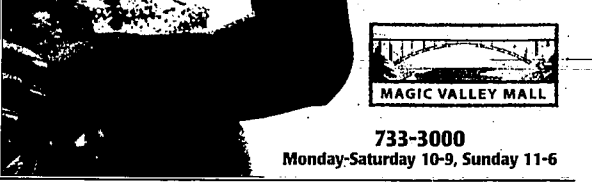
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The Cure for the Common Man Will Smith, Eva Mendes, Kevin James, Amber Valletta HITCH

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL GALLERIES AND MUSEUM HERRETT CENTER IDAHO

WEEKEND

Events

Continued from C6
Ketchum or by phoning 726-9491.

Jazz/Boise

Manhattan Transfer will play the Morrison Center on the campus of Boise State University at 8 p.m. on MARCH 4. Tickets, which are \$25, \$35, \$45 and \$55, can be reserved by phoning Selma A. Seat at (208) 426-1494, online at <http://www.dobalotickets.com>, or at Albersson's in Twin Falls.

Rock/Utah

Modest Mouse will play in the Venue in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on MARCH 4. Tickets, which are \$20, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Venue is located at 219 South 600 West.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform music by Glazunov, Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky at 8 p.m. on MARCH 4-5 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which are \$12, \$20, \$28, \$34 and \$38, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Varzety/Burley

Mini-Casita Community Centers will present "One Enchanted Evening Remembering Richard Rodgers," at 7:30 p.m. on MARCH 5 in the King Fine Arts Center. Admission is by membership card only, with open seating. The card will also admit members

to concerts of other Southern Idaho Community Concerts Associations at no extra charge and with no limit to the number of concerts a person may attend. Season memberships are \$35.50 for adults, \$18.50 for students or \$110 for families. For more information, call 678-1798 or 678-7447.

Rock/Boise

Spivey will perform at the Big Easy Concert Lounge at 8 p.m. on MARCH 5. Tickets, which are \$13.50, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-8127, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Jazz/Utah

Pat Metheny will play Kingsbury Hall on the campus of the University of Utah in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on MARCH 6. Tickets, which are \$28, \$39 and \$45, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787.

Rock/Utah

Goldfinger will perform at the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City at 7 p.m. on MARCH 9. Tickets, which are \$15, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX, or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Rock/Utah

Judeff will play Ego's in Salt Lake City at 9 p.m. on MARCH 10.

Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. Ego's is located at 668 S. State St.

Rock/Utah

Number One Fan will perform at 7 p.m. on MARCH 10 at the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City. Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Classical/Utah

Utah Symphony will perform chamber music by Haydn, Wagner and Walton at 7:30 p.m. on MARCH 10 in Salt Lake City's Abravanel Hall. Tickets, which are \$18 and \$28, can be reserved by phoning (801) 355-2787. Abravanel Hall is located at 123 West South Temple.

Theater/Ketchum

St. Thomas Playhouse will present Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" at 7 p.m. on MARCH 10-13 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Tickets, which are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, can be reserved by phoning 726-5349, Ext. 13.

Rock/Boise

Tegan and Sara will play the Big Easy Concert House at 8 p.m. on MARCH 11. Tickets, which are \$13.50, can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-8127, online at

<http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Market in Ketchum. The Big Easy Concert House is located at 416 S. Ninth St.

Rock/Utah

Tegan and Sara will perform at 7 p.m. on MARCH 12 at the Lo-Fi Cafe in Salt Lake City. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. The Lo-Fi Cafe is located at 165 South West Temple.

Rock/Utah

Another Tips will play Ego's in Salt Lake City at 9 p.m. on MARCH 11-12. Tickets, which are \$12, can be reserved by phoning Smith's Tix at (800) 888-TIXX or online at <http://www.smithstix.com>. Ego's is located at 668 S. State St.


Classical/Ketchum

The St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform at 7:30 p.m. on MARCH 12 in the Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood, the fourth concert in the Sun Valley Center for the Arts Winter Music Series. Tickets, which are \$25, are available at the Sun Valley Center in Ketchum or by phoning 726-9491.

Rock/Utah

Duran Duran will perform at the Delta Center in Salt Lake City at 7:30 p.m. on MARCH 12. Tickets, which are \$39.50, \$49.50, \$59.50 and \$79.50, can be re-

Oakley Valley Arts Council Presents



Based on a story and character by Damon Runyon
Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser
Book by Joe Swearing and Abe Burrows

Directed by Kent Severe

March 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11,
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8:00 pm
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Large 1 topping Deep Dish Pizza and 2 liter of Coke product \$12.95 plus tax
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The Times-News

Friday, February 11, 2005

Section D

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

I saw an online poll: 55 percent said they'd want Randy (Moss) as a teammate. The other 45 percent are liars.

— former Minnesota Viking Robert Smith

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- High School BOYS BASKETBALL Gooding at Filer, 6 p.m. Blackfoot at Wood River, 6 p.m. Minico at Pocatello, 6 p.m. Burley at Twin Falls, 6 p.m. Postseason Magic Valley Northside Conference Tournament, Shoshone See related story Magic Valley Southside Conference Tournament, Murtaugh See related story GIRLS BASKETBALL Postseason See local roundup, Page D-2 BOWLING District Singles, Jerome Bowl, 4 p.m. WRESTLING Twin Falls, Filer at Jerome, 6 p.m. Gooding at Wood River, 6 p.m. Kimberly at Worland, 6 p.m. Hillersburg, Burley at Bonnevile, 4 p.m. Raft River/Oakley, Westside, Burley IV at Malta, 6 p.m. College WOMEN'S BASKETBALL North Idaho at CSI, 6 p.m. North Idaho at CSI, 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Semi-pro baseball plans meeting

BURLEY — The Northwest Triple B semi-pro baseball league will hold an important meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday at the Burley Best Western Inn and Idaho Convention Center. Anyone interested in the league is invited to attend.

Magic Mountain Snoyak Race planned

KIMBERLY — Magic Mountain Ski Patrol is holding a Snoyak (kayak on the snow) Race at 10 a.m. Saturday at Magic Mountain Ski Resort. The entry fee is \$30 and entry forms can be found at River Rat White Water Toyz. Claude's Sports, Elevation Sports, Mix 103 or at Magic Mountain. This will be a timed event, best two out of three runs. Helmets are required. Contestants under 18 must have parental permission and signature. There will be an auction and raffle following. For more information, contact Cindy Spencer at 423-5140.

Tools for Fitness program offered

TWIN FALLS — This month's "Tools for Fitness" program will be held on Saturday, Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Scheduled activities include swimming, basketball, a hike and outdoor activities at Rock Creek Park, and indoor soccer, as well as a nutritious lunch provided by the Salvation Army.

"Tools for Fitness" is a program designed to prevent childhood obesity through physical activity and healthy eating choices. Participating organizations include the Boys and Girls Club of Valley, the University of Idaho Extension office, the Salvation Army, the local YMCA, and the Twin Falls Department of Recreation. Boys and girls in grades 5-8 are eligible. Registration fees are \$1 per child. For this month's activities, children should be dropped off at the Twin Falls City Pool and picked up at the Boys and Girls Club. Trans IV bus lines will provide transportation between activity sites. To register and for additional information, contact one of the organizations listed above or phone 736-7061, or 733-4384.

Compiled from staff reports

Hansen survives upset bid



After a close battle in the first half, Hagerman and junior Skyler Talbot, 32, played tight defense and stopped Murtaugh and freshman Jesus Cabral, winning 70-50 in the first round of the Southside Magic Valley Conference tournament Thursday in Murtaugh.

By Diane Philbin Times-News writer

MURTAUGH — Hansen survived a tiring buzzer-beater attempt by Castleford's Lance Blick Thursday to advance into the second round of the Magic Valley Southside Conference Tournament Thursday in Murtaugh.

Hansen 53, Castleford 50 Blick's desperation 3-point attempt was blocked as time expired, allowing the Hansen Huskies to advance.

Kyle King led the Huskies with 16 points while Mark Pearson chipped in 14. The Huskies trailed 37-32 heading into the fourth quarter, but outscored the Wolves 21-13 in the game's final eight minutes.

Castleford's Nathan Pryor led all scorers with 22 points while senior Wolves guard Kobi Bower added 18.

Hansen plays Raft River at 6:30 p.m. tonight while Castleford plays Oakley at 5 p.m. in loser-out play.

