

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Cool and mostly sunny. High 36, low 15.

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MAGIC VALLEY



High-speed chase: Suspect injures police officers, damages vehicles.

Page B1

MONEY



Rapid response: Verizon agrees to buy MCI for \$6.75 billion in wake of AT&T-SBC deal.

Page D4

COMMUNITY



Enjoying life: Red Hats come to Gooding.

Page C1

SPORTS

On to State: Richfield, Carey, Hansen, and Hagerman all vie for a spot in the boys basketball state tournament.

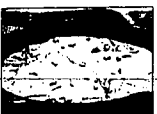
Page D1

OPINION

More barking: Adoption issues won't go away for new animal shelter, today's editorial says.

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COMING UP



Soup du jour: You can do more with that little can. Wednesday in The Times-News

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Idaho Power intervenes

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

BOISE — Idaho Power Co. filed a motion Monday to intervene in the call that seven Magic Valley canal companies made on Jan. 14 to the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources to restore their full senior water rights.

The power company has not been involved in the negotiations over the past three years

between surface-water users and groundwater pumps. However, an attorney representing the company told the Idaho Department of Water Resources in a letter that Idaho Power is interested in the issue because of its own water rights.

Going into a sixth year of drought, Idaho Power along with other surface users — or those who divert water from the river — and groundwater pumps are battling over

shortages in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer.

Water Resources Director Karl Dreher says the shrinking aquifer can be attributed equally to drought conditions, changing irrigation practices that don't recharge the aquifer and groundwater pumping.

Idaho Power claims because it owns water storage rights in the American Falls Reservoir, it has been damaged as much as canal companies that own stor-

age rights in the reservoir. "We can't just stand idly by while decisions are made," Idaho Power spokesman Dennis Lopez said. "It's imperative we protect our water rights."

In addition, the company calls into question the state's management of the entire Snake River watershed. "It is clear that extensive groundwater pumping has contributed significantly to the declines," in

Please see WATER, Page A2

Neighbors: Johnson was not convincing

By Patti Murphy,
Times-News Correspondent

BOISE — Nearly a dozen neighbors of Bellevue murder victims Alan and Diane Johnson took the witness stand Monday to testify about what they had heard and seen on the morning the Johnsons were shot to death, allegedly by their daughter Sarah.

Sarah Johnson, now 18, is charged with murdering her mother while she slept and her father as he took a shower in the early morning hours of Sept. 2, 2003. Johnson, who was 16 at the time of the crimes, is being charged as an adult.

The 11 neighbors lived in the quiet area near the Johnsons' home at 1193 Glen Aspen Drive.

All said they had slept with their windows open that night, and one after another they testified that the morning of the murders they had heard rifle shots, sometime around 6:20 a.m., followed by screams.

Neighbor Julia Dupuis, whose home is behind the Johnsons', said she awoke that morning to her dog standing on a chair looking out the window and growling.

She then heard a scream, which she at first thought "was an elk bugging," but then realized it was a girl.

Dupuis thought the scream sounded "fake and forced." She said, "Being a mom, you kind of interpret crying and screaming," she said. "I didn't think it sounded like a big deal. It wasn't like a bloody-murder scream."

Susan Chout said she heard a gunshot that sounded like a piece of metal or construction material falling from a roof.

After a second gunshot, Chout said she heard a girl scream, "Will somebody please help me?" Like many of the neighbors, Chout went outside and eventually ended up at neighbor Tim Richardson's house, where Sarah had fled.

Chout said that later in the day, at about 5 or 6 p.m., she saw Sarah sitting on a fence. "She was sitting there waiting for the bodies of her parents to be taken out of the house," Chout said, crying. "She turned around and looked at me like she was mad at me."

After defense attorney Bob Hahn objected to Chout's characterization of Johnson's demeanor as "mad at her," prosecuting attorney Justin Whitcott replied that the prosecution will show Sarah's actions, statements and demeanor through-

Please see JOHNSON, Page A2



Two-year-old Konnar Amero plays with a camera while his mother Criss Amero and son Zach Bye, 10, look on Monday at their home in Twin Falls. On Feb. 8, Konnar escaped from Kid Works Child Care center through an emergency door.

State closes Kid Works after recent incident

By Candace Baltz-Smylie
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — For the second time in a month, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has decided to revoke the child-care license of Kid Works.

A panel of four investigators with Health and Welfare and the Idaho attorney general's office made the decision and delivered a letter to the Twin Falls child-care center on Friday afternoon. The facility was ordered to close by end of business Monday.

Kid Works had 105 children enrolled in late January.

"We know that isn't much time for parents to find new providers," said Tom Shaubahn, Health and Welfare's Boise-based public information officer. "But we had two serious incidents within two months, and we don't want to see any children harmed."

The first investigation



Kid Works official closed its doors Monday evening for the last time.

stemmed from a Jan. 5 incident in which a baby boy was left in a sleeping room after the center closed the center for the night. Kid Works proprietor Cristy Shirley's child-care license was revoked at that time, but her family retained ownership.

Kid Works was allowed to continue operating under

new management.

Then on Feb. 8, a 2-year-old boy escaped from the child-care center through an emergency door. The boy wandered around neighboring businesses until being spotted by a waiter at Garibaldi's Mexican restaurant. The waiter returned the

Please see CLOSED, Page A2

Searchers find missing snowmobilers

By Rebecca Meany
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — An Idaho Army National Guard helicopter crew located Monday afternoon three of four snowmobilers missing to the South Hills since Saturday, according to the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department.

The fourth was located around 1 p.m. Monday near Trapper Creek in Cassia County, said Nancy Howell, sheriff's spokeswoman.

Dennis Hunt, 50, Connie Hunt, 48, and Christopher Hunt, 19, all of Jerome, and Chase Peterson, 19, were last seen at approximately 2 p.m.

Dennis Hunt was the last to be found.

"Medically (the three) are in good condition," Howell said. "They were able to build a fire and kept warm. They're in good shape."

“They were able to build a fire and kept warm. They're in good shape.”

— Nancy Howell, sheriff's spokeswoman

man crew in an AH-64 Apache helicopter. The mission unit was from the Air Guard.

Also involved in the search were Twin Falls County Search and Rescue, Cassia County Sheriff's Department, Cassia County Search and Rescue, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, Murrtaugh Quick Response Unit and the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club.

The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department requested the use of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter to aid the search Sunday, but weather did not permit much flying time.

The helicopter is owned by the federal government and assigned to the Idaho Army National Guard, said Lt. Col. Tim Marsano, spokesman for the Idaho National Guard.

Sunday's helicopter crew was made up of four Army National Guardsmen from Gowen Field in Boise. They used binoculars to search for the missing people.

"They flew about four hours, but a lot of that was down and back because Sunday's weather hindered their ability to search," Marsano said.

The two-man crew departed Boise at approximately 12:45 p.m. Monday to continue the search.

The sheriff's department had set up a command post at Blainemeadow Jack's near Magic Mountain Ski Resort and had planned to search into the night for Hunt, using thermal imaging and search dogs, Howell said.

■ Last we knew: Kid Works was under investigation for the second time in a month by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

The probe stemmed from an incident Feb. 8 in which a 2-year-old boy escaped the facility and was missing for an undetermined amount of time.

■ The latest: Kid Works' license has again been revoked, this time for good unless the business is sold. Last time the facility stayed open under new management, but with the same owners. If it is going to open again, it must have new owners.

■ What's next: 105 Twin Falls children are in need of new child-care providers.

Neighbors want to move Hemingway's house

Group will mull their proposal

The Associated Press

BOISE — Neighbors of writer Ernest Hemingway's former home in the Idaho resort town of Ketchum want to buy the property and have it moved to settle a dispute between them and its current owner, The Nature Conservancy.

Four couples who live near the house above the Big Wood River say they'd purchase the 13-acre site where Hemingway killed himself in 1961.

"They'd then return the house to The Nature Conservancy, provided the place be moved to another location."

The neighbors are fighting the environmental groups plan to give the house to the Idaho Hemingway House Foundation, which seeks to turn it into a literary memorial to the Nobel Prize-winning author. That plan

would include some tourist traffic as well as writers' work shops to be located inside the house.

The neighbors, who include powerful real-estate investors as well as Hemingway contemporaries, say their proposal would satisfy everyone's wishes. Property owners could preserve the residential character of their neighborhood where building lots can sell for more than \$4 million, while the Nature Conservancy would have a site that could move ahead in another Ketchum location without opposition.

"It would also eliminate the requirement for the parties to engage in expensive and protracted property-rights litigation, which The Nature Conservancy has already threatened," said Gary Sletta, a Twin Falls attorney based attorney for the neighbors, in an e-mailed statement.

The Nature Conservancy's board of directors will consider it at their Feb. 25 meeting.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

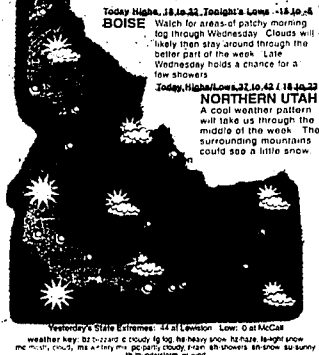
Today: Cloud and partly cloudy. Highs mid to upper 30s. Tonight: Increasing clouds, developing light fog possible. Low: 20s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Scattered clouds and chills. Highs: 30s. Tonight: A cool evening and night with some areas of falling rain overnight. Lows: 20s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. It will be a chilly day and a bitterly cold night in the High Country. Skies will stay partly to mostly cloudy through Thursday, with little chance for snow.



Today's State Extremes: 44 at Lewiston, 0 at McCall. Weather key: B = brief, C = clear, CL = cloudy, D = drizzle, F = fog, H = heavy, L = light, M = moderate, N = none, P = part, S = snow, T = thin, W = weak, X = extreme.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High/Low).

KI MAHAG TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes monthly and daily data.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Feb 16, 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Large table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow, and High/Low temperatures for various cities across the US.

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Closed

Continued from A1 boy in Kid Works.

The boy's mother is in charge of the investigation and decision by Health and Welfare.

"We do not plan to issue a new license to Kid Works in the future," Shanahan said.

Crisa Amero, the mother of the 2-year-old boy told The Times-News she is pleased with the investigation and decision by Health and Welfare.

"I gave them the benefit of the doubt," she said. "But if I'd known about the first incident, there's no way I would have gone back."

The Times-News uncovered in January another incident in February 2004 of a baby being left in Kid Works after closing.

Instead, the agency required Kid Works to develop a procedure to follow when it closed, to avoid such a problem happening again.

"I'm happy for the simple fact that this has happened three times in the past, but someone could get hurt," she said.

"I'm not surprised at the decision," said Gene Anderson, vice president of the Snake River Association for the Education of Young Children.

"Three infractions is a lot to have in this short amount of time. I'm sure this hasn't been an easy decision, but the safety of children is the main focus."

But Kid Works employee Crystal Malone disagreed with

Now what?

If you are one of the dozens of parents in need of child care after the closure of Kid Works, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare recommends calling the Idaho Care Line at 2-1-1 for referrals to licensed child-care providers in the area.

Also, you can try logging on to the department's Web site for tips on finding a good provider.

the decision, and the assertion that Kid Works is unsafe for children.

"There are a lot more worse daycare than this one in this area," she said.

Bobbie Smith, who first started taking her son to Kid Works because she liked the fact that the facility kept her child entertained with the toys, film, sit and watch movies, is angry with Health and Welfare's decision.

From the (Jan. 5) incident, I could understand why the parent would be upset," she said. "But I don't think it deserved all the drama. The employees are only human, and I can completely see how something like that could happen."

Smith says she understands how the employee could lose one of the kids while she was watching seven others, and thinks it may be time to re-examine the state's child-care regulations regarding staff-to-child ratios.

But she doesn't think Kid Works should be closed because of what happened, and she doesn't like only having one business day to find a new child-care provider.

"I just think Kid Works got a bad reputation, and I don't think all of those employees should be out of a job because of it," she said.

Smith has hired one of the day-care center's employees to watch her son — and two of his cousins — at her home until such time as the employees start up their own day-care facility in the coming months.

"And I will take him there," she said. "It's a nice facility."

Times-News correspondent Candace Baltz-Snylke can be reached in Twin Falls at Candacebaltz@magvalley.com.

Water

Continued from A1

model of the aquifer showing where underground streams are located and how they affect surface users.

With most groundwater rights accounted for and a water model both sides trust, Dreher has been working on a response to the water call but a final copy of his response was not immediately made available late Monday.

The agency's Web site said on the Surface Users claim there is up to 158,000-acre feet of water being used by groundwater pumps that could be restored if all the wells between Minidoka and Blackfoot were turned off for one year.

Surface water users are not surprised to see Idaho Power intervene, the coalition's attorney John Simpson said. Groundwater pumps had intervened in the call on Feb. 5.

Johnson

Continued from A1

just came running out of your home, because I looked very asleep," she said.

Schinella testified she described an emergency medical technician telling Sarah that morning, "This is the hardest thing I ever have to do. Sarah, I'm sorry, but your parents didn't make it."

Sarah began to cry and scream and told someone to call her boyfriend Bruno Santos, according to Schinella.

It is in full on unrelated drug charges and faces deportation after he testifies at Sarah's trial.

Prosecutors also asked the neighbors if they had heard any voices, noises, cars or dogs barking between 2 and 2:30 a.m.

CORRECTION

Nursery professional's name was misspelled

The name of recently certified nursery professional John Johnson was misspelled on Sunday's YourBusiness page.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, High/Low temperatures for various cities.

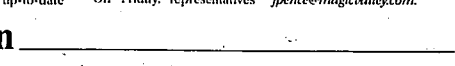
Politen Content: 7:31 AM, 8:12 PM, 8:13 PM, 8:14 PM, 8:17 PM

U.V. INDEX: Low, Moderate, High

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low temperatures for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



model of the aquifer showing where underground streams are located and how they affect surface users.

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On Friday, representatives from both sides met with Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and Senate and House leadership to discuss what they will do once Dreher's response to the call is public, the governor's spokesman Mike Journeal said.

The governor would like for them to begin negotiating immediately, Journeal said. "He hopes there will be an agreement, and the sooner, the better."

House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, R-Burley, who represents senior and junior water rights, agreed. "I would like to see some resolution prior to the end of the session because that's what make good decisions under pressure," he said.

"And if the two parties can't come to an agreement? "We will legislate a solution if the parties can't negotiate one within a couple of weeks," Newcomb said.

Times-News writer Julie Pence can be reached in Boise at 343-5553 or by e-mail at jpence@magvalley.com.

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Bush will ask for \$82B for Iraq, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is asking Congress for \$82 billion to cover the costs of ongoing military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and a myriad of other internationally related expenses, such as training Iraqi security forces, aiding tsunami victims and helping military forces in other nations.

The White House was to send the supplemental budget, request to Capitol Hill late Monday. White House press secretary Scott McClellan told reporters.



Bush re-nominates judicial candidates
The Washington Post

Included in the request is \$74.9 billion for the Defense Department, including \$5 billion for transforming Army divisions and brigades and \$5.7 billion for training and equipping Iraqi military and police, according to a federal official familiar with the supplemental.

The remaining money in the supplemental request includes \$2.42 billion to counter drugs, pay for security, support democracy and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

- \$950 million to help areas affected by the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean.
- \$660 million for construction of a U.S. embassy in Baghdad.
- \$400 million to reward nations that have taken political and economic risks to join the U.S. coalitions in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- \$242 million for the Darfur region of western Sudan where a 2-year-old civil conflict has left tens of thousands of people killed and more than 2 million displaced.
- \$200 million in education and border security aid for the Palestinians.
- \$200 million for economic

cently was elected president. In a written statement on this issue earlier, President Bush had said the special appropriation would support U.S. troops and help the United States "stand with the Iraqi people and against the terrorists trying, desperately to block democracy and the advance of human rights."

The Army wants to use the \$5 billion to convert 33 brigades and regiments — about 30 of which are organized into 10 divisions — into a force of 43 to 44 brigades that would operate more independently. "Instead of having the brigade communicate with their divisions and the divisions communicate with their higher-ups, all 43 to 48 would be allowed to communicate with higher-ups and operate more or less independently," said Steve Gosson, a spokesman for the Washington-based Center for Strategic and Budgetary Studies.

Last Monday, Bush submitted an overall \$2.5 trillion budget for fiscal 2006. That document called for restraining spending across a wide swath of government programs from popular farm subsidies to poor people's housing programs. Spending on the military, the biggest part of discretionary spending, would rise by 4.8 percent in 2006 to \$149.3 billion.

The money requested for the military did not include the additional \$82 billion, but administration officials point out that while it was not in the 2006 budget request, the \$82 billion for ongoing military expenses in Iraq and the Middle East was built into the administration's deficit projections.

Iraq works to hammer out a new government

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A French-educated Iraqi minister and a former London physician urged Monday to speed up the process of forming a new prime minister after the clerical-backed Shiite Muslim alliance failed to get the necessary majority of votes to control the legislature.

The prominence of urbane, moderate, Western-oriented figures appeared designed to counter concern in Washington that Iraq's influence would give Iraq after a Shiite-dominated government takes power — even though the ultimate decision may rest with a reclusive elderly cleric.

Meanwhile, violence continued, with roadside bombs on Monday killing a U.S. soldier and three Iraqi National Guard soldiers. At least 10 other insurgents blew up an oil pipeline near Kirkuk and killed two senior police officers in Baghdad.

Adel Abdul-Mahdi, the interim finance minister, and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the interim vice president, were said to be the leading candidates for prime minister as backroom trading for the top posts in the new government began in earnest Monday.

The consultations were necessary because the United Iraq Alliance failed to secure the two-thirds majority in the newly elected assembly that would have allowed it to control the legislature and install whomever it wanted as president.

The Kurds, who are poised to become kingmakers in the new Iraq, have already said they want Jalal Talabani, a secular Sunni Kurd and leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, to be Iraq's next president, a largely ceremonial post. The Shiites may seek a deal with the Kurds to back Talabani for president in return for Kurdish support for their prime ministerial choice.