Southside Tournament

at Murtaugh High School Thursday's results Hagerman 70, Murtaugh 50 Raft River 68, Oakley 59 Hansen, 53, Oakley 50 Friday's games Oakley vs. Castleford, 5 p.m. Raft River vs. Hansen, 6:30 p.m. Hagerman vs. Magic Valley Christian, 8 p.m.

Castleford's Nathan Pryor led all scorers with 22 points while senior Wolves guard Kobi Bower added 18. Hansen plays Raft River at 6:30 p.m. tonight while Castleford plays Oakley at 5 p.m. in loser-out play.

Top Northside seeds prevail

Community School, Camas County, Carey all advance

By Eric Larsen Times-News writer

SIATIONE — Sometimes having a short memory can be a good thing.

The Dietrich Blue Devils boys basketball team put two regular season headshots at the hands of the Community School behind them and handed the Cutthroats all they could handle in Game 1 of the 2005 Magic Valley Northside Tournament.

"Dietrich came out really intent to beat us," Cutthroats head coach Mike Wade said. "We beat them pretty good twice this year, but they didn't remember that."

Cutthroats senior Connor Wade buried two consecutive 3-pointers to start the fourth quarter and give his team the six-point margin it would win by, 56-50.

"Though greatly outmanned by the Cutthroats' size, the scrappy Blue Devils pushed the tempo of the game and found open lanes to the basket to take a 14-13 lead. By halftime, the score was tied at 32. After three quarters, the game was knotted

Please see NORTHSIDE, Page D2



Eric Larsen/Times-News

North Idaho College women could give Eagles stiff test

By Kevin Colbert Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Hot, hot, hot. No, it's not jalapeno pepper and certainly not the weather. Instead, it's the North Idaho College women's basketball team.

The College of Southern Idaho will have two chances to cool down the streaking Cardinals when it battles NIC tonight and Saturday at 8 in CSI Gymnasium. The Golden Eagles men will host NIC at 8 on both nights.

The NIC women (17-7 overall, 8-4 Scenic West Athletic

CSI leaders

(per game averages) Points — Jamaal Brown, 17.1 Rebounds — Mohamed Kone, 9.5 Assists — Brown, 8.5 Women Points — Sidney Ordoroff, 11.8 Rebounds — Denisa Svarova, 6.5 Assists — Nakaya Isabell, 4.9

Conference) have won 10 of their last 12 games, including a road sweep of Snow College last weekend. The victories, coupled with two Dixie State College losses, vaulted the Cardinals into third place in the SWAC.

"They're a hot team right now," CSI women's head coach Randy Rogers said. "They've got probably the best shooting team in the conference, hands-down, from the perimeter. They like to shoot the 3 and they're very consistent." Second-ranked CSI (21-9, 1) will indeed have its hands full with NIC's perimeter threats. The Cardinals have made 165 3-point field goals and are hitting on 35 percent of their attempts, both league highs.

NHL talks end

With no sign of restarting in time

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL and the players' association broke off talks Thursday as the clock ticked down to a weekend deadline for saving what little is left of the season.

"It was a pointless meeting," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said after the four-hour session. "We're not going to pick up the phone this weekend."

"I was a pointless meeting," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said after the four-hour session. "We're not going to pick up the phone this weekend."

It was the second straight day of meetings in Toronto aimed at ending the lockout, but the first full session since commissioner Gary Bettman told the union Wednesday that a deal would need to be ready by the weekend to save the season.

If the deadline was set to pressure the players' association to give in to the league's salary-cap demand, it hasn't worked so far.

"We were not deadline hunting in any way," Sackin said. Daly said the union brought nothing new to Thursday's meeting.

"Quite frankly, I don't know why they asked us to stay open," Daly said. "I don't know what their agenda was. I just know there was no progress."

During the meeting at the league's office in Canada, the sides spent 2.5 hours huddling separately.

No new meetings were scheduled, and Daly and Bettman immediately returned to New York to prepare for a normal work day Friday.

"That won't be easy because every indication is that it will be the last business day before the NHL becomes the first major North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute."

"Since no material progress has been made, and we're within days of having to cancel the season, you're hit with the realization of what you have to do," Daly said.

He gave no encouragement that a deal could come in time. "I don't know I'd say I'm surprised," he said. "I'm disappointed. I hoped that at the end of the day that reason would prevail, that we'd be able to find common ground, and that we'd reach an agreement. That hasn't happened."

The lockout has wiped out 824 of the 1,230 regular-season games through Thursday, as Please see NHL, Page D2

in the first half on the way to a team-high 22 points. The Eagles, however, shut her down in the second half.

"We concentrated a little bit more on her, not just playing tighter defense, but completely denying her the basketball," Rogers said. "We have some athletes that can deny her the ball. If you don't have the ball, you can't score."

Part of the Eagles' strategy to contain the Cardinals' outside shooters is to not allow them to take open shots from the outside.

"I think we play a little bit better. Please see EAGLES, Page D2

SPORTS

Pistons pound Lakers

DETROIT (AP) — Rashad Wallace was making 3-pointers and grabbing rebounds against the Los Angeles Lakers...



DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Pistons' Rashad Wallace, left, works against Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom, right, in the first half Thursday...

Wallace had 17 points and 17 rebounds, and the Pistons secured 24 points in the fourth quarter...

There is no comparison, Wallace said, between the Pistons' pressure defense and the Lakers' offense...

Wallace had 17 points and 17 rebounds, and the Pistons secured 24 points in the fourth quarter...

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Magic 101, Hawks 96

ORLANDO, Fla. — Steve Francis scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter...

Francis, who also had nine assists and seven rebounds, hit his key shot after Atlanta cut his deficit to 37-41 with 38 seconds left...

Declo claims SCIC tournament top seed

By Nathaniel Garbrandt Times-News writer

BIBB — Declo grabbed the tournament next week and spoiled Utah's chance to win the title...

Declo had engineered an 11-2 run in 2:30 to pull even at 16. With three minutes to go, they were up 23-19...

Declo had engineered an 11-2 run in 2:30 to pull even at 16. With three minutes to go, they were up 23-19...

Hansen

Continued from D1

We are excited about the fifth guy to sign, and about the fact that we have a good mix of players...

Raft River 68, Oakley 59

MURHAUGH — Senior Braden Barrett scored a game-high 22 points to lead No. 2 seed Raft River to a 60-59 win over No. 7 Oakley...

Barrett scored 10 of the Trojans' 12 points in the third quarter. Guards G.J. Tuckett and Paton Baker both posted 13 points for 15-44 Raft River...

Eagles

Continued from D1

Just the opposite of the women's team, the '05 men had a drop-off from second to last place in the SWAC...

NIC features a balanced scoring attack

against the current top five teams in the conference. The other two were non-conference teams. NIC gave second-place Snow College a scare last week...

Highland blows past Twin Falls girls

The Times-News

Local sports

POCATELLO — Highland made it four in a row Thursday night to clinch the Region Four-Five-Six title...

Boys basketball
Filter 47, Gooding 42
FILER — A balanced Filter attack edged Gooding 47-42 Thursday night...

But three 3-pointers and 7-for-8 shooting from the free throw line helped the Lady Rams build to a 30-11 halftime lead...

Blackfoot 54, Wood River 50
HAILEY — Depleted by fouls, the Wood River Wolverines finally succumbed to visiting Blackfoot Thursday night...

Highland 61, Twin Falls 29
Twin Falls' basketball team 61-29. The Bruins are now 20-4 with all their losses to Highland...

Blackfoot 54, Wood River 50
HAILEY — Depleted by fouls, the Wood River Wolverines finally succumbed to visiting Blackfoot Thursday night...

Valley 45, Glenns Ferry 38
HAZLETON — Valley booked its sixth-straight trip to state, downing Glenns Ferry 45-38 for the 2A-District-IV title Thursday night...

Blackfoot 54, Wood River 50
HAILEY — Depleted by fouls, the Wood River Wolverines finally succumbed to visiting Blackfoot Thursday night...

Megan Bullers came up big in the fourth scoring seven of her 11 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer to make it 39-37 Valley Bulls added two more free throws to make it a five-point lead...

Blackfoot 54, Wood River 50
HAILEY — Depleted by fouls, the Wood River Wolverines finally succumbed to visiting Blackfoot Thursday night...

Declo hosts the winner of Monday's Filer-Buhl first-round game on Tuesday. Buhl plays host to Kimberly also on Tuesday in the SCIC tournament.