The Kurds, who comprise about 15 percent of Iraq's population, have demanded the new constitution legalize Kurdish self-rule in the north.

But the Shiites know they must move carefully, particularly if they want to extend a hand to the minority Sunni Arabs to form an inclusive government and tame a virulent insurgency. Many Sunni Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of the population, stayed home on election day, either out of fear of violence or to support a boycott call by radical clerics opposed to the U.S. military.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi welcomed the results of the Jan. 30 elections and his country expected Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority to work with the country's other ethnic groups.

"Certainly it is promotion of democracy and in that respect we welcome that," Kharrazi said Monday during a visit to Hungary. "We hope there will be very good relations between Iran and the future government of Iraq."

FBI technicians: Blood in Detroit home not Hoffa's

Knight Ridder News Service
DETROIT — FBI crime technicians dashed the latest hope of solving the 29-year-old mystery of what happened to Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa.

Oakland County authorities said crime lab officials belatedly informed them Monday that blood found in the floorboards of a house in northwest Detroit last year wasn't Hoffa's.

"I feel like we're where we were the day before we got the tip," Bloomfield Township Police Chief Jeffrey Werner said Monday afternoon at a news conference with Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorevca.

Gorevca said the tests don't mean that the late Frank Sheeran, a Delaware Township official and former U.S. loyalist, didn't shoot Hoffa to death in July 1975 in the vestibule of the house, the scenario Sheeran and his biographer laid out in "I Heard You Paint Houses." But Gorevca added that there's nothing to corroborate Sheeran's account.

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Painkiller use drops after Vioxx leaves the market

Knight Ridder News Service

PHILADELPHIA — The federal government will begin hearings Wednesday to determine the fate of some of the most popular painkillers of all time, but many doctors and patients are already turning away from the drugs.

Amid mounting reports questioning the safety of arthritis painkillers known as Cox-2 inhibitors, new figures show that doctors have moved dramatically away from prescribing Celebrex and Bextra, the two remaining Cox-2s, after the withdrawal of Vioxx last September.

New prescriptions written by primary-care doctors for both drugs have plummeted.

Celebrex accounted for just 5 percent of all new prescriptions in its category of painkillers last week — down from 18 percent in early October, according to ImpacTx Inc., a firm that tracks the daily prescribing practices of doctors. Bextra prescriptions dropped from 16 percent to 3 percent as doctors moved toward older drugs such as ibuprofen.

"This is a huge decline," said Nancy Lurker, ImpacTx's chief executive officer. New prescriptions are a predictor of a drug's future use, she said.

The troubles facing Cox-2 drugs show what can happen when drugs are approved by the Food and Drug Administration and become blockbuster before their health downsides are fully understood.

Already, millions of people were taking the Cox-2 drugs for nonlethal pain when research began showing that they could cause a deadly heart attacks and strokes.

Study finds flu vaccine program saves few seniors

Newsday

Despite the annual push to have people 65 and older vaccinated against influenza, new research spanning more than three decades of government health data strongly suggests that the program has not saved lives.

The finding, coming on the heels of last fall's vaccine shortage, seemed to send a contradictory public health message: that older people, often deemed at high risk, should not bother with flu shots. But the lead investigator, Lane Simonsen, an epidemiologist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that's not the message. Rather, she said, it's telling the government to find a better way to protect the elderly from the flu — and that includes developing better vaccines and involving more children, the major carriers of the virus, in strategies to get the shots. The study is published in today's Archives of Internal Medicine.

"On an individual basis, the elderly should still be getting their flu shots," Simonsen said in an interview Monday. "We are not in any way saying that older people should not get their flu shots. What we are saying is that vaccinating the elderly is not as effective as other studies have led us to believe."

She said the vaccine is not having a "big impact on mortality." More effective vaccines are needed to protect the frail elderly, she said, who are more likely to die of the flu than those who are otherwise healthy.

Each year an estimated 36,000 people, most elderly, die of influenza complications. Simonsen and other researchers, independent of their study, said they hoped the findings will influence the government's vaccination policies.

A spokesman for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Monday said there were no plans to change the policies based on Simonsen's work.

Simonsen and a second researcher recommend that school-age children should be the primary focus of annual flu vaccination programs. The CDC targets the elderly, people with compromised immunity and children under 2 as being most likely to suffer complications and death from influenza.

The second researcher, In Longini, a biostatistician at Emory University in Atlanta who authored research in this month's American Journal of Epidemiology, used a mathematical model to show that if children ages 5 to 18 were vaccinated each season, transmission rates would drop dramatically.

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MORNING BREAK

Woman feels trapped by abuser

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 and involved with a man who is younger than I am. When we started our relationship, he was awesome and very kind. Now, six months later, he has changed. He is always yelling at me and telling me what to do. When I do what he says, it's still not right, or good enough.

After we were together for one month, we moved back to the home in New Mexico, and that's when the problems started.



DEAR ABBY
Jeane
Phillips

ostly hurt me sooner or later. I was SCARED IN NEW MEXICO. DEAR SCARED: So am I, because his abuse is escalating. Pick up the phone and call the toll-free number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-7233. They will help you formulate an escape plan. Please do not wait — do it today.

DEAR ABBY: A couple of nights ago, my husband, "Irving," and I went out to dinner with "Roy," a friend of his who was visiting from out of town. This morning, I stumbled upon an instant message Irving had left open on his computer between himself and Roy. I

couldn't help but see the first sentence my hubby had written. It was commenting on the number of "hot, hot" women at the restaurant.

I know I shouldn't have, but I went on to read the message. I couldn't stop myself.

It described one woman in particular whom he found attractive, a tall blonde two tables over, directly in his line of sight. "Alby, I was floored — shocked! Irving has always told me I'm the most beautiful woman in the world to him, but after reading his comments, I feel I've been lied to all along. I have no doubt that Irving has always been loving and faithful. But I'm upset and angry over this and wonder if I should say something or let it slide."

Am I overreacting? Was this just man-talk and men being harmless?

—MAD ANYHOW IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR MAD ANYHOW: There's an expression, "Boys will be boys," but in this case it was

men acting like boys. Do not get mad — just smile and say, "Irving, you left the window open and the cat is out of the bag." That should be revenge enough.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's cousin has a son, "Johnny," who is almost 6. Whenever we see Johnny, he jumps all over my husband and his him. We believe Johnny is too old for that kind of behavior.

My husband and Johnny's father repeatedly ask the boy to stop, but he usually pays no attention until he has been asked six or seven times. It has gotten to the point where we don't want to be around Johnny. What would you do in a situation like this?

—OUT OF IDEAS IN TACOMA
DEAR OUT OF IDEAS: Here is what I would do: avoid putting myself into situations where Johnny was present. And if my cousin asked why I didn't visit anymore, I wouldn't mind words in explaining the reason.

Man loses job for drinking the wrong brand of beer

RACINE, Wis. (AP) — Just sipping a brewski gave Isaac Aguiro a career hangover.

Aguiro, 24, said he was fired from his job with Miller Brewing distributor, the same day a picture appeared in *The Journal Times* of Racine of him drinking a Bud Light, which is brewed by rival Anheuser-Busch Co.

The photo, taken Feb. 5, was part of the newspaper's weekly "On the Town" feature, which depicts the city's night life.

Aguiro, who had been a forklift operator at CWI Inc. for four years, told the newspaper he was informed by co-workers when he arrived at work last week that he was in trouble because of the picture.

He said he was called into the general manager's office and told his job was fired. Aguiro said he was not given a reason and claimed he never had problems with his bosses.

"It was a Saturday and I wasn't at work," he told *The Journal Times*. "They can't tell me what beverages I can drink. Bud Light's my beer of choice. I always drink that. Just because I work there, do I have to change what I drink?"

Thomas Bey, a CWI sales manager, read a statement to *The Associated Press* on Friday and would not answer any questions. He said the company does not publicly discuss past or present employees.

"We consistently remind our employees that drinking alcohol is entirely a personal decision," he said. "The image and reputation of any company is determined in large part by the way its employees are seen to behave. Our employees can and should be our best ambassadors."

U.S. spends 14 percent of GNP on health care

The United States is the only major industrialized country that doesn't provide universal health care coverage for its citizens. Ironically, the country spends 14 percent of its Gross National Product on health care, more than any other developed country, yet has more than 40 million of its citizens uninsured.

One day in history: On Feb. 15, 1974, after years of lobbying by women, President Richard B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court. Later that year, Betsy Lockwood became the first woman to do so.

Tuning an orchestra right



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTINESS
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

before the conductor appears has its own protocol: The first violinist stands and asks the principal oboe to play an A. The other players then play it. A and adjust their instruments to match the oboe.

Flamingos have been around a long time. Virtually unchanged over time, the species has roamed earth for about 47 million years.

What comes with a mars flap, stang hose, tormentor, backpack and deluge gun? All are parts of a fire engine.

About 13 percent of all crash deaths involve pedestrians.

IN CALIFORNIA fatalities are Halloween and New Year's days, with an average of 23 deaths each. The safest day is March 11, with 11 deaths.

Who says a tomy by any other name — like — is sweeter? Author Margaret Mitchell's discarded title ideas for "Gone With the Wind" included "Not in Our Stars," "Bugles Sang True," "Milestones," "Jettison" and "Bah! Bah! Black Sheep."

With the orbits of Mars and

Earth, the distance between the two planets can range from three light minutes to as far as 21 light minutes. A light minute, of course, is the distance light can travel in a minute — just under 11,176,914 miles.

Ophthalmophobia is the fear of being stared at.

After surveying 100 7-year-olds, researchers report that 65 percent of them have an imaginary friend.

Opposites distract: Antonym is an antonym of synonym.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at junguisy@bathroom.companion.com

Capricorn, listen to your intuition

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your popularity might bounce up and down like a yo-yo in 2005, but count on being in the spotlight. May through the end of June. Any motivations that come from the heart will succeed if they concern either love or career. Minor discouragements in April or late June will serve to make you wiser and more ambitious. Shoulder responsibilities without fear and they will eventually disappear. Lady Luck will open an important door for you in October.

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

that can make your little piggy bank squeal with joy. The essential knowledge for success may be right at your fingertips.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let unexpected phone calls or accidental crossed signals throw you off balance. Pay more attention to intuitive knowledge than superficial facts where money

is concerned.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may run into someone special who is wearing a halo, or at least — like — angel where you are concerned. Reaffirm important commitments and don't be sidetracked by the exotic.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Never wave a red flag at a bull unless you want to be attacked. Avoid clashes with conservative types by staying in the background and seeking quiet spots. You can reach a milestone today.

The Times-News:
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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Luck will remain on your side if you adhere to promises and meet business partners like family; don't let your serenity or agitation tear you away from important creative pursuits.

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Taurus (April 20-May 20): Try to schedule important initial meetings for today if you want to make a perfect first impression. Putting an emphasis on family first will make you the hero of the hour.

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Online at magicvalley.com

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- Mountain Cams: daily pages or mounted camera images
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GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You might feel like a character in that popular stockbroker ad: If you talk, people listen. All eyes are on you in admiration, so push for assurances while trust is at a high point.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You are safe to make financial commitments, because others will honor their word. Feel free to put your money where your mouth is. Good relationships will improve or move to a higher plateau.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Others look up to you as a role model and sometimes special finds you appealing. Maintain a family atmosphere and make sure all your efforts are labeled "PI" for the best success in the business world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pretend to be a spin doctor who can cure all the ills of the world and the necessary words of wisdom will leap to your lips. Others trust you and their confidence can turn into dollars for your piggy bank.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Initiate important matters to do with the home or family or simply take the first baby steps toward a key goal. Pursue whatever gives you the greatest joy and pleasure to make the greatest progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Members of your family can come through at the critical hour and provide you with the magic idea or help you need. Ask for cooperation from others and money will flow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your ears and eyes open for crucial information

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Residency dispute: Seat awaits Ky. senator

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The brass plaque on the desk in the Kentucky Capitol reads, "Dana Scum Stephenson — Senator." Each day, the clerk calls the roll. Sen. Scum Stephenson is absent.

The seat is empty and no one answers. Stephenson is a senator in name only under a court order that forbids her to attend any legislative session or to take a salary. Three months after the election, questions about Stephenson's residency have left her working-class district in Louisville without a senator.

Over the past few weeks, her fellow Republicans have been scorned for trying to seat her despite the questions, and one GOP senator has quit the party in protest and declared himself an independent.

The dispute — which will be heard by the Kentucky Supreme Court at a date to be determined — started on Nov. 1, the day before the election, when Democrat Virginia Woodward went to court to claim that Stephenson, her Republican opponent in the state Senate race, did not meet the requirements in the Kentucky Constitution — that says candidates must be a resident of the state for six years before the election.

The next day, Stephenson beat Woodward by about 1,000 votes, according to unofficial returns.

Once the lawsuit made its way before a judge, evidence was substantial that Stephenson, 32, lived in Indiana from 1997 to 2001. She bought a house, moved in, and enrolled at an Indiana university to pursue a master's degree in-state tuition. She voted in Indiana in the 1998 and 2000 elections. She got an Indiana driver's license in 1997 and kept it until 2001. She was purged from the state's voter rolls in 1998 for failing to vote and did not re-register until 2001.

Stephenson countered that she always owned property in Kentucky, too, and intended to make her home there and never left her teaching position at a Louisville high school.

A judge was unconvinced and directed election officials to count only Woodward's votes. While the courts continually sided with Woodward, the political process took a different track. Stephenson appealed directly to the Senate to determine whether her fellow Republicans — including her lawmaker father — hold the majority.

A randomly drawn special committee had a majority of Democrats, which concluded Stephenson was not qualified. But when the matter got to the full Senate, Republicans overruled the recommendation and voted largely along party lines to seat Stephenson.

Senate President David Williams said the Senate alone is empowered to determine the qualifications of its members. Williams said, for example, that despite the constitutional requirement that a senator be 30 years old, the Senate could vote to seat a 23-year-old.

"If 20 people in this body voted that someone was 30 years old, no court in the land could overturn that," Williams said.

Stephenson was seated, but within a week, a judge did intervene, ordering that Stephenson could not take any official action as a senator.

Williams' comments drew a firestorm. "Rather than clarify the legal issue for us, Williams acts as Senate Mad Hatter with his signature Gheshire Cat demeanor. Dana Scum Stephenson plays a disingenuous Queen of Hearts and the members of the Queen's court (better known as the Senate Republican caucus) would have us believe that residency as a citizen means only physically residing," one letter writer said in *The Courier-Journal*.

Republican Sen. Bob Leeper said the partisan display was so egregious that he quit the party. It was Leeper's switch from Democrat to Republican five years ago that gave the GOP its first-ever majority in the Kentucky Senate.

With Leeper's change and the empty seat, there are 21 Republicans, 15 Democrats and an independent in the 38-member Senate. The switch and the empty seat may be especially damaging to the GOP because it takes 23 votes to pass tax or spending legislation in the current session.

Lawmakers criticize chocolate industry

WASHINGTON (AP) — Before you pop that Valentine chocolate in your mouth, consider whether it could have been produced by child slaves, lawmakers said Monday in admonishing the chocolate industry for its pace in monitoring labor practices on West African cocoa farms.

"If we can have our tuna fish dolphin-free, we can have our chocolate slave-free," Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., said at a news conference where he pledged to abstain from chocolate and refrain from buying Valentine's Day chocolate for his wife and daughter.

A can of tuna fish as the ultimate guilt-free gift for one's valentine?

Engel and Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, who in 2001 helped negotiate an industrywide protocol on child labor practices, said industry representatives told the lawmakers they would miss a July 1 deadline for certification that children were not being exploited on cocoa-growing farms.

"It was a show of bad faith," Engel said, adding that he and Harkin were considering legislation that could require labeling on chocolate products guaranteeing they were not made with child labor.

The Chocolate Manufacturers Association is "puzzled and surprised" by the charges, and is fully committed to meeting the July 1 deadline, said industry

spokeswoman Susan Smith. She said the industry to date has complied with every deadline in the 2001 agreement, and it has initiated a large-scale test of a cocoa farm labor monitoring program in Ghana and the Ivory Coast, the source of more than 40 percent of the world's cocoa beans.

More than 650 farms are included in that pilot program, she said. "Progress has been good in Ghana but somewhat slower in the Ivory Coast, where civil strife and lack of roads make it hard to reach many areas."

Human rights activists estimate that as many as 90 percent of cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast use forced child labor,

Harkin said in a statement. "The chocolate companies have the leverage and clout to stop this suffering. But if corporate responsibility is lacking, Congress will be obliged to act," Harkin said.

In 2001, Engel and Harkin were promoting legislation to ensure against child exploitation in cocoa production, but pulled back when the industry agreed to take voluntary steps to monitor labor practices in producing countries.

Of the missed July 1 deadline, Engel said. "They have to convince us that they are not just stringing us along."

Harkens said he was buying his wife flowers instead of chocolate this Valentine's Day.

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Elsa Mearkle, Twin Falls.

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EDITORIAL

New T.F. pet shelter needs to open doors more often

Build a \$629,000 animal shelter in Twin Falls, and your problems still don't go away.

After four months in a new shelter on Victory Avenue, People for Pets Magic Valley Humane Society, the organization that operates the city's pet shelter, continues to be overloaded with animals.

The new shelter has seen an increase in the number of cats and dogs it houses, while the adoption rate has remained the same.

Shelter supervisor Kathleen Olmstead says the number of euthanizations has been the same as it was in the old shelter. But if more animals are being dropped off at a rate that always fills the shelter, while the rate of adoptions is stagnant, the math points inevitably to an increase in euthanized animals sometime down the road.

And that's one issue this shelter was built to prevent. The Sheena Foundation, another pet adoption agency that made an attempt to take over the city shelter in 2002, pointed directly to the high number of euthanized animals as a reason for change.

Tied to that argument was the need for more adoption hours at the Twin Falls shelter. People for Pets did increase its staffing operations after it secured the contract from the city in 2003. But now it's worth asking whether that schedule (10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays) provides enough accessibility for potential

pet owners.