Blackfoot 54, Wood River 50
HAILEY — Depleted by fouls, the Wood River Wolverines finally succumbed to visiting Blackfoot Thursday night...

Frustration keeps building for Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The frustration over the Utah Jazz's losing season has reached the top of the organization...

The Jazz fell to 16-33 Thursday with a loss at Denver, the fifth loss in six games for Utah.

Owner Larry Miller isn't happy that after his summer of contract spending, the Jazz are likely headed for their first losing season since 1982-83.

Miller said a brief but loud locker room speech after a 102-99 overtime loss to the New York Knicks on Monday...

Northside

Continued from D1

"They played even with us the whole game, but they never could make up that final deficit," coach Wade said.

Northside Tournament

at Shoshone High School Thursday's games Community School 56, Dietrich 50 Camas County 59, Shoshone 33 Carey 72, Bliss 34

Friday's games Community School vs. Richfield, 5 p.m. Camas County vs. Carey, 6:30 p.m. Bliss vs. Shoshone, 8 p.m.

Bliss tonight in an 8 p.m. loser-out game.

Camas County 59, Shoshone 33
A big halftime lead proved all the Camas County Musters would need to advance to the tournament's championship semifinals...

Camas County 59, Shoshone 33
A big halftime lead proved all the Camas County Musters would need to advance to the tournament's championship semifinals...

Camas County 59, Shoshone 33
A big halftime lead proved all the Camas County Musters would need to advance to the tournament's championship semifinals...

NHL

Continued from D1

well as this weekend's scheduled All-Star game. If the season is canceled, there is no telling when there will be NHL hockey again...

Giambi apologizes

He won't say for what

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Giambi twiddled his thumbs, crossed his legs and fidgeted in his chair.

He said he was sorry over and over. To the New York Yankees. To his teammates. To the fans.

But he never said why. And he never talked about using steroids, never mentioned the word.

Giambi came to Yankee Stadium on Thursday to make his first public comments since it was reported in December that he'd told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he took steroids for at least three seasons.

"When I went into that grand jury, I told the truth," he said.

But that's about as far as he went, despite repeated prodding.

"I know the fans might want more, but at this present time because of all the legal matters, I can't get into specifics," he said. "Someday, hopefully, I will be able to."

Said his agent, Arn Tellem: "The answers are there if you look for them."

"There's been a lot of distraction, definitely, over the last year, and I'm sorry for that. I really am," Giambi said. "I feel I let down the fans, I feel I let down the media. I feel I let down the Yankees, not only the Yankees, but my teammates."

"I accept full responsibility for what I've done. I'm sorry, but I'm trying to go forward now. Most of all—to the fans, I'm sorry. I know it's going to be hard, and I understand how they feel."

Only 10 days before he's scheduled to report to spring training, Giambi met reporters with general manager Brian Cashman, manager Joe Torre and Tellem at his side.



New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi gestures as he talks to the media Thursday, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

"It takes a hell of a big man to stand up and apologize to his teammates, to New York Yankees fans and to baseball fans everywhere and admit he was wrong," Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement.

Giambi is owed \$82 million from the Yankees as part of the \$120 million, seven-year contract he was given before the 2002 season. Steinbrenner spoke with him by telephone a few weeks ago.

Giambi said he had not read the San Francisco Chronicle story, which cited transcripts of his grand jury testimony, and he would not say whether the newspaper's report was accurate.

The 2000 AL MVP with Oakland, his numbers dropped in the second half of the 2003 season when he had a knee injury. He was bothered by a parasitic and a benign tumor last year, and stepped to 20th with 12 homers and 40 RBIs. The Yankees even dropped him from their postseason roster.

Torre toyed with batting orders last week and given the uncertainty, he didn't know where to slot Giambi, who could be supplanted by Tino Martinez at first base and become a designated hitter.

"There was a time a couple of years ago, you put him third or fourth," Torre said. "But right now, I don't know where he fits in our lineup."

Sluggers not the only one who's sorry

Jason Giambi is sorry. Sorry. Sorry. Sorry. So sorry, that he'd already apologized five times in five minutes to TV reporters before somebody had the good sense to ask him exactly what he was apologizing for.

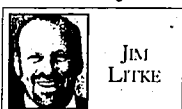
"I'm sorry," Giambi began. "That I can't get into bigger specifics for you guys and hopefully, someday I will. Because of the legal issues that are going on, you know, I would be a lot easier. But I hope everybody understands this is the position I'm in."

"I'm trying to do the best I can and I'm sorry. That's the best I can do and," he added, probably sensing that he was close to a personal best, "I apologize for that."

Hardly has so much contrition yielded so little information—and even less responsibility. But that's the sorry state Major League Baseball finds itself in a week before pitchers and catchers report. Nobody still knows nothing. Everybody is still sorry. You'd hear the same story eavesdropping at Tony Soprano's "Budin' Club" any afternoon.

So go ahead, throw all those spring-training previews back in a drawer. The real suspense this season won't be whether the Red Sox or Yankees added enough injury new pieces to win the World Series. It will be whether anybody inside baseball can muster the courage to answer the question that is shredding the game's credibility. And that's one place people are even working on it: It is the federal prosecutors' office in San Francisco.

That office is just days from the road from the now-infamous BALCO Lab, where a raid by investigators in September 2003 lifted the lid on the worst-kept secret in baseball, its own cover to the grand jury room that Giambi strolled into one morning last winter and unburdened



JIM LITKE

himself of most of what he knew about steroids. There were plenty of sordid details, according to testimony leaked to newspapers, but who knows? He might be holding back the best stuff for a tell-all book of his own. Either way, Giambi wasn't about to share any of it with the media summoned to Yankee Stadium on Thursday afternoon for his performance.

A few minutes into it, somebody asked whether Giambi, like former Oakland AS teammate Mark McGwire, would claim to have been truthful when discussing his steroid use in the past.

"I can't get into specifics," he said for the umpteenth time. "But one thing I'll tell you is when I went in front of the grand jury, I told the truth."

Smart man. But lying to the public has consequences, too, as baseball may yet find out. The rest of us are already resigned to the fact that the last 15 years of baseball have been juiced; what we need to know now is how juiced? We can make our own decisions from there.

Everyone inside the game is always boasting about its continuity, and about how the chance to compare ballplayers and their numbers from different eras links one generation to the next. But the dizzying number of home-run records lately is about to turn the century-plus traditions into a joke.

Just imagine Barry Bonds, the poster boy for this superized era, blowing by Babe Ruth, and then turning back over a muscular shoulder on his way to home

plate and whispering, "See you later, suckers."

Whether the fans in the ballpark on that fateful day cheer or boo, or simply sit on their hands, will depend largely on how

whether Bonds and Giambi and McGwire and all those other ballplayers who know the real story come clean. Right now, they've chosen silence, or else statements carefully parsed by high-priced legal help, leaving the confessionals to disreputable studios like Joe Piscopo. But say this much for the former Bash Brother: At least Canseco tried to put the problem in perspective. Until further notice from prosecutors, or until somebody with credibility inside the game steps up and does the same, Canseco's estimate—and a few others—that 50 percent of major leaguers were juiced doesn't sound so far-fetched. Especially not at the top of the game.

It needs to be said that Giambi is far from the first, or even the worst offender in the game, and at least knew better than to trot out the "I thought it was

flushed oil—whatever, dude?" defense.

He has plenty to lose, apparently, by telling the truth. No sooner did news of his testimony break in December than the Yankees began exploring ways to break up the remaining four years and \$82 million on Giambi's contract. Admitting his steroid use now would be like handing the ballclub a crow bar.

So don't expect anything different from anybody else caught up in this widening mess. They're all in the same boat, and you know what they say about loose lips.

But if it's any consolation, they're sorry. So are we all.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@pp.org

Mickelson goes low again

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Phil Mickelson keeps hitting it long and going low.

Fresh off a career-low 60 last week in Phoenix that led to his first victory of the year, Mickelson broke the course record at Spyglass Hill — the toughest course in the rotation — with a 10-under 62 that gave him a three-shot lead Thursday in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"Honestly, I've never driven it this far," Mickelson said.

He took advantage of pristine conditions on the Monterey Peninsula, with brilliant blue skies and only a trace of wind that made Pebble Beach, Spyglass and Poppy Hills so tame that he beat the 180-yard field broke par.

And as always, Mickelson was a thrill a minute.