Now with a new shelter and more animals, People for Pets should once again see how it can serve the public on a larger scale. By using volunteers and trained personnel to longer on weekdays, the shelter can be more accessible to potential pet owners on work schedules. As for Saturdays, the jury is still out. Shelter officials note how most visitors drop off animals on that day, rather than try to adopt them.

And as pointed out by veterinarian Patricia Saras in a recent column on this page, the staff and the city should document the number of animals taken in, those adopted, and the number euthanized, on a monthly basis.

What isn't necessary at this point, is for the city to take over People for Pets' management duties at the new facility. The organization has proven flexible in the past, and should be just as accommodating in the future. People for Pets and its dedicated staff has been at the forefront, trying to educate

the public that spaying and neutering pets is the key to a healthy and stable pet population — not an easy mandate in rural Idaho.

The city's donation of \$415,000 and the public contribution of \$213,000 demonstrated the community's dedication to a healthy animal shelter. But when animals are still being euthanized at a high rate, it speaks a disappointment. People for Pets can and should be able to respond.

What isn't necessary at this point, is for the city to take over People for Pets' management duties at the new facility. The organization has proven flexible in the past, and should be just as accommodating in the future. People for Pets and its dedicated staff has been at the forefront, trying to educate the public that spaying and neutering pets is the key to a healthy and stable pet population — not an easy mandate in rural Idaho.

No mullah left behind

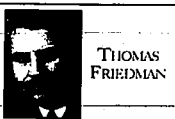
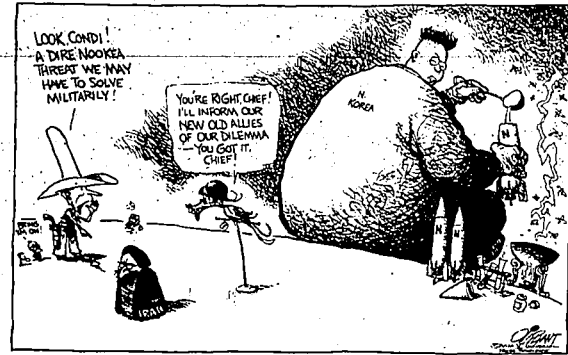
The Wall Street Journal ran a very, very alarming article from Iran on its front page last Tuesday. It explained how the mullahs in Tehran — who are now swimming in cash thanks to soaring oil prices — rather than begging foreign investors to come into Iran, are now spinning some of them. The article related how a Turkish mobile-phone operator, which had signed a deal with the Iranian government to launch Iran's first privately-owned cell phone network, had the contract frozen by the mullahs in the Iranian parliament because they were worried it might help the Turks and their foreign partners spy on Iran.

The Journal quoted Ali Ansari, an Iran specialist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, as saying that for 10 years analysts have been warning about Iran's need for economic reform. "In actual fact, the scenario is worse now," said Ansari. "They have all this money with the high oil price, and they don't need to do anything about reforming the economy."

Indeed, the Journal added, the conservative mullahs are feeling even more emboldened to argue that with oil prices, Iran doesn't need Western investment capital and should feel "free to pursue its nuclear power program without interference."

This is a perfect example of the Bush energy policy at work, and the Bush energy policy is: "No Mullah Left Behind."

By adamantly refusing to do anything to impede energy conservation in America, or to phase in a \$1.90-gallon gasoline tax on American drivers, or to demand increased mileage from Detroit's automakers, or to develop a crash program for renewable sources of energy, the Bush team is — as others have noted — mashing both sides of the war on terrorism. We are financing the U.S. armed forces with our tax dollars, and through the wasteful use of energy, we are generating huge windfall profits for Saudi Arabia, Iran and



Sudan, where the cash is used to insulate the regimes from any pressure to open up their economies, liberate their women or modernize their schools, and where it ends up instead financing madrassas, mosques and militants fundamentally opposed to the progressive, pluralistic agenda America is trying to promote.

Now how smart is that?

The neocon strategy may have been necessary to trigger reform in Iraq and the wider Arab world, but it will not be sufficient unless it is followed up by what I call a "geo-green" strategy.

As a geo-green, I believe that combining environmentalism and geopolitics is the most moral and realistic strategy the United States could pursue today. Imagine if President Bush used his bully pulpit and political capital to focus the nation

on sharply lowering energy consumption and embracing a gasoline tax.

What would that buy? It would buy reform in some of the worst regimes in the world, from Tehran to Moscow. It would reduce the chances that the United States and China are going to have a global struggle over oil — which is where we are heading. It would help us to strengthen the dollar and reduce the current account deficit by importing less crude. It would reduce climate change more than anything in Kyoto. It would significantly improve America's standing in the world by making us good global citizens. It would shrink the budget deficit. It would reduce our dependence on the Saudis so we could tell them the truth. Oil addicts never tell the truth to their pushers. And it would pull China away from its drift into supporting some of the worst scoundrels in the world, like Sudan, because it needs their oil.

Most important, making energy independence our generation's moon shot could help inspire more young people to go into science and engineering, which we desperately need.

Sadly, the Bush team won't even consider this. It prefers cruise missiles to cruise controls. We need a grass-roots movement. Where are college kids these days? I would like to see every campus in America demand that its board of trustees disinvest from every U.S. auto company until they improve their mileage standards. Every college town needs to declare itself a "Hummer-free zone." You want to drive a gas-guzzling Humvee Go to Iraq, not our campus.

And an idea from my wife, Ann: Free parking anywhere in America for anyone driving a hybrid car.

But no, Bush has a better project: borrowing another trillion dollars, which will make us that much more dependent on countries like China and Saudi Arabia that hold our debt — so that you might, if you do everything right and live long enough, get a few more bucks out of your Social Security account.

The president's priorities are totally nuts.

Thomas Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times.

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.

LETTER

Low walls at Shoshone Falls are a clear danger

The articles concerning the dog that jumped the rock barrier at the Shoshone Falls are missing the issue. The issue that needs to be addressed is safety. In fact, small rock fence safety. The picture on the front page of Section C of the Thursday, Feb. 3, paper clearly shows how short the stone fence is. This small area is the only area along the path that has a short stone fence. The rest of the area has a high metal bar fence, and then it just stops. It is misleading to people because the safe pathway leads right to the "unsafe" section (where the rock barrier is).

The issue is safety. It would only take a parent turning their head to the side and the frightened child could crawl on that stone fence, lose balance and fall. The edge beyond the stone fence is a straight drop off to the bottom of the valley. There is no room for forgiveness.

The reason I am passionate about this issue is because the same thing happened to our dog in the exact same place. She did not have a leash on her that

day. That was my mistake and wrongdoing. It was a traumatic event for my wife, daughter and myself. It was a traumatic event for my wife, daughter and myself. It was a traumatic event for my wife, daughter and myself. It was a traumatic event for my wife, daughter and myself.

The reality of the situation is that the stone fence is too short! The dogs jumping over are not the issue here, it is a red flag saying "Danger." It is possible for an adult or child to miss their footing along that fence and easily tumble over.

By extending the metal bar fence to this unsafe area, the view would not be hindered; it isn't anywhere else. I understand there is a reason for safety and thinking ahead. There is also a reason for the high metal bar fence along most of the path near the chasm at Shoshone Falls Park. You can enjoy a great view with the metal fence, too.

The park needs to continue with the high metal fence in place of the stone fence. It may save someone's life.

STEPHEN NELSON
Twin Falls

Cost of high-speed rail link is worth benefits

Over recent weeks, I have written several letters aimed at widening the discussion concerning the replacement of Friedman Airport in Halley. I did it by describing the merits of a high-speed rail link to the existing and fully capable airport in Twin Falls. Editorials this week in both *The Times-News* and the *Wood River Journal* labeled the idea as far too expensive. Of course it is expensive!

Personally, I don't seek a high-speed train. I want a new airport. But I am seeking a value-based assessment. Consider three options: Leave the airport as it is today, move it south 20 miles or link the valley to Twin Falls by air. We measure all of the benefits to affected economies and the costs of mitigating negative elements of each. Then you measure value rather than cost.

It is obvious that moving the airport creates a degraded travel experience compared to the existing situation. At a cost of \$100 million to move, the status quo option wins on value, hands down. Keep in mind that the travel experience of the valley's jet set is not at stake here. They will still have Friedman. It is the regular folks traveling frequent on Federal Aviation Administration-controlled commercial flights who are impacted with the move.

The rail link to Twin Falls will compare much closer to a relocated airport on value than it does on cost. My sole concern is that value comparisons are not being made and they must be to

Employers have no right to fire smokers

I could not believe what I read in this morning's paper — people losing their jobs just because they smoke. They all need money to feed their families.

PETER CATCHPOLE
Halley

Suicide is apparently legal for Democrats

It's awful, I tell you — horrible! The country seems to be going to hell in a hand basket. Obviously, it's just that we ain't got no sense.

For example, some nerd went on the Internet to organize a couple dozen people for a proposed group suicide party and law enforcement officers swarmed on him like scavengers on a dead carcass in the desert.

But the very next day, the national Democrat Party chose Howard Dean to lead them for

Free trade rule could hit your town next

To small-town sugar-producing communities: Look to the west in Nysa, Ore. Our local sugar factory closed in January due to the excessive sugar storage from trade agreements. We have lost 167 full-time jobs and an additional 260 seasonal jobs. We are a town with a population of only 2,500 people. Imagine the effect this would have on your town.

What to do? We don't know for sure, but a few of us non-factory folks have decided to send some ordinary people to Washington, D.C., to tell our story. Our mission is to describe the economic decline in our valley (resulting in the factory closure) which is the result of "bad" sugar policy. Should CAFTA be

Free trade rule could hit your town next

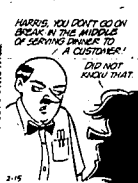
voiced in, then our story will be the same for many small towns across America. I would like to know about the Central America Free Trade Agreement, then maybe you should do a little research because, ultimately, it makes our country more dependent on others for the things we use. Things which we can provide ourselves that keep our people working — our communities healthy.

Our country is in deep trouble. It's awful, I tell you!

If I had it to do over, I think I would have been born elsewhere!

L.S. "TIP" TIPPETT
Twin Falls

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Garry Trudeau

By Bruce Teitelman

OPINION

Governor draws line on stem cells

Massachusetts Republican Gov. Mitt Romney has infuriated Harvard scientists by declaring his opposition to stem cell research on embryos created for this purpose. "Some of the practices that Harvard and probably other institutions in Massachusetts are engaged in across the line of ethical conduct," Romney told The New York Times.



CAL THOMAS

Perhaps a majority will come to their senses after considering how we got to this point and where we'd be headed, should the few protections remaining for human life be removed.

Do legislators want scientists to decide by themselves what is right, moral and ethical just so this grisly business can be conducted for profit and "prestige" in Massachusetts? It is unlikely legislators would grant such unrestricted power to any other profession or industry. If Romney wins this battle, he will have done so on principle. Perhaps his stand will serve as an example of what can happen when a politician puts more noble things ahead of self-interest.

Cal Thomas is a nationally syndicated columnist. Readers may leave e-mail at www.calthomas.com.

In a telephone conversation, Romney told me he thinks the Harvard scientists have "pulled a bait and switch." At first, he says, they agreed that enough stem cells could be obtained from discarded embryos at fertilization clinics, which did not present an ethical problem to him because such embryos would be destroyed anyway. But the scientists are now lobbying for creating and cloning embryos simply for experimental purposes. This he opposes.

The morally "pro-choice" New York Times, which rarely credits any pro-lifer with standing on principle, suggests Romney may be taking this position to curry favor with social conservatives so he might pursue higher office.

It is difficult to take such cynicism seriously when one considers that Romney's wife, Ann, suffers from multiple sclerosis, a disease that backers of stem cell research claim might be cured if they are permitted to do whatever they wish to embryos. That the Romneys would put their principles ahead of self-interest is rare in politics.

Romney says he has been told by medical and scientific authorities that sufficient stem cells exist or can be obtained from fertility clinics and other sources to avoid therapeutic cloning and the destruction of embryos created specifically for this type of research. "Creating human life for research and human experimentation is ethically wrong," he told me.

The governor's problem — indeed, the greater problem — is that culture has moved beyond objective truth. Science has effectively declared itself god, and scientists are its high priests. What scientists say science can achieve is all that matters. Anyone who refuses to bow down to their pronouncements is labeled a heretic and must suffer the kind of denunciation, ostracism and rejection once reserved for what the old horror movies called "mad scientists."

This is why the slippery slope analogy applies in cases such as stem cell research. Having abandoned an Author and definer of life, it quickly becomes possible and then probable that any value attached to a living thing — particularly a human being — is simply a matter of individual or societal whim. Such values, like a fluctuating stock market, may change at any moment and for any reason, or no reason.

A society that readily tolerates 45 million legal abortions (and counting) and feels a need to "do something" about the financial "burden" of the sick and elderly is not likely to be morally aroused at the destruction of embryos, even for cloning and other experimental purposes. Besides, aren't we killing an order to live? Isn't the goal of healing diseases and lengthening life worth any cost? Only in a world in which the self is deified and nothing stands in the way of getting whatever will give us pleasure and make us "happy."

If a horror like partial birth abortion does not shock our moral sensibilities, it is unlikely that destroying human embryos, which have sufficient chromosomes to become fully developed babies, will get our attention.

Romney's comments came after a bill was introduced to clear up ambiguities in Massachusetts law and allow such research. It's difficult to predict what the mostly Democrat Massachusetts legislature will do, though some members stand with the governor in his opposition to therapeutic cloning and research on embryos created to be killed.

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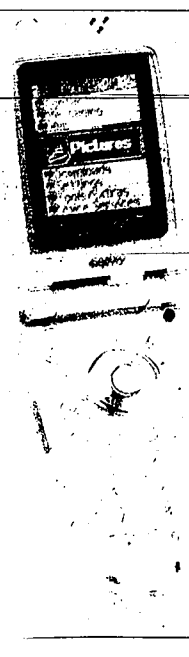
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Leprosy's decline may be due to TB

The Washington Post

For most of the Middle Ages, leprosy, its victims stigmatized and forced to huddle in caves or gather in charity camps run by monks. By 1300, University College of London physician and archaeologist Mark Spigelman says, "almost every town had a leprosarium."

But then, inexplicably, leprosy began to decline. Today, although it still exists and occasionally kills in some countries, leprosy is a treatable disease whose horrible heritage has dimmed with time. In research published last week in Royal Society Proceedings B, a team led by Spigelman and University College colleague Helen Donoghue

suggested that leprosy's demise may have been caused by the rampant spread of tuberculosis. "TB is a much more aggressive, faster disease," Spigelman said in a telephone interview. "And it's a disease of crowds." Spigelman said the team became aware of a possible relationship when bone tissue of a shrouded mummy from a 1st-century tomb in Israel showed

evidence of infection by both TB and leprosy. The team then examined human remains from Europe between 100 and 1500 A.D. and found both diseases in 42 percent of them, Spigelman said. "Leprosy doesn't kill you, but you're isolated, and you suffer from diet and immune system problems. TB is quite likely to be the thing that comes in and kills"

— especially as Europe's population density began to increase. That created fertile ground for the spread of TB, Spigelman said. Lepers, already weakened, were particularly susceptible and died before spreading leprosy to others. "As the incidence of TB went up, leprosy went down," he said. "It's almost a one-for-one relationship."

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Nothing fights nasty winter colds better than vitamin C-packed oranges, and this week Swensen is featuring these delicious bug busters in virtually any form. For those of you who enjoy the hands-on experience of peeling, slicing, or squeezing, we've got fresh, pre-pulverized large Navel oranges on sale for an unbeatable price. And for those of you who prefer the convenience of simply drinking your daily dose of vitamin C, we're also offering great prices on 12-ounce cans of concentrated, post-pulverized oranges - in the form of Western Family frozen orange juice. So whether you prefer chewing or guzzling, peeling or pouring, stop by Swensen's for the cheapest, tastiest Vitamin C fix in town.

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Meeting will be on county space

TWIN FALLS — County residents might soon get a better look at the county's building facility study.

Commissioners and the county's building committee will hold open hours from 6 to 8 p.m. in the conference room on the third floor of the courthouse at 425 Shoshone St. N.

Commissioner Tom Mikesell said the latest facility study now includes cost estimates of the three options that the county has been looking at for additional space — the former Anderson Lumber building, the former Twin Falls Clinic and hospital and building a new county building.

Two die in rollover crash Friday evening

OPPERT — Two men were killed around 6:30 p.m. Friday when their truck slid off the road and rolled on 100 W., a half mile north of 1200 N.

Jorge Sarmiento, 21, and his passenger Guillermo Alvarez-Navarro, 41, both of Burport, were ejected from the truck after it slid into a muddy field, according to a police report.

Sarmiento was transported from the scene by ambulance. Alvarez-Navarro was pronounced dead at the scene. Neither man was thought to be wearing a seat belt, the report said.

The cause of the crash appears to have been inattentive driving and excessive speed, the report said.

Other vehicles were involved in the crash and there was no indication that alcohol or drugs were a factor, according to the report.

T.F. schools will reevaluate schedule

TWIN FALLS — After a semester of a new schedule at Twin Falls High School, the district will evaluate how it is working.

The district is reevaluating the high school scheduling committee that created the "blended block" schedule. The schedule, in its first year of implementation, has four 90-minute class periods. Classes are either on A-B schedules that meet every other day for a full year, or they're on 4-by-4 schedules and meet every day for a semester. The blended schedule also provides time for shorter "skinny" classes, but none were implemented this year.

The district is seeking feedback from the community and from a student survey. The meeting will have a public comment session and a work session, said Principal Ben Allen. The meeting is open to the public and will be Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Oberheim Insurance Community Room at 261 Main Ave. S.

More charges are pending in abuse case

TWIN FALLS — The preliminary hearing for a man accused of lewd conduct with a minor has been postponed due to the continuing investigation.

George Houston Corder, 33, of Castleford, appeared in 5th District Magistrate Court Monday morning for a preliminary hearing on two counts of lewd conduct with a minor child.