One birdie came out of a bed of ice plant on the fourth hole. Another came on the 57-yard seventh hole, when Mickelson

Golf

hit a 6-iron off the cart path to the edge of the green and easily got up and down. He hit driver on the 325-yard 17th hole that left him 8 yards from the front of the green, leading to a tap-in birdie.

A 15-foot birdie on the final hole gave Mickelson a three-shot lead over Davis Love III, Charles Howell III, Kevin Sutherland, Daniel Chopra and Hunter Mahan.

It was the largest first-round lead at this tournament since Tom Watson led by three in 1978. Mickelson's 62 was two shots better than the previous course record at Spyglass, last set by David Berganio four years ago.

"A 62 is good at Bermuda Dunes," Sutherland said. "A 62 at Spyglass is a whole different

story. That's an amazing round." Sutherland didn't see it: He shot his 65 at Poppy Hills.

But he heard it. "We were on the 18th tee, and it's amazing to say this, but we heard a roar," Sutherland said. "That's got to be a pretty messy away. We heard it couple miles, and I thought it can only be one person. I'm not sure it was him, but a 62 at Spyglass? I'm sure it was."

The only question was which shot produced the big cheer. It might have been the 40-foot chip-in from across the second green, or the 4-wood on the 560-yard 14th hole to within 25 feet for an easy birdie.

The defending champion Vijay Singh played five groups behind Mickelson at Spyglass, and wound up 11 shots behind after opening with a 73, only his second time over par in his last 21 rounds at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.



Phil Mickelson tees off on the 18th hole of the Spyglass Hill Golf Course during the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in Pebble Beach, Calif., Thursday. Mickelson set a course record and shot a 10-under 62 to lead the first-round.



Drivers Dale Jarrett, Tony Stewart and Bill Elliott, from left, laugh before the start of a press conference with former NASCAR champions at Daytona International Speedway, Thursday, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Defending champ Jarrett on Shootout pole

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Dale Jarrett is still at the front — in the Budweiser Shootout.

After holding off favorite Dale Earnhardt Jr. to win last year's Shootout, the three-time Daytona 500 winner picked the top starting spot in the 19-lap race for Saturday night's race in a blind draw Thursday.

"The Shootout is the perfect race to have at night because it is such a spectacle," said Jarrett, a three-time winner of the 70-lap, after-TV event for last season's pole winners and former Shootout winners. "It's just about winning. It doesn't matter where else you finish in this."

"Obviously, we didn't have the fastest car in that race last year, but I was able to put our car in front of what was probably the fastest car at the end, which was Junior's car. So that helped us win that race."

The hard-earned victory last year helped the 1999 NASCAR champion start Saturday at Daytona on a bank of fuel, so it was a miserable 2003, during which he had only one top-five finish — a victory in the second race of the season.

"The Shootout win certainly was great considering the year we'd had in 2003, so it was a great confidence booster for our team," Jarrett said. "It wasn't an indicator of how we would perform at the beginning of last season but it was a great mood lifter for the UPS team."

Starting alongside Jarrett in the front row Saturday at Daytona International Speedway will be Greg Biffle, with Bill Elliott and Brian Vickers in the second row, followed by Ken Schrader and Nextel Cup champion Kurt Busch.

Ryan Newman, who led all qualifiers last season with eight

poles, will start seventh, followed by Tony Stewart, Ricky Rudd, Jeremy Mayfield, Jeff Gordon, Garthard, Casey Kahne, Mark Martin, Rusty Wallace, Joe Nemechek, Jimmie Johnson, Casey Mears, Bobby Labonte and Geoffroy Bodin.

The Shootout is divided into segments of 20 and 50 laps. Teams are required to make one pit stop sometime during the final segment.

Tommy Baldwin, crew chief for Kahne, last year's top Cup rookie, said the key to the race is the pit stop.

"You can only go 37 or 38 laps on a tank of fuel, so it all depends on when and if the caution falls," Baldwin said. "If the caution doesn't come out, that leaves you with a green-flag pit stop, and then it becomes even more crucial." You've got to have a quick pit stop to have a chance."

Countdown under way for Turin Olympics

TURIN, Italy (AP) — The clock flashed the numbers 365 days, 9 hours, 5 minutes and 52 seconds. Fifty-one to go.

So began the year-to-go countdown Thursday for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin.

"Finally, we can breathe Olympic air in our lungs," said Mario Pescante, the Italian government's supervisor for the games. "Today, we can say the games have started. We are no longer preparing for the games. We are organizing the games."

Turin struggled with budget, housing and transportation problems in its early on schedule for the Feb. 10-26, 2006, Olympics. A series of test events at Olympic venues in Turin and the surrounding Alps have gone smoothly.

"We are now entering the last stretch," International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said. "The last days always require acceleration, but we have full confidence in the organizers."

Officials turned on the official countdown clock, which ticks down the hours, minutes and seconds until the opening ceremony at 8 p.m. a year from now. The event was attended by a dozen former winter Olympic medalists, including American speedskaters Bonnie Blair and Dan Jansen and British ice dancers Jayne Torvillie and Christopher Dean.

"I feel a little bit emotional today," chief organizer Valentino Castellani said. "I feel we are entering in the spirit of the games. It's a kind of excitement I like very much."

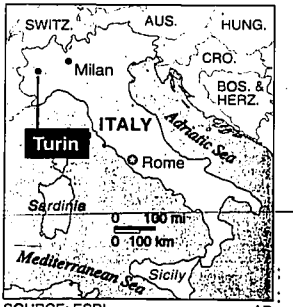
Rogge marked the milestone by signing personal invitations for five of the world's 202 national Olympic committees to attend the games in this city in Italy's northwest Piedmont region. The first invites went to Italy and neighboring Austria, San Marino, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Countries have until May 9 to confirm their participation in the games, the first winter Olympics in Italy since Cortina D'Ampezzo in 1956.

The IOC expects a Winter Olympics record 80 nations to send teams to Turin, three more than competed at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. A total of 2,500 athletes are expected to take part.

One year countdown

Turin, Italy, began its year countdown Thursday as the host city for the 2006 Winter Olympics. The games will be held in Turin and the nearby mountains from Feb. 10-26, 2006.



Pescante handed Rogge a letter offering guarantees from Premier Silvio Berlusconi's government that the organizing committee's \$196 million budget shortfall would be worked out. Pescante said Rogge replied, "The word of the Italian government is good enough for me."

SPORTS

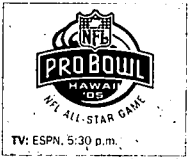
Vick hopes to impress teammates in first Pro Bowl

HONOLULU (AP) — Michael Vick and Donovan McNabb huddled in front of their lockers at Aloha Stadium on Thursday, going on any NFL teammate crossing their paths and making plans for a night out on Waikiki Beach.

Sure, the Pro Bowl week isn't even the top-notch stretch of the NFL season, but Vick is taking it seriously enough that his fellow all-stars and the Atlanta coaching staff have teased him about it.

In between spending time with his family and his closest friends from around the league, Vick also is hoping to make an impression on anybody who still doesn't know what the Falcons can do.

"Definitely, I'm focused on



this game a whole lot," Vick said. "I've been thinking about it since our season ended in Atlanta. This is the first chance I'm going to have to line up against the best of the best, so if you can't end the season with a championship, this is one of the next-best ways."

Vick has become one of the NFL's most popular, versatile

and electrifying players in his four seasons, but he hasn't made a Pro Bowl appearance yet.

He was selected for the NFC squad after his breakout season two years ago, joining Dan Marino, Brett Favre, Kurt Warner, Daunte Culpepper and Tom Brady as the only second-year players in the game in their first full year as starters. But Vick skipped the Pro Bowl to get a bunion removed from his right foot.

He figured he would have plenty of chances to get to Hawaii if he kept playing well — but then he broke his leg in the 2003 preseason, and the resulting disaster in Atlanta eventually led to coach Dan Reeves' firing.

Everything changed this season when Vick got back on his precocious learning curve. With their quarterback's maturity and leadership skills growing with every passing week, coach Jim Mora and offensive coordinator Greg Knapp revitalized the Falcons, who won their division and reached the NFC championship game.

"This might be his first time in Hawaii, but he'll probably be

setting up camp here every February for a long time," said Mora, who's coaching the NFC squad. "With his abilities, if we can put a team around him that's going to be successful every year, there's no reason he won't be one of the dominant quarterbacks in this league."

Though McNabb and Culpepper, have seniority on Vick, they won't be surprised if Vick plays extensively in the second half of the Pro Bowl,

where blitzing isn't allowed and no defenders try to deliver career-ending hits. Knapp has installed a variation of the Falcons' offense for the NFC squad, and Vick knows it as well as anyone.

"It's going to have all eyes on him when he goes in there," McNabb said. "Everybody knows what he can do in a real game. Now we'll get to see what he does when nobody can blitz you. It could be scary."

High marks for NFL in minority hiring

The NFL's gain in college football's loss and further evidence that the two are going in different directions — on minority hiring.

Norm Chow, the architect of the offense that propelled Southern California to two straight national titles, hoped to become college football's first Asian-American head coach.

He waited 32 years, mentoring Heisman Trophy and Hall of Fame quarterbacks, going from BYU to North Carolina State to USC, designing high-scoring offenses everywhere he went.

He earned a national reputation. His phone number wasn't a secret. But precious few calls for head coaching jobs ever came.

On Wednesday, he stopped waiting — got out of the college ranks for at least a while, and signed on as offensive coordinator for the Tennessee Titans.

Chow dreams to be a head coach hasn't faded. Chow called the Titans job "an opportunity for me and my family to get to the highest level of football." He downplayed reports of friction with USC coach Pete Carroll and spoke of his excitement of being in the NFL.

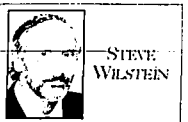
You'd think athletic directors would have been knocking each other over to hire a man like Chow. He worked with Heisman winner Ty Detmer, recently elected Hall of Famer Steve Young, Jim McMahon, Marc Wilson and Robbie Bosco during 27 years at Brigham Young. He guided standout quarterback Philip Rivers for a year at North Carolina State, then Heisman winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart at USC.

You'd think a man with that kind of record of success would have had his pick of schools to be a head coach.

You'd be wrong.

College football is still largely run the way it's always been run, hirings made through the good old boy network. There aren't many minorities among athletic directors and presidents, and they don't hire many minority coaches.

"College football is going in the exact opposite direction as the NFL," said sports sociologist Richard Lapchick, who monitors race and gender issues at



STEVE WILSTEIN

Central Florida's Institute of Diversity and Ethics in Sports.

In the NFL, the number of minority head coaches has tripled to six since the "Rooney Rule" was adopted two years ago. During the same span, the number of minority head football coaches at the 117 NCAA Division I-A schools dropped from five to three.

"It was absolutely shocking to me," Lapchick said, "that at the end of this year, after two consecutive national championships and everybody saying how great a coach he was, that Norm Chow didn't get offered a college head coaching job. It was very disheartening."

The day before Chow took the Titans' job, New England Patriots defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel said his long wait to be a head coach ended when he was named to lead the Cleveland Browns.

On the pro level, Crennel's credentials were every bit as impressive as Chow's in colleges. Crennel, a year younger at 57, earned two Super Bowl rings with Bill Parcells in New York and three with Bill Belichick in New England but never had the chance to run his own program until now.

In becoming Cleveland's first full-time black coach, Crennel is more proof that the league's diversity policy is working.

"That policy is all about opportunities, not quotas. It's about creating a level playing field for people out. It's about giving qualified candidates a chance to succeed or fail on their own merits."

"My skin color is black. But I am a head coach," Crennel said. "I hope that I possess the qualities that are in a head coach with the leadership, organization, and the prioritizing. In many cases, I have been the only African-American on a staff or in the neighborhood. The best thing I can do for other

minority candidates is be successful and a role model."

Newly elected Hall of Famer Fritz Pollard was the NFL's first black coach in the early 1920s. There wasn't another until Art Shell took over the Raiders in 1989. Two years ago, the only black coaches were the Indianapolis Colts' Tony Danbury and the New York Jets' Herman Edwards.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, responding to pressures inside and outside the game to hire more minorities, appointed a committee headed by Pittsburgh owner Dan Rooney. The panel recommended a policy requiring all teams with coaching vacancies to interview at least one minority candidate.

Martin Lewis was hired by the Bengals after that season. Last year, the Bears hired Lovie Smith, Dennis Green, who spent 10 seasons coaching the Vikings, returned to the league with the Cardinals. Now with Crennel in Cleveland, and more than a dozen minorities holding offensive or defensive coordinator positions, the NFL is showing college sports the path to diversity.

Unlike Tagliabue, NCAA president Myles Brand cannot impose a hiring rule on all the schools. College presidents have to be willing to exhibit the same commitment to diversity as NFL owners.

"It just shows that if you open up the process, and if the owners themselves are involved, there will be change," NFL players' union president Gene Upshaw said. "Over the past few years the change in the NFL has been very substantial."

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at swilstein@ap.org

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BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Hotel owner reports a loss

TWIN FALLS — Washington-based WestCoast Hospitality Corp., owner of Red Lion Hotel Canyon Springs in Twin Falls — on Thursday reported a fourth-quarter loss, applicable to common shareholders of 63 cents per share, compared with the year-ago loss of 20 cents.

For the full year, the loss applicable to common shareholders was 51 cents per share, a much wider loss than the 10 cents in 2003, accounting for 44 cents of the per-share losses was a \$5.8 million impairment recorded in the fourth quarter.

During the quarter, WestCoast announced a plan to invest \$40 million to upgrade its hotels. It also announced its plan to sell 11 nonstrategic hotels and use the proceeds to support its \$40 million investment. The company reclassified 11 hotels and one office building as discontinued operations.

"We expect our divestment of noncore properties in 2005 will result in recognition of gains that exceed the impairment we recorded in the fourth quarter," Arthur Coffey, president and chief executive, said in a statement.

Upon closing the sales, WestCoast expects to recognize aggregate post-tax gains in the range of \$5.6 million to \$9.3 million.

In the fourth quarter, the company had total revenue from continuing operations of \$38.4 million, up 7.0 percent from a year earlier. For the full year, the company posted a 3.6 percent increase in revenues from continuing operations, to \$163.1 million.

Businesses will host open house

TWIN FALLS — In celebration of the return of regular business at the Main Street Plaza, building tenants will host an open house and Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting at 3 p.m. today.

Frank Sager, Bakers and Marlon's Massage, which suffered much less damage in the November flood and reopened almost immediately — is offering the public an open house to celebrate the return of regular business in the building. The Twin Falls chamber will host a grand re-opening ribbon cutting for the tenants.

Stocks increase on positive deficit data

NEW YORK — Stocks surged Thursday, with blue chips posting the sharpest gains as investors focused on the positive news in the latest economic reports: a drop in unemployment claims, a rise in exports and a narrower U.S. trade deficit in December.

After an earnings season that produced better-than-expected results for most companies, investors have been looking for a reason to buy, and the day's economic news provided the incentive, analysts said. Weekly job claims fell to their lowest level in four years, while the Commerce Department announced a decline in the trade deficit in December; the two reports combined to produce a positive feeling in the stock market, analysts said.

"We started the day with very upbeat numbers ... and I think momentum has taken over," said Hugh Johnson, chairman and chief investment officer of Johnson-Hollinger Advisors. "I don't take much to get the ball rolling, and once you do, you start to have a lot of investors, particularly active investors like hedge funds, jump on board."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 85.50, or 0.80 percent, to 10,749.61. It was Dow's best finish so far in 2005, but the index of 30 actively traded stocks was still 33 points down for the year.

— compiled from staff and wire reports

Valleywide building surges ahead

By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — After a 20.8 percent gain in the first half of 2004, Magic Valley's construction industry intensified that growth, finishing the first nine months of the year with 24.0 percent more in construction values than in the first three quarters of 2003.

With boosts from an unusual number of multimillion-dollar projects, selected parts of the valley finished the first nine months of 2004 with \$300.19 million in total building activity, even as new starts of single-family homes essentially remained flat — slipping to 739 from the tally of 743 such starts a year earlier.

That means the estimated value of projects receiving building permits in January through September topped 2003's ninth-month total by \$58.05 million for combined building types in surveyed areas of Magic Valley, according to data compiled in Wells Fargo's recent statewide report.