The felonies arose after Corder allegedly admitted the crimes when talking to a deputy at the Twin Falls County Jail in March, and after authorities investigated the alleged incidents, according to an affidavit written by Detective Becky White of the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department.

Snowpack levels

Watershed	100% snowpack	100% water
Salmon	61%	43%
Big Wood	71%	53%
Little Wood	63%	58%
Big Lost	78%	52%
Little Lost	78%	51%
Hears Fork/Wagon	80%	52%
Upper Snake Basin	75%	52%
Oakley	76%	58%
Snake Falls	81%	59%

As of Feb. 14

On a day with a basin snowpack, this comparison of 30-year averages. An indicator of basin snowpack for the region.

Gooding CAFO stays in limbo

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

GOODING — Stop blaming dairies and start following county ordinances.

"This was the answer to an appeal over a proposed dairy enlargement in Gooding County on Monday evening.

While residents have complained of too many cows in the county, an attorney for the Scarrow Dairy minimized the role those complaints can play in the appeal process.

"Gooding County has made a decision that CAFOs are allowed in certain areas if they meet certain requirements," said Rob Williams, attorney for the Scarrow Dairy. "It's not a

question of whether there should be CAFOs.

"Those who want to find a bogeyman will point to the dairy in every situation," Williams said.

Last December, Gooding County Planning and Zoning Commissioners approved an enlargement permit for Jim Scarrow's dairy. The permit would raise Scarrow's numbers by 3,197, bringing his total animal units to 6,676. Scarrow's neighbor, Melody Hinley, filed an appeal over the permit to the Gooding County Commissioners who heard the matter Monday night.

Hinley's attorney, Richard Carlson, outlined Hinley's reasons for filing an appeal.

"Basically, off the seat of their pants, the planning and zoning gave Mr. Scarrow a variance," Carlson said. "The commission did not follow their own rules for giving a variance."

Carlson also argued that Scarrow did not provide evidence that his dairy currently complies with various state and federal regulations.

"There are just simply too many dairy cows in that part of Gooding right now," Carlson said. "There are potential public health issues in having too many cows."

However, the number of cows in Gooding County cannot determine the commission's decision on whether planning and zoning's approval should

be upheld, Williams said.

"There's no standard of which you can deny the application based on that," Williams said. "I know there are people who won't be happy until the last cow leaves the Magic Valley."

The planning and zoning commission deemed by its approval that Scarrow met all the standards required by the county's CAFO ordinance, he said.

"Your task is to see if every one of those standards are met," Williams said.

"Your task is to see if they were right," he said.

However, both the appellant and commissioners questioned

Scarrow Dairy Permit

- The dairy is located at 2133 E. 3200 S. in Wendell.
- For the expansion, Scarrow has added 313 acres to the operation, bringing the total to 668 acres.
- Scarrow seeks a permit to add 3,197 animal units to his CAFO operation. The expanded permit would raise Scarrow's total animal units to 6,676.
- The state CAFO siting team assessed Scarrow's request as posing a low risk.
- Ninety-three percent of the manure generated at the expanded CAFO would be exported.

Please see CAFO, Page B3

HIGH-SPEED CHASE



Twin Falls Police Officer Eric Steele places cones around the perimeter of his patrol car after it was hit at the intersection of Fairfield Street and Main Avenue by a suspect attempting to evade arrest Monday morning.

Suspect injures two police officers, damages vehicles

By Rebecca Meany Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — An attempt to serve warrants on a Magic Valley man Monday morning ended up in a chase that left several police cars damaged and two police officers injured.

Mark Lamb, 40, whose residence was not immediately available, was arrested by Twin Falls police on multiple counts, including two counts of aggravated battery on a peace officer, two counts of battery on a peace officer, and eluding police.

At about 10:45 a.m., two officers with the Twin Falls Police Department attempted to serve Jerome County warrants on Lamb, said Staff Sgt. John Wilson.

Police followed Lamb to the Old Towne Lodge at 248 Second Ave. W. and made contact with him inside a room.

"He fought with two uniformed police officers," Wilson said. "They wouldn't let him leave out the front door. He made it out a window and to his car."

Lamb got into a small sedan in the parking lot on the east side of the motel, Wilson said.

An undercover officer wearing a badge told Lamb to stop.

"The suspect tries to leave the parking lot and purposely collides with ... he rammed the unmarked police car," Wilson said.

Driving in reverse, Lamb drove westbound down an alley, pulling out back-end first onto Fairfield Street, Wilson said.

"The undercover police vehicle was following," Wilson said. "As (Lamb) is going, he strikes a parked vehicle, goes up over a curb and rams a black and white police vehicle. He rams the front, goes forward and strikes the undercover car again."

The fleeing car also damaged a stop sign on the southeast corner of Main and Fairfield, he added.

Undaunted, the suspect continued traveling eastbound on Main Avenue.

He hit another parked car, Wilson said, then fled on Second Avenue, Addison Avenue West, Shoshone Street, South Park Avenue and back onto Addison.

Officers stopped the pursuit for a while when speeds hit approximately 75 mph, Wilson said.

Lamb was encountered again at the Addison Avenue West trailer park, where he was fleeing on foot, Wilson said.

"He was still trying to get away," he said.

The two unidentified officers who attempted to serve the warrants were treated at a hospital for their injuries and released Monday.

Police say more charges in the case could be forthcoming.

The Jerome County warrants were battery on a peace officer and possession of a concealed weapon, Wilson said.

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

Some of the nearly two dozen calls were short — "one or two words," Hall said. He declined to say how those words were.

"I don't want to go into specifics right now," he said.

He also said tracing calls is not always the simple task some TV shows make it out to be.

"I will say we're trying to follow up leads and getting technical advice on how we might be able to go about that," he said.

He said bomb threats are not unheard of, but the frequency of the person's calls Saturday is unusual.

"It's a little bit more bold than your average crank caller," he said.

If anyone has information on this incident, they are asked to contact the Jerome Police Department at 324-4328 or 324-1911 after hours.

Forecast continues to look dry

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Every little bit helps.

"The sentiment seems to be the theme of this winter's water outlook in the Magic Valley.

While a storm on Sunday provided the region with several days worth of normal precipitation in one, it certainly did not amount to enough to reverse months of below-average snowpack levels in the region.

"We usually get most of our moisture in January and February," said Alicia Boyd who works in hydrology with the Bureau of Reclamation in Burley.

The storm, which was still passing through the eastern portion of the Snake River basin near Jackson, Wyo., Monday afternoon, provided the Twin Falls area with roughly .39 inches of precipitation, and the Mini-Cassia area with .16 inches of precipitation, according to the National Weather Service.

However, Jim Shadwick, a

spokesman for the weather service, downplayed the likelihood of the region picking up any additional precipitation in the next 48 hours.

"Our best chance of precipitation is Saturday night with a 30 percent chance," Shadwick said.

For the next couple of days, the Twin Falls area will see temperatures in the low 30s for highs, rising to the mid 40s

from Thursday through the weekend," he said.

"We're not looking at any major storms," Shadwick said.

While that's bad news for snowpack levels, there may be hope for Idaho's water outlook yet.

The region has surpassed the midpoint of winter and snowpack levels remain low. However, the Magic Valley the water outlook isn't so different from this point last year, Boyd said.

Last year, the region received late spring rains that helped salvage a water year that's beginning to look familiar again this season, Boyd said.

Late rains could let the canal companies hold off opening the canals until a few weeks later into the irrigation season, Boyd said.

Therefore, the canal companies would be able to run water later into the fall, as long as the region doesn't see long spells of extremely hot, dry weather, she said.

"A little bit of moisture in April and May could make a lot of difference," she said.

Hospital's search for governance continues

By Sandy Miller Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — When it comes to the future of Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, it's not about selling the county hospital to the highest bidder.

It's about what health care organization can best meet county residents' future health care needs, said Commissioner and Hospital Board member Tom Mikesell.

"I don't think any of the commissions are looking at dollar bills," Mikesell told his fellow board members Monday.

With that in mind, Mikesell and other board members signed an updated joint statement with commissioners that puts everyone on the same page when it comes to looking at the future governance of the new county-owned hospital.

Most importantly, the statement spoke of values, things Hospital Board members and commissioners agree should be cornerstones for future discus-

sions with health care organizations.

Those values include things like providing medical services to meet patient needs, regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

Joe Lupica, a health care consultant hired by commissioners to assist them in looking at the hospital's future, and to negotiate an agreement should commissioners decide to merge or sell to a nonprofit or for-profit organization, presented a "fluid" project road map, a detailed look of tasks to be performed before making a decision on governance. Those tasks include gathering data with Magic Valley Regional officials on the hospital's performance, capital needs and demand for services, formulating goals and objectives, consulting with physicians, meeting with the community and developing partner options. Eventually, finalists recommended by the hospital, physicians and other stakeholders will be selected.

Please see HOSPITAL, Page B3

Drug-trafficking hearing postponed

TWIN FALLS — A court hearing for Phoenix man charged in a drug-trafficking incident has been postponed...

1806, will be led by guest speakers. Julie Fanselow will discuss "Lewis and Clark Among the Indians" by James P. Ronda...

and Friday for odd-numbered addresses and Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday for even-numbered addresses.

Manure workshop for farmers will be Thursday

TWIN FALLS — Farmers who apply manure from dairies or feedlots are invited to a half-day workshop to learn how to get the most out of that resource.

"As farmers want to get the most benefit out of the resource," said Larry Meyer, chairman of the Twin Falls Soil and Water Conservation District...

April Leytman, a soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service in Kimberly, will present new findings on nutrient availability and crop uptake from manure compared to other sources.

Learn how to use water carefully at workshop

TWIN FALLS — Due to the severe drought in the area, the Twin Falls City Council passed a water conservation ordinance for the city of Twin Falls which limits outdoor watering.

The city is sponsoring a "Best Practices for Water Use" class from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at 305 Third Ave. E.

The public is invited. For more information, call Sheryl Jeff at 735-7251.

Coalition will discuss end-of-life issues

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Palliative Care Coalition will hold a share group meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. today in the Great Room at Bridgeview Estates.

It provides an opportunity to share ideas, experiences and approaches; offer support to each other; and improve skills around comfort topics for patients with and talking about end-of-life concerns.

For more information, call Sheryl at 733-2774 or Jamie at 737-7501.

Talk about Lewis & Clark Wednesday at the library

TWIN FALLS — The first "Let's Talk About the Program 'Reading Lewis and Clark'" will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the program room at the library.

Discussions on the book's topics, exploring various aspects of the Voyage of Discovery of 1804-1806.

Kempthorne grows more bullish about finances

BOISE (AP) — Gov. Dirk Kempthorne is growing more bullish about Idaho's finances, saying December and January tax revenue exceeded expectations and could produce a bigger budget surplus than expected.

Kempthorne, speaking at a Boise City Club luncheon, said the state could finish the fiscal year in June with as much as \$1.2 million in surplus, up from the \$1.2 million revenue figures that's up from the \$117 million his administration forecast in December.

The increase comes from sales and individual and corporate income tax filings.

Kempthorne said evidence is growing that Idaho is on its way to recovering from a post-Sept. 11 slump that has led layoffs at corporations including Micron

Technology inc. and caused state lawmakers to slash the state budget

and caused state lawmakers to slash the state budget and temporarily boost Idaho's sales tax by a full cent in 2003.

Citing a business newsletter that tracks the Pacific Northwest economies, he said personal incomes in the state grew by 6.2 percent and that the number of new employees hired in Idaho last month was the highest of any month since 2000.

"This is the time that you fulfill what I've always believed: The state will be one of the first states to help the nation toward full recovery," Kempthorne told more than 100 business and community leaders at the luncheon.

Mike Ferguson, the state's chief economist, declined to rule out the potential for a reversal of the tax-waiver gains of the last two months.

CAFO

Continued from B1. points in Scarrow's application. Water remains a key point of concern for residents and the commission.

Carlson emphasized the scarcity of water in the region and cost doubt on whether approving a dairy expansion would be a good use of that resource.

"Isn't it unwise to be permitting expansions in this area where our water use is relying on very, very junior water rights?" Carlson said.

Scarrow already owns water rights for the expansion. Even if a water call shuts down some of his junior water rights, Scarrow told the commissioners he has older water rights and deep wells for those rights within 2 miles of the dairy.

Water quality issues and nutrient issues of Scarrow's district

Council increases consulting firm's pay

By Rebecca Meany Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — A prior agreement and a job well done are reasons enough to increase payments to a public-affairs consulting group, the Twin Falls City Council decided Monday.

Council members opted to renew an agreement with The Gallatin Group, which they contracted last year.

This year, Gallatin — a firm with offices in Boise, Seattle, Portland, Ore., Spokane, Wash., Helena, Mont., and Washington, D.C., whose principals include Declan native Lyn Darrington — will receive \$4,500 per month instead of the previous monthly payment of \$2,500.

There was an understanding when the city hired Gallatin that the firm would charge a reduced rate. If the city found Gallatin did a good job, the rate would increase.

The group has helped Twin Falls secure federal funds for local projects, said City Manager Tom Courtney, including Auger Falls.

There's a convergence between federal objectives and

city objectives," he said. Such goals include water treatment and wetland development, two things that the Auger Falls project would likely address.

The city bought Auger Falls in 2002 for \$1.3 million. Possible uses are a public park, wildlife refuge and natural water treatment system.

With The Gallatin Group's lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., and with assistance from legislators, the city got a \$600,000 grant.

"There's a high likelihood we'll have funding the next few years," Courtney told the council. "They've been extremely helpful so far."

Councilman Lance Clay noted that spending that amount of money would still be cheaper than finding grants to fund the projects.

In other business:

Mayor Glenda Thompson asked Courtney to review for the public the reasons why approving new subdivisions despite the water shortage is not unwise.

Courtney explained that although there's a perception that

the city is growing rapidly, it actually only saw a 2 1/4 percent growth rate in 2003.

"That's not an overwhelming growth rate," he said.

Additionally, he said, enacting a moratorium on development would have negative effects on the community.

"We need to consider that impacts of a moratorium on growth can be severe on the economy," Courtney said.

"We need to consider that impacts of a moratorium on growth can be severe on the economy," Courtney said.

Capping development to hinder growth is not realistic, he said.

"If they don't buy a house in Twin Falls, they'll buy one elsewhere — in Filer or Kimberly," he said.

Council members announced two vacancies on the Twin Falls Department of Parks and Recreation board.

Times-News writer Rebecca Meany can be reached at 735-3251 or by e-mail at rmeany@magicvalley.com.

Australian man will be deported after jail release

BOISE (AP) — An Australian man convicted of shaking his girlfriend's 11-month-old boy in 2001 will be deported to his home country after he's released from an Idaho prison April 25.

Kirk Pinner will be taken to Taos on an island state located about 130 miles off the coast of the Australian mainland, and will be allowed to return to the U.S. before at least 2008.

In February 2004, an Ada County jury convicted Pinner, 33, of aggravated battery for a shaking the boy so hard that the baby had hemorrhages in his brain and eyes and was partially paralyzed. Pinner was baby-sit-

ting the child at the time. Pinner admitted during trial to "gently shaking" the infant because he thought the boy was choking. He denied causing the boy's injuries.

The boy has since recovered, but family members say it will be years before the full extent of his injuries is known.

Fourth District Judge Michael Wehler sentenced Pinner to 18 months in 2004 but gave him credit for time served in jail. That made Pinner eligible for parole this year.

Parole was granted by the Idaho Commission for Pardons and Parole, which recommended

releasing Pinner to the Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and that he not be allowed to return to the U.S. until his Idaho sentence was set to be completed in 2008.

Pinner, who operated a business that teamed U.S. basketball players with professional teams in Australia, was originally charged with aggravated battery in March 2001.

But he fled the following December to avoid his trial.

An arrest warrant was issued in November 2001 after he failed to show up for a pre-trial hearing.

Hospital

Continued from B1. holders will give public presentations. A decision on the hospital's future governance could be made as early as May 25.

The ultimate decision will be made by the citizens of the community, Lupica said.

Lupica will be there to lend his expertise. He won't be making the decision, but he will be there to "help you unmask some charlatans along the way."

And there are some of those out there, Lupica has seen there. "Don't have someone come in here and slant and burn, and do it by contract," Lupica said.

Because hospitals like Magic Valley Regional are a lot more than just medical centers. They're a part of the social fabric of their communities, Lupica said.

Future expectations should be high.

"Let's not just aim at surviving," Lupica said. "Let's aim at thriving."

Stated values

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Hospital Board and Twin Falls County commissioners are examining the future governance of the presently county owned hospital.

Patients must have equal access to medical services irrespective of ability to pay. All patients must be treated fairly, equally and with dignity.

Each and every citizen has a vital interest in Magic Valley's health care system.

Medical services must meet patient needs. Personnel, facilities and capital must be used effectively and efficiently.

The process must be open and accessible to the public. What do you want from your local hospital? What kind of services do you think Magic Valley Regional Medical Center should offer?

Joe Lupica, president of Grandwater Capital, the health care consultant hired by Twin Falls County, wants to hear from you. Lupica welcomes phone calls at (480) 657-7800; or arrange an appointment with him in Twin Falls County by calling 736-4068.

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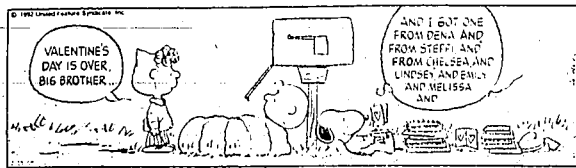
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COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



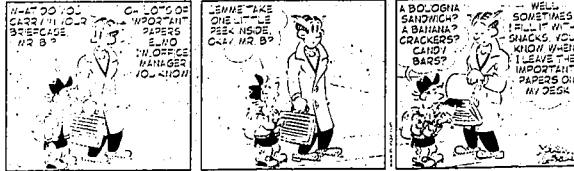
Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



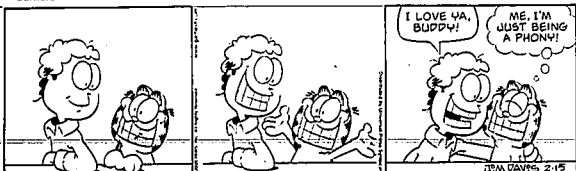
Pickles

By Brian Craven



Garfield

By Jim Davis



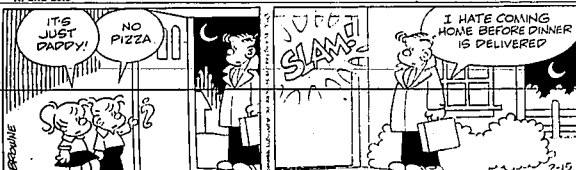
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



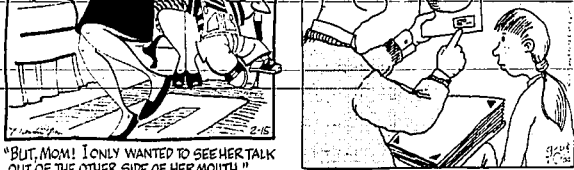
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



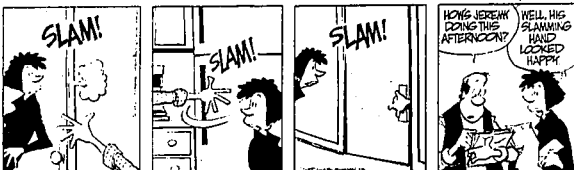
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Luann

By Greg Evans



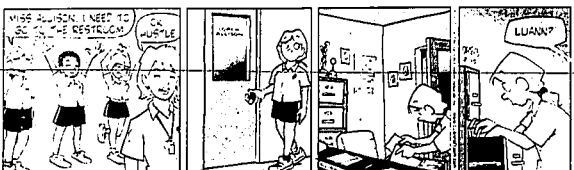
Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



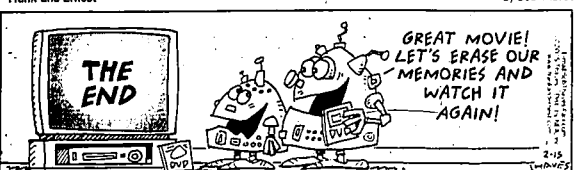
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Courts

Continued from B5

possessing a weapon by a minor, placed on probation, sentenced to the State of Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections for an indeterminate amount of time, after release subject to the following conditions: 30 days of community service, 30 days of probation, 30 days of suspension, 30 months of probation, complete any treatment consisting of counseling by probation officer, shall not possess or use any alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs, submit to alcohol/drug testing, possess no weapons, one court annual, suspended by prosecutor, Magistrate Judge Frank Kim.

Russell V. Bortz, 17, 143 E. 5th St., Twin Falls, one count possession of drug paraphernalia and one count use of a controlled substance - prohibited, 180 days probation, credit for 30 days already served, 30 days of community service, 30 months of probation, complete any treatment consisting of counseling by probation officer, shall not possess or use any alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs, submit to alcohol/drug testing, possess no weapons, one court annual, suspended by prosecutor, Magistrate Judge Frank Kim.

Zola N. Hall, 17, 410 E. 5th St., Twin Falls, paid their criminal judgment against all legal conditions, 30 days detention, suspended, no probation, no suspension of community service, 20 hours community service or 500 Chari Tripas for in lieu of community service.

ered numerous neurological complications with associated injuries and brain hemorrhages. Plaintiff's demand jury trial.

Child support cases

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. Martin Galambos. Seeking establishment of paternity, \$17 monthly support plus 72 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$30 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. James Schiavone. Seeking determination of paternity, \$400 for medical assistance granted, \$700 monthly support plus 67 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$30 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. Kristy Johnson. Seeking establishment of paternity, \$89 monthly support plus 71 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$30 attorney's fees and costs.


State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. John H. Peterson. Seeking establishment of paternity, \$100 monthly support plus 61 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$30 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. John H. Peterson. Seeking establishment of paternity, \$100 monthly support plus 61 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$30 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. John H. Peterson. Seeking establishment of paternity, \$100 monthly support plus 61 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$30 attorney's fees and costs.

State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services vs. John H. Peterson. Seeking establishment of paternity, \$100 monthly support plus 61 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$30 attorney's fees and costs.

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P185/60R13-15	20.21	P185/70R13-15	21.50
P185/60R13-16	21.35	P185/70R13-16	23.23
P185/60R13-17	22.09	P185/70R13-17	24.86
P185/70R14	24.41	P205/70R14	48.22
P185/70R14-15	35.75	P185/70R15	40.89
P185/70R15	37.86	P205/70R15	47.34
P185/70R16	39.18	P205/70R16	52.97
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P225/70R18	47.47	P225/70R18	54.81

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P225/75R14-23	50.99	P225/75R14-24	51.99	P225/75R14-25	52.99
P225/75R14-26	53.99	P225/75R14-27	54.99	P225/75R14-28	55.99
P225/75R14-29	56.99	P225/75R14-30	57.99	P225/75R14-31	58.99
P225/75R14-32	59.99	P225/75R14-33	60.99	P225/75R14-34	61.99
P225/75R14-35	62.99	P225/75R14-36	63.99	P225/75R14-37	64.99
P225/75R14-38	65.99	P225/75R14-39	66.99	P225/75R14-40	67.99
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P225/75R14-65	92.99	P225/75R14-66	93.99	P225/75R14-67	94.99
P225/75R14-68	95.99	P225/75R14-69	96.99	P225/75R14-70	97.99
P225/75R14-71	98.99	P225/75R14-72	99.99	P225/75R14-73	100.99
P225/75R14-74	101.99	P225/75R14-75	102.99	P225/75R14-76	103.99
P225/75R14-77	104.99	P225/75R14-78	105.99	P225/75R14-79	106.99
P225/75R14-80	107.99	P225/75R14-81	108.99	P225/75R14-82	109.99
P225/75R14-83	110.99	P225/75R14-84	111.99	P225/75R14-85	112.99
P225/75R14-86	113.99	P225/75R14-87	114.99	P225/75R14-88	115.99
P225/75R14-89	116.99	P225/75R14-90	117.99	P225/75R14-91	118.99
P225/75R14-92	119.99	P225/75R14-93	120.99	P225/75R14-94	121.99
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RED HAT

Club stresses greeting life with verve, humor

By Jami Whitte
Times-News writer

GOODING — It all began with the "Queen Mother," Sue Ellen Cooper of Tucson, Ariz., reading a poem that sparked "a few women deciding to greet life in a middle age with verve, humor and class."

"We might as well join red-gloved hands and go for the gusto together," Cooper said. That ambition formed The Red Hat Society in Tucson several years ago. The society has since spread all the way to Gooding County.

The Red Hat Society is a worldwide organization for women age 50 and older who gather to socialize and for community service. Members wear purple outfits and red hats.

"Our society is a little more casual. Some of the women in other chapters are really dressy, with high heels, nylons, the whole bit," the Gooding chapter's "Queen Mum," Deborah Pauls said.

Pauls was a member of a

Become a 'Red Hat Mama'

The Gooding Red Hat Society's Red Hat Mamas meet once a month. For more information, call Deborah Pauls at 934-5003.

chapter in Jerome, but thought one was needed in Gooding so she and her cousin-in-law Joani Pauls, started one.

"At our first meeting there were only about five of us," Joani said. Now, the group has about 20 members and more attending meetings frequently.

"Every time someone joins, they have a friend that may be interested," Deborah added.

Members younger than 50 may join the group. But they have to wear a pink hat.

Red hats and purple outfits may not be the easiest things to find, but Deborah advises people to dig through parents' and grandparents' closets. She

wears felt hats, straw hats and a cloth face hat. She purchased material for a vest and jacket and cotton material to make a bag.

"I haven't been able to find a purple dress yet," she said.

Joani said she got a purple fleece coat for Christmas from her family.

"One member's husband dyed a straw hat red and then she put purple flowers and ribbons in it," she said. "Another member even wore a Santa Claus hat for the Christmas meeting."

Some local stores even sell Red Hat Society products like shirts, jewelry and other accessories.

There are several societies around the Magic Valley, and Deborah predicts that two or three different chapters in Gooding may pop up by spring.

"One group wants to play cards and one wants to travel to other areas," she said. "We have some members from Hagerman and Buhl, two from



Members of the Gooding Red Hat Society gather Jan. 22 for their monthly meeting.

Shoshone and one from Bliss."

"Gooding chapter meets once a month at different locations, mostly to socialize. "I'm not very active in the community and anymore it's easier to just stay home than go out and do something," Deborah said. "I've known these

women for years, but we don't see each other so I'm always looking forward to meeting with them every month and meeting other women."

Joani agreed. She grew up here and recently moved back into the house her grandparents built in 1947.

"It's a nice time to sit and just talk with friends without the pressures of projects. We can get our frustrations and new ideas," she said. "It's kind of neat for me, since I haven't been in town for a few years, to see people I knew when I was young and learn stories about my parents."

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Photo courtesy of Dietrich School

January Students of the Month at Dietrich School were from left, top row: Nicki Miller, Shanon McDaniel and Lindsey Shaw; bottom row: Lindy Bingham, Luke Hubert and Shasta Towne.

STORK REPORT

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Alesia Lellani McLean, daughter of Kristian Oyndra Whitehead of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005.

Ivan Acevedo Iregain, son of Patricia Dedios Acevedo and Luis A. Ortega of Twin Falls, was born Monday, Feb. 7, 2005.

Gannon Nicholas Denny, son of Brandi Michelle and Nicholee Kelly-Dossey of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Damien Chance Coleman, son of Nicholee Winter Dissanis and Nathaniel Bryan Coleman of Wendell, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Mekayla Lyn Koch, daughter of Delmarie Michelle and Rick Allen Koch of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Shirleen Noel Perkins,

daughter of Lois Jean and William Leon Perkins of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Alexis Mia Brandell, daughter of Juana Lucille and Brandell Davis Brandell of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Aubrey Rene Montgomery, daughter of Sarah Rebekah and William Lon Montgomery of Shoshone, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Halle Jo Cramer, daughter of Jennifer Jill and Cary John Cramer of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Jasmine Mirella Moser, daughter of Eva and Robert Moser of Buhl, was born Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2005.

Juan Ortiz, son of Angelica Villanueva and Juan Ortiz of Halley, was born Thursday, Feb. 10, 2005.

Cassia Regional Medical Center

Reagan Grace Davis, daughter of Jessica Ann and John Mallory Davis Jr. was born Dec. 31, 2004.

St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center

Cassidy Talyrn Boyd, son of Stacey and Chad Boyd of Shoshone, was born Saturday, Jan. 30, 2005.

Damien Ion Esteban Downard, son of Jeannette and Evan Downard of Halley, was born Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2005.

Andrew Pablo Linares, son of Denise and Richard Linares of Shoshone, was born Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005.

Christopher James Robinson, son of Ashley Robinson of

To announce a birth Send a copy of the birth certificate to: Jami Whitte The Community Page The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303 Or fax to: 734-6553. Deadline: noon Tuesday for Sunday's paper; and noon Friday for Tuesday's paper. More information? Call Jami at 735-3278

Belleuve, was born Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005. Maddox Partridge, son of Shelley Ut and Jason Partridge of Keetchum, was born Friday, Feb. 4, 2005.

KEY CLUB MEETS KIWANIS



Photo courtesy of MELANIE HRODOK

The Minico High School Key Club conducted its regular luncheon meeting for the Rupert Kiwanis Club. Key Club members attending were President Erin Roth, Halley Hansen, Sadie Eames, Gloria Turner, Karae Jurgensmeyer, Dayna Halverson, Joelle Poteat, Kami Wilson, Dani Anderson and Cattie Smith, Key Club adviser. Kiwanis sponsors the Key Club.

This is the week to practice 'Random Acts of Kindness'

By Trena Tegan
For The Times-News

RUPERT — Random acts of kindness are too few, says Hazel Peterman, organizer of Random Acts of Kindness Week in the Mini-Cassia area. "Anytime enough people need a little reminder to do small acts of kindness," she said.

Random Acts of Kindness week is Feb. 13-19. The Mini-Cassia group has asked local businesses to post reminders on their reader boards and in their business signs.

The movement began in 1995 with the goal of encouraging people to use kindness in their daily lives, all inspired by a book of stories about giving and receiving kindness from strangers.

Angelica Castro of Burley knows about such things. After

her family dined at a local restaurant, the cashier told her that a man who had left before them had paid their bill, as well. "We had no idea who he was, but we were so thankful," Castro said. "This is the heart of Random Acts of Kindness Week," Peterman said.

Kindness doesn't have to cost money, however. "Simply holding the door for



TRENA TEGAN/The Times-News

Sarah Bigelow, Tristram Rasmussen and Kenya Anderson, members of the Spartan Chronicle newspaper staff at Minico High School, prepare Valentine's treats and cards for distribution to teachers and staff at the school for Random Acts of Kindness Week.

someone or allowing the mother with a cranky child to go in front of you at the checkout stand are great ways to show kindness," Peterman said. "We

hope that by reminding people once a year about random acts of kindness that they will carry it with them and continue in the spirit for the rest of the year."

Coin club watches video about collector coins

PAUL — The Empty Pockets Coin and Currency Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Paul City Hall meeting room, 152 S. 600 W.

A video titled, "Morgan Dollar Analyzing," which deals with grading the condition of coins, market circles affecting the value and availability of coins and things to watch for while buying coins, will be shown. Morgan dollars were minted from 1878 to 1921. Anyone interested in learning more about Morgan dollars, or collecting coins or currency is invited to attend.

For information, call David Iyzak at 678-3938.

Car magnets sale benefits Relay For Life

BURLEY — Relay for Life car magnets are on sale from the

Mini-Cassia Relay For Life committee team.

The cost is \$5. All proceeds will go toward the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Magnets are available at the team captains meetings or by calling 431-2400 or e-mail, mlkrc@cablone.net or mlkrc@cs31.k12.id.us

The next captains meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Heyburn Elementary School, 1434 17th St. New teams or potential teams are welcome.

Watercolor class is offered in Burley

BURLEY — Local artist Blaine Call will teach a "Working in Watercolor" class from 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 23 through March 16 at the College of Southern Idaho Mini-Cassia Center.

Students with watercolor experience will learn added techniques and skills. The

course is \$40. Students must supply their own paints, brushes and paper.

For more information, call 678-1400.

City of Rupert offers tree care workshop

RUPERT — A tree care workshop led by plant experts will be held from 10:45 a.m. to noon Saturday at the McGregor Building at the Mindoka County Fairgrounds, 85 E. Baseline Road.

Registration is at 8:45 a.m. At 9 a.m. is pruning and espalier woody ornamentals and fruit trees. At 10 a.m. is tree planting, proper spacing and trees for windbreaks. At 10:45 a.m. is a break and door prizes. At 11 a.m. will be utility, public and wildlife friendly trees.

The cost is \$10 for those who pre-register and \$15 at the door. Space is limited.

For more information, call

Gerry Bates, community forestry assistant, at 522-5964, by fax at 529-0832, or by e-mail at gbates@cablone.net or Gina Sutton, Advisory Tree Committee, at 435-1577 or by e-mail at gsutton@cablone.net.

T.F. man celebrates 90th birthday on Friday

TWIN FALLS — Gail Diamond will celebrate his 90th birthday on Friday.

Diamond was born Feb. 18, 1915, in Mankato, Kan., to Fred and Anna Diamond. He came in Twin Falls in 1927 and later moved to Port Angeles, Wash., where he finished school and joined the Navy. He served on

submarines for 26 years; received several awards, including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star; and served in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars. He is a member of the Twin Falls Shrine Club.

He and his wife, Dorothy, have four children, nine grand-children and seven great-grandchildren.

Friends and relatives are welcome to visit on Friday at 450 Pole Line Road, No. 128. Cards and phone calls are also welcome.

Dog obedience classes are offered by CSI

RUPERT — The College of Southern Idaho Mini-Cassia Center is offering dog obedience classes from 7-8 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 23 through April 25 at the Mindoka County Fairgrounds, 85 E. Baseline Road.

Dogs must be current on distemper complex and parvo virus shots. Owners attend with their dogs for the first class.

The cost of the course is \$40. For more information, call 678-1400.

Parkinson's Support Group meets today

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Parkinson's Support Group will meet at 7 p.m. today at the KMYT Community Room, 1100 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. Physical therapist David Hildgen will discuss physical therapy and body balance. For more information, call

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WORLD

Lebanese former prime minister is assassinated

BEIRUT, Lebanon - A powerful bomb assassinated a former prime minister Monday, carving a 30-foot hole in a street and turning armored cars into burning wrecks - devastation that harked back to Lebanon's violent past and raised fears of new bloodshed in the bitter dispute over Syria, the country's chief power broker.

The blast wounded 100 people and killed 10, including the main target Rafik Hariri, a billionaire businessman who helped rebuild Lebanon after its civil war, but had recently fallen out with Syria.

The United States called the attack "a terrible reminder" that Lebanon still must shake free of occupation by Syria - the neighbor that keeps 15,000 troops here and influences virtually all key political decisions.

Syria denied any role and condemned the assassination.

Fire at a mosque in Tehran kills at least 59

TEHRAN, Iran - A fire raged through a crowded mosque in Tehran during evening prayers Monday after a female worshiper's veil caught the flames of a kerosene heater, killing at least 59 people, and injuring more than 250, Iran's official news agency reported.

The Arg Mosque was filled with about 400 worshippers, more crowded than usual because this is the Islamic month of Muharram.

Panicked people raced for the doors and smashed windows to escape the blaze, leaving burned shoes and women's black chador scarves scattered in the mosque yard. The mosque walls were charred, carpets were burned and religious books, including the Quran, were destroyed.

Women, who pray on the second floor of the mosque, separated from the men, had to race down stairs and through a narrow doorway to exit. Many stumbled and were trampled in the frenzied stampede to escape.

Hospital records showed that 40 of those killed and the majority of the injured were women.