The bank's reports of building activity give economy

Magic Valley's construction values for all permit types

Area	First nine months		First nine months	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
Gooding County*	\$10,239,803	\$8,646,912	\$10,239,803	\$8,646,912
Hailey	\$24,445,399	\$25,034,144	\$24,445,399	\$25,034,144
Ketchum	\$50,653,544	\$43,252,957	\$50,653,544	\$43,252,957
Sun Valley	\$45,432,447	\$15,784,743	\$45,432,447	\$15,784,743
Blaine County**	\$65,244,530	\$54,668,200	\$65,244,530	\$54,668,200
Jerome	\$7,413,076	\$5,500,235	\$7,413,076	\$5,500,235
Shoshone	\$1,638,059	\$931,860	\$1,638,059	\$931,860
Twin Falls	\$48,079,462	\$52,361,753	\$48,079,462	\$52,361,753
Twin Falls County**	\$26,828,715	\$19,925,008	\$26,828,715	\$19,925,008
Cassia County*	\$12,785,701	\$8,590,258	\$12,785,701	\$8,590,258
Rupert	\$2,731,003	\$1,235,850	\$2,731,003	\$1,235,850
Minidoka County**	\$6,698,022	\$6,204,284	\$6,698,022	\$6,204,284
Total	\$300,177,774	\$242,135,804	\$300,177,774	\$242,135,804

* entire county
** unincorporated portion

Permits for new single-family homes

Area	First nine months		First nine months	
	2004	2003	2004	2003
Gooding County*	40	41	40	41
Hailey	61	79	61	79
Ketchum	19	23	19	23
Sun Valley	14	10	14	10
Blaine County**	74	59	74	59
Jerome	31	17	31	17
Shoshone	12	5	12	5
Twin Falls	309	332	309	332
Twin Falls County**	104	102	104	102
Cassia County*	49	45	49	45
Rupert	2	3	2	3
Minidoka County**	23	27	23	27
Total	738	743	738	743

Source: 'Idaho Construction Report' by Wells Fargo. September report is the most recent available.

building types in surveyed areas of Magic Valley, according to data compiled in Wells Fargo's recent statewide report.

Just Hailey and Twin Falls dropped below their year-ago

values for combined construction types. The other local areas included in the bank's report gained ground in the first nine months.

Tracke

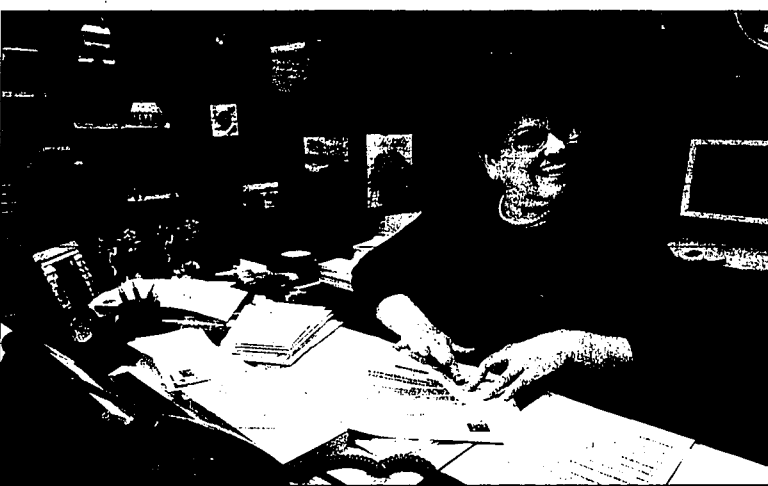
■ Last we knew: In a dozen local jurisdictions tracked by Wells Fargo's "Idaho Construction Report," the value of projects to get building permits in the first half of 2004 shot above the corresponding 2003 total by 20.8 percent.

■ The latest: Even faster growth followed. Overall in the first nine months of last year, those areas saw construction values up 24.0 percent from the same nine months of 2003.

■ What's next: It's likely to be a couple of months before Wells Fargo finishes its year-end compilation of statistics from building departments throughout Idaho.

not included in the bank's surveys. And Wells Fargo's Please see BUILDING, Page E2

SEASONED LABOR



Eldora Walker, a receptionist at the Office on Aging at the College of Southern Idaho, shares a laugh with a U.S. Postal Service carrier delivering mail to the Twin Falls office recently.

Average age of Magic Valley's work force rises

By Candace Baltz-Smylie
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — Sixty-year-old Eldora Walker never thought she would still be working at this age.

Walker spent most of the last four decades as a homemaker and expected to retire after the kids grew up. But when her family farm hit hard times, her husband had to find a new career, and so did she.

"I thought, 'I'll do whatever I've got to in order to get by,'" she said. "If it goes to where I need to wash dishes, well, I'm not above that."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2002 12.9 percent of all Idaho restaurant employees were between the ages of 55 and 64. But Walker is glad she didn't end up as part of that statistic. Instead, she took a job in the biggest industry for older workers: Business.

In 2002, 8.2 percent of Idaho

workers over 65 spent their time in some form of a business profession, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Though Walker was quick to point out that she isn't over 65, she intends to still be in her current job when she celebrates that birthday. She said that's because it took a long time to find her job, and she has no desire to give it up.

Four years ago, Walker found the Older Workers Program at Idaho Commerce and Labor. The program assists workers over 55 with updating their job skills and places older workers in part-time positions to build their resumes.

Walker had worked as a secretary in her 20s, so the program placed her in a part-time receptionist position to sharpen her job skills while she applied for full-time work elsewhere. A few months later, that part-time job turned into a full-time one at the Office on Aging at the College of Southern Idaho.

"I've not probably about six months looking for a job," she said. "And luckily, they added hours to my position to make it full time. But I was having a real hard time funding a job elsewhere."

Walker is one of a growing number of people over 45 either re-entering the work force, or staying in it. According to the 2002 census, 32 percent of working Idahoans were age 45 and older. That's an increase from the 24 percent reflected in 1992's census. The number of Idahoans over the age of 65 in the work force also increased, but not as noticeably, from 2 percent to 2.5 percent.

Walker said when she was job hunting, she sent out as many as five resumes a week, and she usually got interviews. But as soon as she met the employer face to face, every time her hopes of landing a job were dashed.

"I was very qualified on

paper, but as soon as they see you in person, they see the wrinkles and the gray hair, and they thank you for your time," she said.

That's a common problem, said the director of the Older Workers Program, Peggy Jackson.

"I see a lot of workers over 55 who come in with the same complaint: age discrimination," she said. "It's very difficult."

Call it a Peter Pan complex — the Magic Valley's work force is getting older, even if employers are hesitant to hire gray-haired applicants, said Jim Fields, director of the Office on Aging. He said he doesn't understand why employers are put off by older applicants. In his experience, he said, older workers bring life experience and qualifications that younger applicants don't have.

Of course, discrimination based on age is illegal, as well.

"One of the myths is that Please see AGING, Page E3

Retirees prepare to step back, not away

Knight Ridder News Service

CHICAGO — When Nancy Norton took early retirement after 26 years at Monsanto Co. to care for her terminally ill mother, she thought she had left the corporate world for good.

But three months after her mother passed away, Monsanto offered the 53-year-old audit manager a deal she couldn't refuse. Through a program aimed at tapping retirees' skills, she took an assignment that allowed her to resume working without being thrust back into a full-time job and without giving up her retiree benefits.

Monsanto's program — a rarity in the business world — is a harbinger of a future in which retirees and older workers will be offered the chance to leave work gradually, opting for more flexible hours and less responsibility until they're ready to retire altogether.

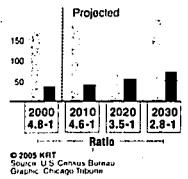
Such programs represent a dramatic shift in a society that for decades devised increasingly rich incentives to replace older employees with less-expensive younger workers.

Now, with the oldest of 76 million baby boomers turning 60 next year, employers face a new challenge. The mass retiree Please see BOOMERS, Page E3

Retiree Boomers

The coming retirement of millions of boomers is expected to cut the ratio of working-age adults to older adults by nearly half.

U.S. population, in millions
■ Working-age adults (20-64)
■ Older adults (65 or older)



© 2005 U.S. Census Bureau Graphic, Chicago Tribune

Dell profit slips on tax-related charge

The Associated Press

DALLAS — I helped by big increases in sales overseas and to U.S. businesses, personal computer giant Dell Inc. set a fourth-quarter record for revenue but saw its profit fall because of a tax charge.

Dell — which operates a technical-support and customer-service call center in Twin Falls — said Thursday it earned \$667 million or 26 cents per share in the quarter ended Jan. 28, compared with \$749 million or 29 cents per share a year earlier.