World in brief

Gas explosion in Chinese coal mine kills 203

SHANGHAI, China - A gas explosion at a coal mine in northeastern China has killed at least 203 miners, the government said Tuesday.

The blast Monday afternoon at the Sujawan mine of the Fuxin Coal Industry Group left an additional 22 workers injured and 13 trapped underground, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The cause of the blast, which occurred 794 feet underground in the Liaoning province, was under investigation, the news agency said.

China's mines are by far the world's deadliest, with floods, explosions and fires taking the lives of more than 6,000 people in 2004.

Gaza crowd welcomes bodies of 15 militants

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip - Crowds of Palestinians greeted a convoy of ambulances bringing home the bodies Monday of 15 militants killed in clashes with Israelis - an Israeli gesture understood by Gazans as the first concrete benefit of a new truce.

While Gazans were celebrating this boost for Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who is trying to prevent militants from sabotaging the cease-fire, Israeli troops in the volatile West Bank city of Hebron shot and killed a Palestinian they said tried to stab a soldier.

On Thursday, the last time a Palestinian was killed by Israeli forces, the militant group Hamas fired dozens of mortars and rockets on Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, endangering the truce declared Feb. 8. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad militant group have since pledged to halt attacks against Israel but have stopped short of accepting the truce announced by Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Agency's report suggests Calro up front on nukes

VIENNA, Austria - Egypt's nuclear experiments were small, basic and do not appear part of an attempt to make weapons, the U.N. atomic monitoring agency said Monday, praising Cairo's cooperation with an investigation of the country's now mothballed clandestine activities.

The report, compiled by the International Atomic Energy Agency, made clear that investigations will continue into the atomic research that stretched back four decades and ended as recently as five years ago.

Still, the summary, released to the diplomats accredited to the agency and leaked to The Associated Press, went some way in dispelling concerns that, faced with potential threats from Israel and Iran, Egypt had exploded developing nuclear arms.

Cruise ship briefly runs into trouble in storm

MADRID, Spain - A fierce storm in the Mediterranean knocked out the engines of a Spanish cruise ship Monday, prompting Spanish and French authorities to launch a rescue operation that proved unnecessary when the crew got the vessel going again within hours.

The Voyager, with more than 700 people aboard, was battered by waves up to 26 feet and high winds for more than two hours as it sailed south of the island of Menorca, according to the French maritime prefect in Toulon, Adm. Jean-Marie Van Huffel.

Several people were slightly injured on the ship, he said. Because the ship's crew restarted one engine, however, it was not considered necessary to evacuate the passengers or crew. The Voyager was diverted from its route toward the island of Sardinia, the nearest acceptable port.

Pressure mounts on king to restore democracy

KATMANDU, Nepal - Nepal

came under mounting international pressure Monday over the king's dismissal of the government and suspension of civil liberties earlier this month.

The United States recalled its ambassador for consultations on the crisis. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in a statement that Ambassador James Moriarty will confer with administration officials in Washington for a week, then return to Nepal.

"We remain deeply troubled by developments in Nepal," Boucher said, adding the king needs to "restore and protect civil and human rights, promptly

release those detained under the state of emergency and move quickly toward the restoration of civil liberties."

King Gyanendra has justified his power grab as necessary to restore order and combat a communist insurgency.

Japanese teen kills teacher with knife

TOKYO - A 17-year-old boy armed with a sashimi knife stabbed a teacher to death and wounded two other adults Monday at his former elementary school, then stood in the faculty lounge and smoked a cigarette with the bloody blade

still in his hand. No students were injured in the attack, the latest in a series of rampages in Japan involving knives and children.

Police said the teen, who refused to talk after his arrest, used the 8-inch knife usually reserved for cutting raw fish. Such blades are extremely sharp and are normally only accessible to trained chefs.

Terrified teachers watched the boy from the edges of the faculty room where he was found, as he held the knife in one hand and a cigarette in the other, said a police spokesman, Isao Noda.

- compiled from wire reports

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RESTAURANT: Dishwasher, Part-time with full-time possible... Apply in person at The Travelers Oasis, north of the Hansen Birch...

RESTAURANT: Experienced Waitperson, or counter person... Flexi-hr. schedule, apply in person at Fratelli Thai Cuisine 422 2nd Ave. E.

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TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1,450 sq. ft. w/ pool... \$179,000. Call 208-731-3612

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,600 sq. ft. home... \$179,000. Call 208-731-3612

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TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,600 sq. ft. home... \$179,000. Call 208-731-3612

TWIN FALLS 4+ bdrm., 1 1/2 bath, 1,600 sq. ft. home... \$179,000. Call 208-731-3612

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,600 sq. ft. home... \$179,000. Call 208-731-3612

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TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,600 sq. ft. home... \$179,000. Call 208-731-3612

TWIN FALLS 4 bedroom 2 bath, 2 living rooms, 268 sq. ft. on 1/4 acre... \$134,900 208-1306

TWIN FALLS 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath 2 living rooms, 2500 sq. ft. gas heat, AC,

513 ACREAGE AND LOTS

CAREY Building lot in N. Caray city limits, 2.34 acres, \$79,000. Beautiful view, underground power, electricity and road put in. Call 208-333-0369 after 4:00 pm.

WENDELIN Moved. Beautiful lot, 1/3 acre, 9 or 11 a/c. Call 1-855-303-3042.

514 INCOME PROPERTY

TWIN FALLS Owner sells nice w/ret. house/shop bldg. Monthly tenant makes payments. 734-2347.

515 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

BURLEY 3 acres, 14,500 sq. ft. shop office, Ext 208 on golf course. 208-303-6047 or 208-677-2222.

TWIN FALLS Vacant land. Approximately 28,750 square feet. For sale by owner. Call 208-738-4813.

516 VACATION TIME SHARES

ROCK CREEK CANYON 2 acres, close to forest service, surrounded by BLM, yr. round spring, unlimited recreation, potential wind farm. \$1,195 per acre. 423-4444.

518 MOBILE HOMES

BUHL & JEROME newer, manufactured homes for sale with 2 bedrooms, fenced yard, storage shed, very clean. Call 324-7944 or 208-0121.

RENTALS

THE TIMES-NEWS Classified Department Representatives are available from 8:00am - 5:30 pm Monday - Friday

601 FURNISHED HOMES

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, North Pointe area. \$1,800 month. Call 208-735-1252.

602 UNFURNISHED HOMES

BUHL 2 bedroom, no pet, retrofitted. Call 543-8087 or 731-5584.

FILER 2 bdrm., house plus finished basement, \$550, 280-0214.

GODDING 2 bdrm., 2 bath, pellet stove, W/D hookups, storage, washer-incld. \$500 mo. Call 208-934-8560.

GODDING 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, 1200 sq. ft. Call 208-934-8560.

HAGERMAN 2 bdrm., 2 bath, W/D, garage, on the river with covered pool. Call 208-336-6765.

HAGERMAN 3 bdrm., 2 bath, W/D hook-ups, fireplace, \$600 mo. Call 208-336-1456.

HANSEN 3 bdrm., storage, 5550 + \$525 dep. 130 2nd Street. Call 731-4952 or 326-4046.

HANSEN 2 bdrm., no smoking, no pets, 4 car garage, 5350 dep. Call 423-5445 or 423-5566.

HAGERMAN 3 bdrm., 2 bath, W/D hook-ups, fireplace, \$600 mo. Call 208-336-1456.

JEROME 2 bdrm. mobile home in country. No pets. Call 208-324-8294 or 208-731-1212.

JEROME 3 bdrm., garage, fenced yard, tile, spa, \$600 mo. Call 208-324-8294.

JEROME 3 bedroom, 1 bath, recently remodeled. \$650 mo. Call 735-8849.

JEROME Nice clean 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, \$525 mo. Call 208-339-9828.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, \$500 mo. Call 208-339-9828.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, \$525 mo. Call 731-6460.

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TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, \$525 mo. Call 731-6460.

TWIN FALLS, Buhl & Kimberly 2 bedroom, 1 bath homes, \$500 month + deposit. Call 208-316-0066.

WHO can help YOU rent your rental? Classifieds Can! 733-0931 ext. 2

Classifieds Can!

733-0931 ext. 2 twndad@times-news.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby notified that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of a violation, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

603 FURNISHED DUPLEXES

JACKPOT, NV. Tired of the commute? The area is hot, modern, spacious, \$365 a month. Call 735-755-2200.

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm., 1 bath, 2 car garage, \$525 mo. Call 208-339-9828.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, \$525 mo. Call 208-339-9828.

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 car garage, \$525 mo. Call 208-339-9828.

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JEROME New four plex, 3rd floor, 1 bdr., appl., W/D hookups, AC, non smoking, \$400 mo. Call 208-333-0369.

JEROME nice clean 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, appl. \$485 mo. Call 2744 or 423-1011.

JEROME nice, clean, 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, appl. \$565 mo. Call 208-1011 or 324-2744.

KIMBERLY 3 bdrm., 2 bath, DW, AC, garage, \$660 month + \$250 dep. Call 208-333-0369.

KIMBERLY Large, clean 1 bdrm apt. \$335 mo. \$250 dep. Avail. now. 423-6792.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm., 1 bath apt. W/D, \$550 mo. + dep. Call 208-333-0369.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm., 1 bath apt. W/D, \$550 mo. + dep. Call 208-333-0369.

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ACROSS 1 Injection

5 Unspecified amount

9 Catapults

14 Day segment

15 Prayer ender

16 Allow in

17 Green Gables

18 Peggy and Brenda

19 Daddy's mate

20 Sodium

21 Traditional knowledge

22 Take-for-granted

23 Gather

24 Pathetic

29 Simpson judge

30 Jockey's controls

31 Lauu staple

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37 Complains

Monday's Puzzle Solved grid with numbers 1-37 in a 10x10 grid.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

Word search grid with words like AWAKE, SAVOR, BACON, SAVER, TOO, ORONO, PLAYROOMS, LACES, EDG, GAPS, TBONE, NOT ALL THERE, ADOES, DOE, SUDAN, HYSOON, CASE, SUMO, OUTRAGE, ALE, ALTAR, EPEE, MRS, PASTE, IS, SAAC, PEN, CONTRANSISTORS, ORBIT, SEAS, LEI, NIECE, SPLASHER, GORES, EAT ABOVE, ANGST, SLY, MOVES.

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

JUMBLE word game section with words GEDUN, NOPETT, NAYYAW and a cartoon illustration.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: GEDUN THEM

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALIVE SAVOR BLITHE KNIGHT

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TWIN FALLS Quiet, nice, upstairs 1/2 bdrm., 1 bath, W/D hookups, \$430/mo. Secure build, \$250 dep. No pets/smoking. 420-9555.

TWIN FALLS Office and retail 520-528 sq. ft. Several locations. Hammack Management. 208-734-4339.

608 COMMERCIAL RENTALS

LARGE WAREHOUSE Food grade, rail siding Apex Warehouse. Call 208-735-1022.

610 STORAGE & WAREHOUSES

Storage Containers 20' & 40' available. Delivered to your home, business or construction site. APEX CONTAINER INC. 208-733-1022

616 ROOMMATES WANTED

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm., 1 bath, 2 car garage, \$525 mo. Call 208-339-9828.

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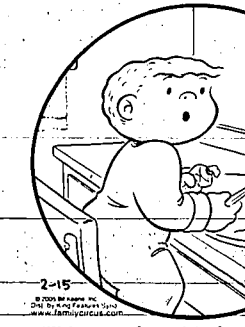
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



"I'd never forget to brush my teeth if they had chocolate toothpaste."

704 PETS & PET SUPPLIES

QUEENSLAND Heeler pups, purebred, working parents on site... COCKER SPANIEL female, 4 mo. old, chocolate brown and white, \$300 with pads...

VALVE OPENERS

Used and new valve openers for all sizes valves. Also assortment of hand tools...

WATER RIGHTS

Share in water right in the Snake River Basin. Also assortment of hand tools...

ANTIQUE SILVER

Large collection of antique silver including trays, bowls, plates, and more...

DINING ROOM SET

Beautiful oak dining room set including table, chairs, and benches...

MATTRESS SET

Full size mattress set with box spring and new cover...

CARPET WITH PAD

Large area of carpet with padding for sale...

MISCELLANEOUS

Various household items including tools, furniture, and more...

PIANO UPRIGHT

Upright piano in good condition, ready for sale...

STUDENT VIOLINS

Several student violins available for sale at a discount...

FREE COCKER SPANIEL

Free Cocker Spaniel puppy, good looking home, 326-4017...

FREE YORKIE PUPPIES

Free Yorkie puppies for sale, 4 months old, 326-4017...

FREE BUNDOLE CRASS

Free Bundole Crass, need a new home in the country, 326-4017...

FREE FREE PINEAPPLES

Free pineapples, need 2 kites to good home, Kimberly Pet Care Clinic, 423-6860...

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612 AUCTIONS & AUCTIONEERS. Check Out The Magic Valley Section D of The Times-News for the auction calendar, everyday and Online at www.magicvalley.com

612 JEWELRY. DIAMOND RING gold, elegant band new \$2,400, will sell for \$1,200/offer. Cash only. 208-678-7734.

612 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. PIANO Antique 1999, good cond., needs tuning. 208-446-5555. Call on Saturday.

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612 ELECTRONICS. THE TIMES-NEWS Classified Department Classified Service Representatives are available from 8:00am - 5:30 pm Monday - Friday

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612 FIREWOOD. FIREWOOD seasoned 2 years old, cut and split, delivered and stacked. Call 208-325-0397.

WANTED Brittany Spaniel puppy, female. Call 208-734-4212. WANTED TO BUY new or used wood shop, good condition & reasonable price. Call 208-678-3775.

WANTED Old gas pumps or gas station items. Top money paid. Tony 208-678-0274. WANTED Handicapped scooter carrier that would fit back of car equipped on receiver. Call 208-324-4721 or 208-539-4721.

WANTED TO BUY 19-22 ft. self contained trailer for or trailer full sized pickup shell. 208-733-1003. WANTED TO BUY A '73-'74 Dodge Charger - runner or runner rear bumper & bumper tires. 466-4470.

WANTED TO BUY A '73-'74 Dodge Charger - runner or runner rear bumper & bumper tires. 466-4470. Looking for extra vacation money? The classes can help you. Items you no longer need for quick cash. 733-0931

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901 So. Lincoln, Jerome

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ARCTIC CAT '99 700PS, low miles, exc. cond., 2 place drive on/off partially enclosed trailer, \$3,800 or best offer. Call 208-326-6519 leave message.

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ARCTIC CAT '04 TM 900, High performance power, cam, head and reeds. Lots of power \$5900/offer. Yamaha '94 700RMS, \$2,900. Call 219-9455 days or 431-5967 nights.

POLARIS '94 (2) 440 Light, low miles, '91 500SP with extras. Snow machine trailer, 3 place w/straps. All in excellent condition. \$6,000/offer. Call 208-306-1979.

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POLARIS '03 RINK600 151" track, ceramic coated, SLP pipes, Ryd FX Pro snow shucker, 600 miles, exc. cond., \$5,900. Call 208-731-0700.

SKI-DOO '03 Summit 600HO, 144 in track, 1137 miles, exc. cond. \$4,500. Call 208-678-3100 or 312-0468.

YAMAHA '87 Phazer, good condition, snow engine, new long track, \$750/offer. Please call 420-1555.

906 TRAVEL TRAILERS

MOBILE SCOUT '97 34' excellent cond. 2 slides, \$16,000/offer. Call 208-731-0778 or 208-490-1781 Gary contained, \$1200. Call 208-861-312.

SPRINGDALE '01 27 foot, slide-out. AC, bunk beds, sleeps (9). Call 208-829-5946.

907 UTILITY TRAILERS

UTILITY TRAILER 4x6, tool, very nice. New hitch, wiring, lights, tires, wheels & paint job. Ideal for snow machine, motorcycle, or toys or best offer. \$700 or best offer. Call 208-731-6695.

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908 SNOW VEHICLES

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GREY small black engine parts for sale. All ready machined. Call 208-736-1575.

CHRYE, Holly 4160 600 cm 4bbl like new, \$200 in hand. K&K digital camera, DC210, \$100. Call 208-735-9939.

ENGINE 1987 Chevy 396, runs strong, 60K miles on rebuilt, runs hear, 9550. Call 208-280-0345.

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JEEPSTER '70 Comancha, 2x4, 3 spd. Hard and soft top, runs good, \$3,000/offer. Call 208-450-2323.

RANGER '71 250 6 cyl., 3 spd, new paint, upholstery, tires & chrome w/he els. \$3800/offer. 735-7284.

1005 SEMIS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

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EQUIPMENT '99 Case 5805, backhoe, exc. cab, extendo, AC, 4500 hrs, \$32,500, 78 mph, PTO, 4 wheel loader, 50% trucker, \$29,500, 84.530 drosser, 3 yard loader, \$25,500, 208-437-0966 or 208-406-6357.

JD 510D Backhoe, 2 buckets, extra hydraulic, 1200 hrs, \$18,500, Call 208-726-2874 or 720-3372.

WESTERN '95 Commodity truck, 5 door, 4x4, & belts. Will unload pressed pulp. Must sell. Call 731-9929.

1006 TRUCKS

DODGE '91 Ram 150, ext. cab, 88K, full power, complete, low pile, fiberglass shell, exc. shape inside to offer. Must See to appreciate \$8,000. 733-4891 420-2195.

DODGE '99 Ram, 3/4 ton diesel. Now rebuilt engine with 20 miles on it. Edge 5 stage power chip, engine block, 100 gallon fuel tank, 4x4, 1100 hrs, 4x4 & row tires, \$21,000. Call 208-308-5713.

DODGE '00 quad cab pickup, 45K, 3/4 ton, 4x4, 1100 hrs, 4x4 & row tires, \$21,000. Call 208-308-5713.

DODGE '01 dually, diesel, good cab, 5 door, exc. cond., \$24,500/offer. Call 736-9166.

DODGE '01 RAM 2500 HD, ext. cab, 4x4, 5.9L, turbo diesel, SLT, custom wheels & air, 117900LA, \$22,988. Call 324-3900.

901 South Lincoln, Jerome

FORD '88 1/2 ton 2WD, long box, V8, auto, AC + more. Only \$1999.

733-8099 or 734-3800.

CHEVY '91 Crew cab, 2WD, 4dr, runs great, \$1200. Call 208-431-2273.

CHEVY '95 1/2 ton, 4x4, reg. cab pickup, Goosenack and recovery hitch, \$5000. Call 208-678-9607.

CHEVY '95 S10 extended cab, New wheels, tires & shock, 4.3 Liter V6, 135K, \$4,500/offer. Call 208-731-6695.

CHEVY '98 1500, ext. cab, high miles, new engine, new trans., runs exc., \$7,000. Call 208-431-2273.

CHEVY '99 Extended cab, 1500, extended cab, 18 in. chrome trim, \$13,500. Call Rick 733-0600 or 738-1003.

CHEVY '01 Silverado, 1500, extended cab, V8, 5.3L, 104K, excellent condition, \$15,500. Call 208-731-6695.

CHEVY '01 Silverado, 1500, quad pkg, tow pkg., 4 door, 43K, low miles, \$15,500. 734-3750.

CHEVY '04 Silverado LS, ext. cab, 4x4, 5.3, auto, PW, CD, 23,742 miles, \$24,988. # 3 2 0 5 4 A, Call 324-3900.

901 S Lincoln, Jerome

DODGE '92 Dakota, 6 cylinder, 2WD, new paint, low miles, excellent condition, \$11,750. Mike (208) 309-4895.

DODGE '93 Dakota Club Cab LE, Mint Sound, wheel loader, Camper shell, tow pkg., bad liner, 90K, \$5995/offer. 420-30577.

GMC '98 4x4, new motor & trans, extended cab, 208-208-1492.

GMC '93 4x4, ext. cab, 8 bed Special Edition, Michelin tires, remote start, unlock, lights, Runs great, best offer in 10 days. Call 413-6005.

GMC '96 4x4, ext. cab, 8 bed Special Edition, Looks, runs great in college, must sell! \$8700/offer. 423-5900.

GMC '93 Sierra 1500 SLE, ext. cab, 4x4, 2 door, PW, PTO, CD, 12,009 miles, #183919, \$22,988. Call 324-3900.

901 S. Lincoln, Jerome

MAZDA '99 SES Cab, 4 door, 4x4, 110000 miles, AC, CD, player, camper shell, bad liner, alloy wheels, 56K, Perfect condition, \$8,995, 208-602-2222.

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1008 SUV'S

CHEVROLET '95 Suburban, third seat, 4x4, 110K, runs great. Was \$7995, now \$5495.

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CHEVY '87 Blazer, 4 WD, rebuilt engine, \$1,500, 208-637-6833.

CHEVY '93 Suburban, 4x4, 4.8, 500 offer. MUST SELL! Call 324-8350 or 308-1152.

FORD '96 F-250, 4 door, powersteering, SWB, loaded, 108K, lift, custom grill, bumper, new tires, powerpwrch, gutters, exhaust, tires, Ryno-80 Liner, M&L, 4x4, 84,500 offer. 878-8874 or 800-574-1248

FORD '99 F-150 Sport Side 4x4, only 58K miles, \$10,995.

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

FORD '94 F150 extended cab, 4x4 XLT 351 V8, one owner, auto + low miles.

732-8099 or 734-3800.

FORD '02 Ranger, Edge Plus, 4x4, exc. cond., 208-735-2665 or 208-731-3339.

FORD '04 Lariat F350 crew cab, long bed, 4x4, power 4 door, 30K, exc. condition, \$34,500, 539-4819.

GMC '98 4x4, new motor & trans, extended cab, 208-208-1492.

GMC '93 4x4, ext. cab, 8 bed Special Edition, Michelin tires, remote start, unlock, lights, Runs great, best offer in 10 days. Call 413-6005.

GMC '96 4x4, ext. cab, 8 bed Special Edition, Looks, runs great in college, must sell! \$8700/offer. 423-5900.

GMC '93 Sierra 1500 SLE, ext. cab, 4x4, 2 door, PW, PTO, CD, 12,009 miles, #183919, \$22,988. Call 324-3900.

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FORD '99 F-150 Sport Side 4x4, only 58K miles, \$10,995.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2005

THE ACES ON BRIDGE
Bobby Wolff

"The monster is never just there where we think he is. What is truly monstrous is our cowardice and sloth."
- Henry David Thoreau

Today's deal, taken from a new book, "The Monster Book of Basic Declarer Play," is a relatively simple exercise in percentages. That is normally an off-putting statement, I know; but bear with me, and I think you will not find the calculations too threatening!

You play four spades on the lead of the club queen. The first thing you should realize is that if you take the opening lead and draw trumps, a second round of clubs will leave you with four top losers: Time for Plan B!

The simple scheme is to win the opening lead in hand and play a diamond, trying to find the diamond ace aside, in which case the diamond king will take care of your third club from hand. That line, but can you do better?

Indeed you can! You must carefully win the opening lead in dummy and lead the heart queen. The defense will do best to duck, then win the next heart and lead another club, but now you can play the king or jack of hearts, discarding a club from the table. For this plan to succeed, you only need the hearts to break 4-3 (or for a player with the doubtless heart to have to ruff in with the singleton spade ace). Your combined chances of success add up to very nearly two-thirds. Would you not rather play that line instead?

"The Monster Book of Basic Declarer Play" can be purchased at www.chrysalisbooks.co.uk

FORD '91 Bronco, rebuilt engine, runs great, needs some work. Call 208-388-1999.

GMC '85 Suburban, 350, A.T., 4x4, runs great, \$1,500 or best offer. 208-544-7071.

GMC '88 Suburban 4x4, great cond., runs great, 116K, \$3,350. Call 208-420-9140.

GMC '99 Suburban, loaded, leather, DVD, under \$10,000. Call 732-6059 or 731-6871.

ISUZU '95 Rodeo, V-6, AT, 4x4, AC, CD, 112K. New tires. Great shape. \$3,900. Call 308-2509 or 352-4274.

JEEP '84 Grand Wagoneer, every option, always garaged. A must see! Needs like 11, 102,000 miles. \$6,000. 420-2323.

MITSUBISHI '04 Outlander, LS, AW5D, only 9K miles, \$16,750.

JEEP '86 Wagoneer, 350 V8, new AT, lots of new parts, good cond., \$1,750, 735-1181 or 208-478-5889.

NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT?
Call 733-1881 today. 1-800-Car-Loan

1009 VANS & BUSES

CHEVY '90 Conversion, very good cond. AC, PS, 100 miles, new trans, runs exc. \$1,800, 208-431-2273.

CHEVY '92 full size van with great stereo, 17,000 miles, very clean, \$3,995. Call 420-3036.

GMC '95 Astrovan, V-6, 4.3L, AT, RWD, AC, PS, 100 miles, tinted windows, towing pkg., 100,750 miles \$2200/offer. 208-326-4844.

CHRYSLER '90 LX Town & Country, loaded, 60K, garaged. 2 owner, \$3,500. Call 208-734-5072.

FORD '92 club wagon, AT, AC, PS, AC, 3 passenger, \$2,995.

FORD '93 Club Wagon Chateau, AT, 5.8L, loaded, 69K, \$4,500. Call 208-731-3933.

FORD '03 E350 XLT 12 passenger, Club wagon, V10, 23K, AC, PS, 100 miles, tinted rear, AC, CD, cass, running boards, like new, \$17,500, 736-4641 or 420-1055.

NORTH 02-15-A
▲ Q 10 8 7 5
▲ Q 2
▲ K 9 4
▲ 8 6 3

WEST
▲ A
▲ 7 6 3
▲ J 7 6 2
▲ Q J 10 8

EAST
▲ 4 3
▲ A 10 9
▲ A Q 10 5 3
▲ 8 6 3

SOUTH
▲ K J 9 6 2
▲ K J 5 4
▲ 8
▲ A 4 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ All pass

Opening lead: Club queen

BID WITH THE ACES
02-15-B

South holds:
▲ K J 9 6 2
▲ K J 5 4
▲ 8
▲ A 4 2

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

ANSWER: Bid four spades. This may be a good contract, or it may be a poor contract. All depends upon imponderables such as partner's fit for hearts. Whenever you

BUICK '93 Park Avenue, runs great, gray. \$3000. Call 208-733-2545.

CADILLAC '92 Deville, 122K, excellent condition. \$2,850. 733-0394.

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Coming Wednesday

The Class 1A girls state basketball preview

The Times-News

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Section 1D

MORNING LINE SPORTSQUOTE

It's all horsepower. It's just a different exhaust system.

—Drag racer and former saddle bronc rider Eric Medlen on the similarities between his current ride and his former one.

TRIVIA

QUESTION:
Name the two players who comprised the "Twin Towers" for the Houston Rockets in the 1980s.

.....answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

High School
BOYS BASKETBALL
Magic Valley Northside
Tournament, Shoshone
Carey vs. Camas County,
7 p.m.
Great Basin Conference
West Tournament
Wood River at Jerome,
7:30 p.m.
Minico at Burley, 7:30 p.m.
SCIC Tournament
Filler at Declo, 7:30 p.m.
Kintner at Burley, 7:30 p.m.
Canyon Conference
Tournament
Valley at Wendell, 7:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Minico wrestling registration starts

REPORT — The Minico U.S.A. Freestyle and Greco Roman Wrestling Club will begin registration on Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. in the Minico High School wrestling room. Registration for the club is 5-18 hours. Parental supervision is required at each practice for all participants ages five through eight.

Cost will be \$10, which includes a shirt.
Participants must have a copy of their birth certificate and a guardian present to fill out all forms.

Participants must live in Minidoka County.
Practices will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6-7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Brad Cooper at (209) 436-1359 or Steve Barnes at (209) 436-0509.

Smith, Bratvold earn All-American nods

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls High School seniors Mike Smith and Amy Bratvold both received nominations for the 2005 McDonald's All American high school basketball team recently.

Smith and Bratvold are part of a group of 2,500 nationwide athletes nominated for the boys and girls teams. Each nominee will be considered for one of the total 40 spots on the two teams.

Both McDonald's All American games will be played at the Joyce Center at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind. The boys game is March 30 and will be broadcast live on ESPN at 6 p.m. The girls game precedes with a 3:30 p.m. tip time and will be broadcast on ESPN2 at 3 p.m. the following day.

Smith averages 11.1 points, 3.8 rebounds, and 4.4 assists per game for the 20-0 Bruins. Bratvold averages 15.3 points and 6.7 rebounds for the 20-4 Bruins girls team, who enter the Idaho Class 5A Girls Basketball State Tournament Thursday.

T.F. Legion parents meet Wednesday

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls American Legion parents will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16 in the Twin Falls High School small gym to discuss schedules and the annual auction.

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Ralph Sampson and Hakeem Olajuwon

Richfield steps up in win over Carey

By Kevin Colbert
Times-News writer

SHOSHONE — One player does not a team make.

The top-seeded Richfield boys basketball team proved that on Monday as the Tigers overcame foul trouble for star Victor Vasquez on the way to a 48-45 win over Carey to win the Magic Valley Northside Conference tournament and earn a state tournament berth.

Vasquez scored 17 points, subpar by his standards, but Richfield (20-2) received significant offensive production from seniors Tate Exon, who finished with 12 points, and Steven Ward, who netted eight.

"We always emphasize teamwork, and someone has to step up," Richfield coach Garr Ward said. "If one of our top players maybe gets into foul trouble, somebody has to step up and carry that load."

Second-seeded Carey (15-8) was in it right until the final buzzer.
After Vasquez sank two free throws in a one-and-one situation to give the Tigers a 48-45 lead, the Panthers had 7.6 seconds remaining in order to tie the game.

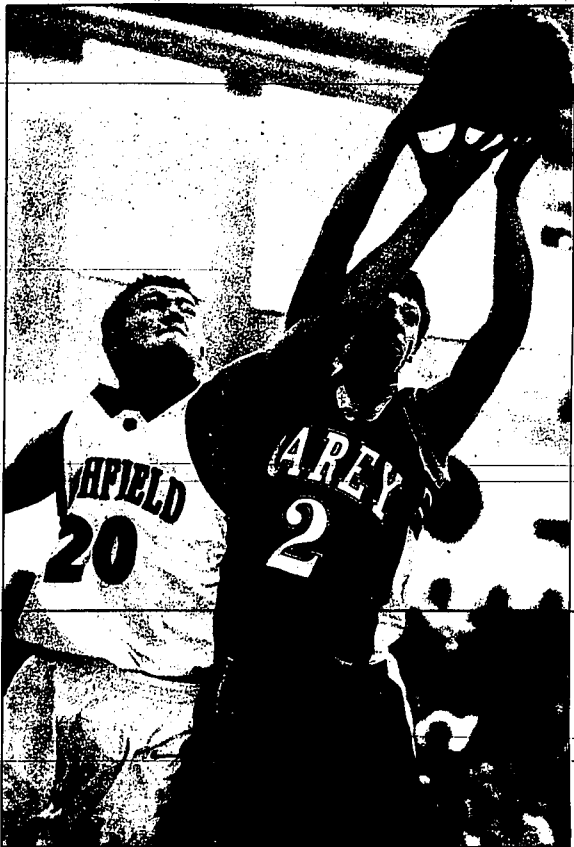
Allen Peck received a long inbound pass along the sideline in the frontcourt and quick dished the ball to teammate Tyler Cook. Cook, who had already hit six 3-point attempts and finished with a game-high 19 points, launched a 3-point attempt from the right corner, but the shot hit the front of the rim and fell harmlessly to the floor.

"They never put any real runs on us all night and we kept battling back," Carey coach Dick Simpson said. "I defended pretty well, I thought. If a few baskets at the end just would have gone in, we would've had the upper hand, maybe."

Vasquez picked up his second foul early in the second quarter and sat on the bench the rest of the way before halftime.

But Richfield didn't miss a step, as the Tigers turned an 18-17 lead into a 20-25 edge going into the break after a 3-pointer by Exon with two seconds remaining before the buzzer.

The second half was played just as close as the first, with Vasquez seeing a lot of time on the bench in the third quarter after picking up his third foul. Richfield led 39-34 after three quarters and held its



ASHLEY SMITH/The Times-News

Richfield's Harlie Amy, 20, battles for control of a rebound with Carey defender Brad Hunt during the second quarter of their Northside Conference Basketball Tournament game in Shoshone Monday. Richfield won the game 48-45.

largest lead at 42-37 after a Vasquez scoop shot with 4:24 left in the game.
Carey trimmed the deficit to

44-43 with 46 seconds left on the clock after Devin Simpson's off-balance layup.
But Vasquez came up big

down the stretch, twice nailing both ends of one-and-ones to all but put the game away.

Please see **NORTHSIDE**, Page D2

Tigers aim for Great Basin title

Great Basin Conference West Tournament

Tuesday's games
Wood River at Jerome,
7:30 p.m.
Minico at Burley, 7:30 p.m.

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

HEROME — Earning the top seed is nice. Keeping it is nicer.

After an exciting season spent defeating Great Basin Conference West foes, the 12-8 Jerome Tigers enter tonight's conference tournament action as the top seed. A 6-0 conference record gives Jerome a Round 1 home game against a 2-18 Wood River Wolverines team.

The Wolverines' season record may not sparkle, but the Tigers must take coach Fred Trelek's team seriously. The Tigers handed the Wolverines, 48-33 in the teams' first meeting, but eked out a 49-46 win in the second. Troy Tolman was the only Tiger to score in double figures in the second contest, leading all scorers with 14 points. Morgan Uhrig paced the Wolverines with 12.

The game was indicative of both teams' seasons. Rather than rely on one primetime scorer—the Tigers and Wolverines look for production across the board. Chance Craig, Zach Dietz and Brad Bueger are all capable scorers for the Tigers, while Harrison, Conrad Lee and Tolman are consistently good for six to 10 points each.

Trekles' Wolverines are primed to give the Tigers a battle tonight at 7:30. The Wolverines dropped their final two games of the season to Hillcrest and Blackfoot in a combined seven points. In both games, the Wolverines found

themselves on the receiving end of last-second shots that would lead to losses. Brady Fomling's play for the Wolverines was a bright spot in both games, as he scored 25 and 19 points and connected on a combined seven 3-pointers.

Tonight's other conference game pits the host Burley Bobcats against the Minico Spartans in yet another Minico-Gassia clash. It has been another hotly contested, though low scoring season se-

ries. The Bobcats took the first game 41-35, but dropped the second game 47-45 in double overtime. The 10-8 Bobcats finished 3-3 in conference behind the strong play of seniors Steve Elsensohn, Anthony Carlel, Kegan McCoy and Kyle Bernham.

The 8-12 Spartans will rely on strong inside play from seniors Kody Bingham and Matt Schenk. Though McCoy and

Please see **TOURNEY**, Page D2



The Jerome Tigers' Chance Craig, right, dribbles around Filer Wildcat guard David Ryan earlier this season.

Huskies hound Hagerman

By Diane Phibbin
Times-News writer

MURTAUGH — Most basketball teams have a go-to player. Coach Mike Pfeiffer was lucky to have two such players, seniors Matt Pearson and Kyle King.

In the Magic Valley Southside Conference state play-in game Monday night in Murtaugh, it was Pearson (16) to shine as he scored 21 points to lead Hansen over Hagerman 46-42 and a trip to state.

Pearson tallied all of the Huskies seven fourth quarter points as he was 5-of-7 at the free throw line and had a drive to the basket early in the quarter that gave the Huskies a ten-point lead at 42-32.

The first quarter ended tied, 12-12.
Hagerman junior standout Skyler Talbot picked up his second foul midway through the first quarter but stayed on the court.

"I knew Skyler would be careful about picking up his third foul," said Hagerman coach Kevin Gato.