The results included a tax charge of 11 cents per share,

which Dell said it took

in anticipation of bringing foreign earnings home.

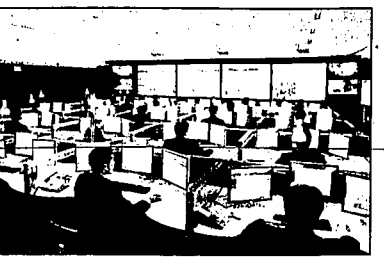
The company will be taxed on those earnings, although under a law passed by Congress last year it will pay a much lower rate than it would on income in the United States.

Without the charge, Dell would have earned 37 cents per share. On that basis, analysts had expected Round Rock-based Dell to earn 36 cents a share, according to Thomson First Call. Revenue rose 17 percent to

\$13.46 billion from \$11.51 billion.

Chief executive Kevin Rollins said the company expects first-quarter earnings of about 37 cents per share, a penny above analysts' forecasts, but his estimate of \$13.4 billion in revenue fell short of the \$13.5 billion that analysts were forecasting.

Before the report, Dell shares gained 58 cents, to \$41.57, on the Nasdaq Stock Market, but they fell \$1.17 or 2.8 percent in after-hours trading. Dell has set a goal of hitting \$60 billion in annual revenue, it just missed \$50 billion in the year just ended. Please see DELL, Page E2



This photo provided by Dell Inc. shows service technicians at Dell staffed the company's newest Enterprise Command Center (ECC) which opened Tuesday in Kawaasaki, Japan.

MONEY

Juggling a new romance and a Dell new business isn't always easy

NEW YORK (AP) — Starting a new business or a new romance...

Many entrepreneurs do pull off what seems like the impossible...

"Getting into a relationship and ultimately getting married was the last thing on my mind..."

recalled George Krotnosky, president and CEO of World Noodles...

"My attention was focused on starting my own company... but it's one of those things, you meet the right person, and all of a sudden, priorities change and you find ways to spread your energy over multiple things."

Krotnosky met his wife, Jennifer, in 2002, then later that year decided to start the company with local chef Eddie Matney...

"I was a learning curve, learning each of our different working styles, learning how much each of us was willing to be managed."

"Things did get tense sometimes, but one spouse or the other is not looking for help or in opinion..."

"When the couple was having the usual marital bickering, Krotnosky decided to try designing and selling commemorative certificates for a variety of special occasions..."



Gallery of Love owners Joel and Tara Green are shown in their home studio where they run the commemorative certificate company on Tuesday in Marietta, Ga.

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Amy Brownstein had a boyfriend when she started her New York-based public relations firm, Brownstein & Associates Inc. a year and a half ago...

"Starting their business, www.galleryoflove.net, in the early months of a marriage wasn't easy," Tara Green remarked.

"We were getting to know each other and getting to know the ins and outs of running a Website," she said.

"I was a learning curve, learning each of our different working styles, learning how much each of us was willing to be managed."

"Things did get tense sometimes, but one spouse or the other is not looking for help or in opinion..."

"When the couple was having the usual marital bickering, Krotnosky decided to try designing and selling commemorative certificates for a variety of special occasions...

recalled George Krotnosky, president and CEO of World Noodles...

Continued from E1. The new goal, he said, is \$80 billion in sales, but he didn't set a target for the fiscal year ending in January 2006.

"I'm very high on the company, and believe that the market is going to be pretty good for us to get there," he told reporters.

Fourth-quarter sales rose 22 percent in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and 21 percent in Asia.

Sales in U.S. business customers gained 19 percent from a year earlier, Dell said.

Dell's revenue jumped despite falling average sales prices of its ability to produce machines at low cost, and could continue to expand into new categories.

While rival PC makers have struggled, Dell has solidified its market-leading position and looked to conquer.

Boer Dairy's shop and concrete barn in Wendell, valued at a combined \$907,505.

Mindoka Memorial Hospital's repair and remodeling project in Rupert, valued at \$750,000.

Brent Kirk's \$713,659 dairy milking parlor in Murtha.

Well's Fargo said statewide construction values rose 2.6 percent in the first three months of 2004, to \$2.33 billion, led by a surge in new commercial and industrial construction.

Idaho's construction industry in September had its seventh straight month of exceedingly strong activity, Wells Fargo economist Kelly K. Matthews said.

139 new apartment units around Magic Valley — 14 in Gooding County, 32 in Haley-61 in Ketchum, 18 in Sun Valley

Desert Industries' new \$1.4 million retail store in Twin Falls.

Boer Dairy's shop and concrete barn in Wendell, valued at a combined \$907,505.

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While rival PC makers have struggled, Dell has solidified its market-leading position and looked for new ways to conquer.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange data including NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ indices and various stock listings.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table of Market Summary data including NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ indices and various stock listings.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market data including various stock listings.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes items like Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, and various oil products.

BEANS

Table with columns: Bean type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil, and other derivatives.

CHEESE

Table with columns: Cheese type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Cheddar, Swiss, and other cheese varieties.

POTATOES

Table with columns: Potato type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes various grades of potatoes.

GRAINS

Table with columns: Grain type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Corn, Soybeans, and other grains.

SUGAR

Table with columns: Sugar type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes various grades of sugar.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Livestock type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Cattle, Hogs, and Poultry.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns: Metal type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, and other metals.

AGING

Continued from E1. Older workers don't have as much energy as younger workers... Fields said. "But they don't have to work harder because they work smarter..."

BOOMERS

Continued from E1. Many over the next three decades threatens to drain companies of vital skills while hammering the nation's already strained pension system...

FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: Fuel type, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Oil, Natural Gas, and other fossil fuels.

AGING

Walker now helps other older workers looking to get back into the job market. She is the contact person for C&S's old C&S program that waives tuition for anyone over 60 wanting to take college classes...

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Some people can retire, but the truth is many of them will return to work; it's just a matter of time... "It's an incredibly serious problem," said retirement expert Rudolph Penner...

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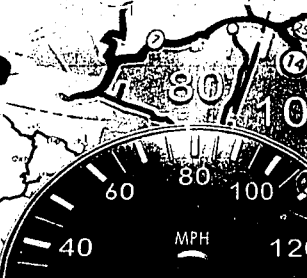
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MUTUAL FUNDS advertisement. Includes a large graphic with the text 'If the majority of self-made millionaires earned their money in Real Estate... why don't you have your IRA invested in it?'. Below the graphic is a list of various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

Wheels

classifieds



Page E-4

Friday, February 11, 2005

The Times-News



The 2005 Mustang GT convertible might be the best-looking, best-made Mustang that Ford has ever built.

2005 FORD MUSTANG GT CONVERTIBLE

Add sunshine, be stirred ...

By Warren Brown
The Washington Post

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — It's hard to love a convertible in wind and rain. A kind of sudden hills ready to tumble with the next downpour offer no incentive to lower the roof, not even the clever Z-fold top of the 2005 Ford Mustang GT.

We kept the top up, which was reasonable under the circumstances, although we knew its vinyl and cloth composition provided little protection against anything except chilled raindrops. That was enough. Unexpected bad weather had beaten down expectations of fun. The convertible was hot. The climate was not. We compromised — settled for a leak-proof roof, a heating system that worked efficiently, tires that gripped muddy roads and brakes that worked well.

We got all of those things and more in the new Mustang GT convertible — a rear-wheel-drive car equipped with a 300-horsepower V-8 engine. A brief run in a 210-horsepower V-6 version of the car also demonstrated its four-weather competence. But who buys a convertible to be used as a raincoat? There is nothing romantic or wind-in-your-hair about that. That is why there are relatively few convertibles in wintry states such as Maine, Minnesota and Nebraska.

For opposite reasons, that is why we automotive journalists in pursuit of the next best thing came to Southern California to take a spin in Ford Motor Co.'s latest offering of the Mustang, which has been around in one form or another since April 1965. We came in pursuit of sun-

Nuts & Bolts: 2005 Ford Mustang GT Convertible

Head-turning quotient: Beautiful, I think they're the best-looking, best-made Mustangs ever. But it must have been disconcerting to soaked Southern Californians to see a parade of pretty Mustang convertibles glistening by. Then again, maybe it gave them hope that the area's monsoon season would end soon.

Body style/layout: Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive, four-seat convertible with a unitized steel body, aluminum hood and an automatically folding top that collapses quickly and neatly.

Cargo and fuel capacities: Both the Mustang GT and V-6 have seating for four people. Maximum cargo volume is 9.7 cubic feet. Fuel capacity is 16 gallons of gasoline. Regular unleaded is recommended for both models.

Package notes: The Mustang is one of the best convertible buys available. Compare with the 2005 Chrysler Sebring and the 2005 Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder GTS, which are regarded as direct competitors.

balmy breezes and sinusous curves.

But we were greeted by frigid, wet reality — reminded beyond forgetting, by tragic reports in the cases of some area residents whose lives and homes were buried beneath rain-laden earth, that convertibles are motorized acts of faith, four-wheeled odes to optimism. You've got to believe good times are ahead when you buy a convertible. You've got to hope

Price: Base price on the 2005 Mustang V-6 convertible is \$23,870. Dealer invoice price on that model is \$21,858. Price as tested is \$24,495, including a \$625 destination charge. Dealer price as tested is \$22,483. Base price on the 2005 Mustang GT convertible is \$29,370. Dealer invoice price is \$26,808. GT price as tested is \$29,995. GT dealer's price as tested is \$27,433. Prices here are from Ford and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

Mileage: Based on Environmental Protection Agency estimates, the Mustang GT gets 18 miles per gallon in the city and 23 on the highway with the five-speed automatic; 17 mpg city and 25 highway with the five-speed manual. The V-6, however, appears to get better mileage with the automatic transmission than it does with the manual—19 mpg city and 25 highway with the automatic, compared with 19 city and 23 highway with the manual.

Safety: Seat-mounted side air bags are optional for the driver and front-seat passenger on both models. Anti-lock brakes and traction control are standard on the Mustang GT and optional on the V-6.

Engine/transmissions: The Mustang GT convertible comes with a 4-cylinder V-8 that develops 300

horsepower at 5,750 revolutions per minute and 320 foot-pounds of torque at 4,500 rpm. The 4-cylinder V-6 version develops 210 horsepower at 5,250 rpm and 240 foot-pounds of torque at 3,500 rpm. A five-speed manual transmission is standard for both models. A five-speed automatic is optional.

Downside: Convertibles inherently are fair-weather friends. Ultimately, it matters not that they have leak-resistant tops, or that their roofs provide shelter from cold winds. Convertibles exist to let the outside in, to make the travel environment an intimate part of the drive. When they can't do that, they are meaningless.

Ride, acceleration and handling: Excellent in all three categories, based on driving responsibility on wet, muddy roads.

Out" signs as standard equipment.

I'd rather wait for the sun, either here or back home in Virginia. I'd prefer to hold out for a bright, mild day when it makes sense to push the button that neatly collapses the new Mustang convertible's top in the manner of a "Z," thereby concealing the underside of the top, and allowing an unfiltered rear view of traffic.

Although handling on wet roads was good in the test models, it was nonetheless curbed by driver caution. Anti-lock brakes and traction control, both of which mitigate driver error and prevent loss of driver control, are standard items on the Mustang GT convertible and are optional on the V-6.

Those systems do exactly what they are designed to do. But they are not designed to overcome the laws of physics, compliance with which remains a matter of driver responsibility, especially on slippery roads.

Put another way, even in rigidly constructed cars such as the Mustang GT convertible, you must slow down on wet, muddy roads to avoid dangerous skids.

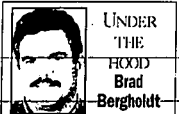
Dry roads are something else. They offer better tire-road adhesion, which means you can boost your speed (advisedly within legal limits) and get a better feel for the car's performance and handling characteristics.

But there are reasons to believe in an eventual spring, to envision pristine days with azure skies. When they come, I plan to take the Mustangs out for long runs with tops down in praise of the sun.

Quirky oil pressure gauge needs investigation

Q. I have a 1995 Chevy S-10 Blazer SUV. Under normal driving, the oil pressure gauge needle hovers around 60 PSI. However, if I make a quick stop or in going down a short steep incline brake sharply at the bottom, the needle bottoms back to zero for a few seconds and the "check gauges" light comes on. The needle returns to normal immediately, and there doesn't seem to be any adverse effect on the drivability of the SUV. I am concerned that harm is being done to the vehicle, and one day I'll be in for a big repair cost.

—Clyde Bell, Seattle



UNDER THE HOOD
Brad Bergholdt

A. My first thought, when reading the symptoms you describe is that there may be insufficient oil in the crankcase, and the oil pump is occasionally starving for oil. But, of course, you have checked that.

Is there any chance the oil dipstick is incorrect for the engine, and the crankcase contains less oil than indicated? Immediately after an oil change, when the prescribed quantity of oil has been added, does it read correctly?

If you're sure of the correct oil quantity, try connecting a mechanical oil pressure gauge to the engine for a few days, and see if the symptom still exists. This can be a professional tool or an auto parts-store-cheapie connected to the engine in lieu of the original gauge sending unit. The mechanical gauge's slender plastic line can be carefully slipped through the hood/cowl intersection, and the gauge itself temporarily taped to the base of the windshield.

If the mechanical gauge reads properly — at least 10 to 20 pounds of pressure during hot idle and 30 to 60 pounds during hot high-speed driving — the engine is fine and the fault lies in the Blazer's gauge circuit.

If the mechanical gauge mimics the occasional drop-out of the electric gauge, there's a potentially serious internal engine fault, such as a cracked oil pump pickup tube.

My first check of the gauge circuit would be of the tan wire leading from the oil pressure sending unit, as far as you can follow it.

Could the wire be chafing against a metal component as the engine shifts slightly in the chassis during braking?

It also is possible the oil pressure sending unit is erratic. Try disconnecting the tan wire from the sending unit and putting the Blazer through its paces. If the gauge needle remains pegged high when braking hard and on steep inclines, this proves the fault is not in the gauge wiring or instrument panel, leaving the sending unit as the likely culprit.

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DEPOSIT \$250
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RT. 721 Avail 3-6-05
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11th Avenue East
1900-2200 block
Maple Avenue.
Approx. Earnings \$120
RT. 733 Avail 3-6-05
1200 & 1800-1900
Galena Drive
1800 Pomreille
1300 Stonebrook
Circle
Approximate Earnings \$105
RT. 794
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1300-1700 block
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27 CEO missive
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45 Historic periods
46 Drives
48 Checkbook record
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57 Stogie request
54 Cable guy, e.g.
58 Most unfavored
63 Hors d'oeuvre
64 Finished
65 Highland negative
66 Source
67 Stogie request
68 Terminus
69 Meeting accepted standards
DOWN
1 Skin opening
2 Summit
3 Tree hatchery
4 Negative particle
5 Islam adherent
6 Want ad rental
7 of Aquitaine
8 Organizes
9 Charlatans
10 Author Bellow
11 Engage
12 Lofy poems
13 Miss Truheart
19 Superlatively timid
21 Champagne cocktail
23 Mutt's partner
24 Splinter groups
25 Table decanter
26 Blackjack
27 Stogie request
29 Unclothed
30 "Norma" or "Louise"
31 Game summary
32 Got up
34 Manage
36 Shred
39 Stiffly
41 Decisive defeat
44 Seated patrons
47 Doctor's solution
49 Watch out!
55 Part of SST
54 Acronym of a restaurant chain
55 PBS series
56 Fret and fuss
57 Gull's cousin
59 Burn out of control
60 Twirl
61 Temporary shelter
63 Grand Banks fish

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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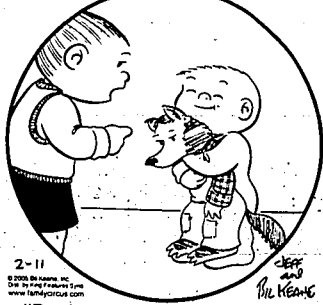
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By Bill Keane



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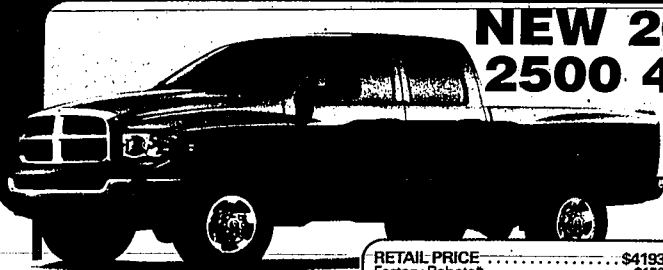
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