After the teams traded baskets early in the second quarter, Hansen guard King intercepted a pass and had a breakthrough basket giving the Huskies a lead, 17-15 that the Huskies would never relinquish the remainder of the game—Hansen led 29-18 at the half.

It was a game of two halves as Hagerman won the second half scoring, 24-17. But the 11-point lead Hansen had built was too much to overcome.

Bryan Garcia and Kyle King each had eight points for Hansen.

"It was a total team effort," said Hansen coach Pfeiffer.

Dusty Vander knocked down four 3-pointers for 12 points and Talbot had eight points for Hagerman.

Tim Jay also scored eight points as he battled Pearson in the paint the entire game.

Hansen	Hansen 46, Hagerman 42
Points	177 (12) — 42
Rebounds	14 (12) — 12
Assists	14 (12) — 12
Steals	14 (12) — 12
Blocks	14 (12) — 12
Turnovers	14 (12) — 12
Minutes	14 (12) — 12
Field Goals	14 (12) — 12
Free Throws	14 (12) — 12
Three Pointers	14 (12) — 12
Penalty Points	14 (12) — 12
Technical Fouls	14 (12) — 12
Flagrant Fouls	14 (12) — 12
Timeouts	14 (12) — 12

Mickelson's even better



Phil Mickelson shoots to 'Spyglass Hill' Golf Course during the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in Pebble Beach, Calif.

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Phil Mickelson looks like a golfer in full flight.

One week, he shot 69 in Phoenix and went on to win by five shots. The next week, he shot 62 at Spyglass Hill, one of the most difficult golf courses in California, and sauntered to a four-shot victory in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

It was first time since 1996 that Mickelson had won back-to-back starts on the PGA Tour, and the first time in his 13 years on tour that he won in consecutive weeks.

Maybe it's time to hang a new label on him: the best player to have never been No. 1 in the world.

Mickelson is still No. 4 and has a ways to go before he catches up to Ernie Els, then Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh. The world ranking measures the last two years, and Lefty is still paying the price for 2003, his worst season on tour, when his best finish was a tie for third

and he wound up 38th on the money list.

"Last year was my first good year," Mickelson said. "If I have another full 12 months of good play out here, I should be able to get myself to where I could start thinking about it."

There is no reason to believe he won't.

Lefty has been on a roll since the start of 2003, with a few speed bumps along the way. One of those bumps came at the end of his amazing run through the majors. Mickelson was spent after devoting so much energy to the majors, a win at the Masters, second at the U.S. Open, third at the British Open and a tie for sixth in the PGA Championship — that he never came close to winning the rest of the year.

He also changed equipment, leaving Titleist for Callaway a week before the Ryder Cup, the timing of the change, along with his poor play at Oakland Hills, took some of the shine off his otherwise stellar season.

Now, he looks to be in the

Please see **MICKELSON**, Page D2

SPORTS

Vikings pillage Pilots

The Times-News

GLENNIS FERRY — Valley Vikings senior Joe Miller nailed a second touchdown pass to propel his team past host Glennis Ferry 44-42 in Monday night's opening round of the 2005 Canyon Conference Boys Basketball Tournament.

The Pilots tried to regroup for one last gasp effort, but time ran out as Glennis Ferry tried to inbound the ball.

Glennis Ferry's Scott Grilley drained his only 3-point shot of the game to tie the score at 42 with under a minute left in the contest.

Glennis senior guard Chad Andrews hit all scores with 16 points while Miller added 14.

Andy Crane paced the Pilots with 15 points and three 3-pointers, while Tanner Shrum added nine points.

The win moves the Vikings into today's Round 2 game at Wendell against the top seeded Trojans.

Glennis Ferry will wait until next Tuesday to take on the loser of the Valley versus Wendell game.

Filer 56, Gooding 33

FILER — The Filer Wildcats opened the 2005 Southwest Central Idaho Conference Boys Basketball Tournament with a 56-33 victory over the visiting Gooding-Senators Monday night.

David Ryan pumped in 17 points and Dan Bamberger 16 to lead Filer to the win and a Wednesday date with the top seeded Declo Hornets in Declo.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 17-0 lead after one quarter and salted the game away with a 22-10 third quarter.

Josh Morris led Gooding with 10 points. The Senators will wait until Feb. 17 to play the loser of today's Buhl versus Kimberly game.

Landmark purchase: Fowler to buy Vikings

By Dave Campbell The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Arizona businessman Reggie Fowler agreed to buy the Minnesota Vikings in a deal that would make him the NFL's first black owner.

Fowler declined to say how much he would pay for the team.

Published reports and a rival bidder, Timbervolves owner Glen Taylor, put the price at about \$625 million.

Owner Red McCombs had the team on the block since 2002. Taylor had offered about \$600 million, though some of



that money was contingent on a new stadium being built. If the league approves the deal, McCombs will make a huge profit — he paid \$216 million for the team in 1998.

Asked about becoming the league's first black owner, Fowler said Monday in a seeming contradiction — that he thought it was "a great thing" and not that big a thing.

He said race didn't figure in negotiations with McCombs. "I did not discount the price because of that," Fowler

said, laughing. NFL owners are to meet March 20-23 in Hawaii. League rules require 24 of the 32 owners to approve a sale.

The NFL also mandates that a general partner must put down 30 percent of the cash portion of any franchise purchase.

Fowler is a former University of Wyoming football player. He now owns Spiral Inc., a company that supplies grocery stores with bags, cups, containers, labels and janitorial supplies.

The Arizona Republic reported Saturday that Fowler's personal net worth is estimated at more than \$400 million — far less than Taylor's \$1.9 billion.

A survey of NFL team values by Forbes magazine last fall estimated the Vikings worth at about \$600 million.

Fowler sidestepped questions about his personal worth and ability to pull off the deal.

"My kids think I'm worth a lot," he said.

During McCombs' run, the Vikings have sold out every home game and made the playoffs four times in seven seasons — twice advancing to the NFC championship game.

But his popularity waned as he pushed harder for a new stadium, especially when he talked about moving the team to Los Angeles.

76ers nip Knicks on last second shot

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson made a nifty pass to Marc Jackson for the winning layup with a second left, and the Philadelphia 76ers moved back to 5-0 and into a tie for first place in the Atlantic Division with a 106-105 victory over the New York Knicks on Monday night.

The Knicks had one last chance, but Nur Muhammad's shot was off the mark and they lost for the eighth time in 10 games.

Iverson scored 38 points against New York. Jackson finished with 22 points on 10-for-14 shooting. Williamson had 19 and Kyle Korver 12.

Marbury led the Knicks with 32 points, and Jamal Crawford had 19.



Philadelphia 76ers point guard Allen Iverson reacts after Marc Jackson's game-winning basket sank the New York Knicks 106-105 Monday.

Trail Blazers 80, Bobcats 77

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Nick Van Exel hit a 29-foot desperation heave at the buzzer to give the Portland Trail Blazers an 80-77 win over the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night.

Van Exel was trapped near midcourt on the final possession before throwing a pass on the left sideline to Derek Anderson. He flipped the ball through a double-team back to Van Exel, who drained the off-balance 3-pointer from the left wing.

Joel Przybilla scored a career-high 19 points and added 17 rebounds.

Pistons 107, Bucks 83

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Rashund Wallace had 17 points

and 10 rebounds, leading the Detroit Pistons to a 107-83 rout of the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

Milwaukee was missing Michael Redd (finger) for the second game in a row. The Bucks had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Nets acquire Clifford Robinson from Warriors

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New Jersey Nets strengthened their front line Monday, acquiring veteran forward Clifford Robinson from the Golden State Warriors for two second-round draft picks.

Robinson has averaged 15.3 points, 4.8 rebounds and 2.4 assists in 16 NBA seasons. This season, he averaged 8.5 points and 2.7 rebounds in 42 games with Golden State, including 29 starts.

The Warriors will get the Clippers' second-round pick in the upcoming draft. Golden State also will get the Nets' 2007 second-round pick.

Northside

Continued from D1 — "My team gave me the confidence," Vasquez said. "I got fouled and they came up to me just like in practice. They said, 'Step up. Here you go. Just go up there and put them down.'"

Carey will now face the Community School at 7 tonight in a state play-in game in Shoshone.

Camas County 47, Community School 42

SHOSHONE — Third-seeded Camas County took its first lead since midway through the second quarter when it hit 23 seconds left in escaping with a 47-42 win over No. 4 Community School.

Camas County (15-5) forced a shot with full-court pressure and converted it into a Kyle Menck bucket with 23 seconds remaining to grab a 44-42 advantage.

The Community School (11-9) came up empty in its final

three possessions — and the Musersh connected on three of their last four free throw attempts to seal the win.

Tony Gonsales scored 14 points to lead Camas County while the Community School's Andrew Dursch led all scorers with 15.

Camas County 47, Community School 42
Camas County 15-5, Community School 11-9
Camas County 15-5, Community School 11-9
Camas County 15-5, Community School 11-9

Tourney

Continued from D1 — Holcomb junior Taylor Kerbis are solid spots, the Spartans seniors may hold a small advantage inside.

The key for Minico will be how well Michael Konrad, Cary Warburton and Kyle Straatman matchup against Burley's talented backcourt.

As for Konrad, Minico's backcourt is still fairly inexperienced.

Play begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Burley High School. Tournament play continues Thursday night with the championship semifinal game between tonight's winners and a loser-out game between the losers.

Times-News sports writer Eric Larsen can be reached at (208) 658-3883. Ext. 229, or elarsen@magivalley.com

Mickelson

Continued from D1 — same position he was last year — only better.

"When you're on a high, the game is pretty easy. And right now, that's what he's doing," Billy Andrade said. "He's a world-class player, he has been a great player since he was 5. So this isn't a big shock that he has all of a sudden elevated his game."

Mickelson finally got dialed into his new equipment, finding the right driver and club that allows him to go long and still have the touch-around-the-greens that has always defined his game. And after developing a strategy with swing coach Rick Sneed and short-game guru Dave Pelz, he now has a year of experience.

He has poured most of his attention into the scoring aspect of golf — 150 yards and in.

"When I started last year working on all the shots that were 150 yards and in, I had only been practicing for a month or two when I came here (Pebble) and played well, and when I came to La Costa (Match Play) and played well," Mickelson said. "Now, I've been playing them over a year. And all of a sudden, it feels much easier to do."

The shot in question is something Woods mastered about five years ago — playing more club to get less spin, allowing him to control his trajectory as he tries to get the ball close to the hole. Mickelson went with a 9-iron from 123 yards on the 16th hole at Pebble Beach on Saturday, a difficult green because of the severe slope from back to front. The ball stopped some 12 feet away for birdie, sending Lefty to a seven-shot lead after three holes.

He picked up his first birdie in

the final round with another 9-iron, this one from 99 yards, on the fourth hole to a back pin. Instead of having to play behind the hole — and bring the bunker into play — Mickelson's shot landed short of the hole and stopped about 4 feet away.

"These types of shots where I'm taking 40 yards off an iron, that's the stuff that's starting to feel more comfortable after a year of practice," he said.

And don't forget distance, because Mickelson never does.

One reason he spends so much time with his short-irons is because he wants to blast his tee shots far enough that even if he's in the rough, Mickelson is close enough to the green to work some magic.

The year of experience is showing in the results.

While Mickelson was at his best early in the 2004 season — he finished in the top 10 in all but one of his first 11 tournaments — he still only had the Bob Hope Classic title and a green jacket. If Singh, Woods or Els had that many chances, most believe they would have won more than two tournaments.

These days, Mickelson is "starting to cash in."

"It's been a fun two weeks," Mickelson said. "And a great way to start the year."

Mickelson will take this week off. He is playing six out of seven tournaments, and has never fared well at Riviera. He will play the Match Play Championship the following week at La Costa, where last year he lost in the quarterfinals to Davis Love III. Then it's on to Dorland, the unofficial start of the road to the Masters.

Expectations are higher than ever, and Mickelson seems well-equipped to handle them.

Advertisement for EZ Pay and Smith's gift cards. Includes a cartoon character reading a newspaper and the text: 'Sign up for EZ Pay and receive your choice of a Free \$15 gift card to Smith's or a Free \$15 gift certificate to movies. Enjoy receiving The Times-News every day while paying for your paper the simple, convenient way with EZ Pay Service. EZ Pay lets you pay for your newspaper subscription automatically from your checking, debit card or credit card account with 12 monthly payments of only \$17.40! That's a savings of \$17.40 per year with no check fees. It's like getting 4 weeks of The Times-News delivered for FREE! The Times-News magivalley.com The Times-News, 132 Fairfield St. West, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 208-733-0931'

SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Basketball
Indiana at Ohio St., ESPN, 5 p.m.
Connecticut at Providence, ESPN2, 7 p.m.
Kentucky at South Carolina, ESPN, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Minnesota, NBA TV, 6 p.m.

Soccer
Exhibition, RFA/UEFA Football for Hope, Shevchenko XI vs. Ronaldinho XI at Barcelona, Spain, ESPN2, 12:55 a.m.

Dogs
Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, USA, 6 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB
The 17th inning has not yet begun, pitcher Tom Lincecum and catcher Adam Lind.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

ANAHIM 4 @ Seattle 2:01
SFO 4 @ Oakland 2:05
SEA 3 @ Seattle 2:05
ANA 3 @ Seattle 2:05
SEA 3 @ Seattle 2:05
SEA 3 @ Seattle 2:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE

STL 4 @ Cincinnati 2:05
PIT 3 @ Cincinnati 2:05
PIT 3 @ Cincinnati 2:05
PIT 3 @ Cincinnati 2:05
PIT 3 @ Cincinnati 2:05

Area ski report

Boyer Basin - Most 1700 ft. open PP machine covered 100-110 inches of snow...

North American
Northern Ontario 1 312 29
Northern Ontario 1 312 29
Northern Ontario 1 312 29

PHOTOGRAPHY
The 17th inning has not yet begun, pitcher Tom Lincecum and catcher Adam Lind.

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Reporters' notes

five to hop on a private plane and fly to Twin Falls just hours after a loss if the trip will help him land a player who may be able to help prevent such an upset again.

More recruiting: CSI men's basketball coach Shaun Davis has found a variety of recruits...

Hi mom, we're No. 1! The CSI women's basketball team may find itself in the top spot of the NAJCAA...

AMERICAN LEAGUE

ANA 4 @ Seattle 2:01
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PIT 3 @ Cincinnati 2:05

Tri-Cities soccer registration begins

RUPERT - Registration is now open for Tri-Cities co-ed youth spring soccer for ages 5-15-year-olds.

Pomerelle kids ski competition is Saturday
ALBION - The Call of the Wild Kids ski competition will be held Saturday, Feb. 19 at Pomerele Mountain Resort.

Santana agrees to deal with Twins
MINNEAPOLIS - AL-Cy Young Award winner John Santana and the Minnesota Twins have agreed to a \$40 million, four-year contract.

Idaho releases football schedule

MOSCOW, Idaho - Idaho's first football season as a member of the Western Athletic Conference will see much less travel for the Vandals.

Bengals add another year to Lewis' contract

CINCINNATI - The Bengals added another year to coach Marvin Lewis' contract on Monday, extending his deal through the 2008 season.

Cleveland Browns release QB Jeff Garcia

CLEVELAND - Quarterback Jeff Garcia was released Monday by the Cleveland Browns, who cut ties with the three-time Pro Bowler after one bad season and with three years left on his contract.

Dick Weber, one of bowling's greats, dies

ST. LOUIS - Dick Weber, one of bowling's first national stars and a three-time bowler of the year, died Sunday night.

Transactions

Baseball
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES - Signed free agent pitcher Ryan Howard to a four-year contract.

Notes on the economy

Magic Valley report

Twin Falls flights

Passenger boardings for SkyWest Airlines — A Delta Connection carrier — at the Twin Falls airport.

January 2005: 2,931

That's a 6 percent increase from the 2,778 SkyWest boardings in January 2004. For comparison, January boardings totaled just 2,383 in 2003.

(Those calculations exclude both passengers on flights diverted from the Wood River Valley because of bad weather, and passengers on charter flights.)

January's gain follows a year in which annual boardings shot up 15 percent over the 2003 total. Coupled with a healthy local economy, lower ticket prices have helped to boost boardings, said Bill Carberry, airport manager.

Delta Air Lines has been setting many fares from Twin Falls within \$40 to \$50 of fares out of Boise for the same destinations, he said, making it easier for travelers to opt for flying out of Twin Falls instead of driving to Boise to board a flight.

Source: Twin Falls airport

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Class teaches on business in Ireland

BOISE — Idaho companies can learn more about business opportunities in Ireland at a workshop Friday in Boise. Idaho Commerce and Labor said.

"Profit Possibilities in Ireland" will feature a presentation from Dale Tasharski, senior commercial officer for the U.S. Department of Commerce—Commercial Service, located in Dublin, will speak about how Ireland's open economy makes it easy to introduce U.S. products and services.

Ireland's economy depends on international trade and export, said organizers. U.S. companies have an advantage because Ireland knows and understands U.S. business practices.

The country is also noted for its pro-business government, cost-effective tax structure and business incentives.

Idaho is one of the emerging areas for U.S. products in Ireland. The Irish government has pledged more than \$363 million to support high-tech products and research and to develop the country's high-tech infrastructure to facilitate industry development. Demand is also increasing for software and personal computers.

Teachers are also available for one-on-one consultations with representatives of Idaho companies.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Idaho Commerce and Labor's State Street Office, on the second floor of the Joe Williams Building, 700 W. State Street. It is co-sponsored by the Boise Export Assistance Center.

Visit www.idaho.gov/boise for details or call Amy Benson at 364-7791.

Magic Valley Medical Assistants will meet

TWIN FALLS — Magic Valley Medical Assistants will meet at 6:15 p.m. today in the Sage Education Building, across from Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

Joyce Hill, a nationally certified senior professional in human resources, will speak on "Interviewing and Hiring, an Office Manager's Perspective."

For information, call Joie at 734-0206.

Stocks end mixed on Verizon-MCI deal

NEW YORK — Verizon Communications' \$6.75 billion bid for MCI Inc. met with indifference Monday on Wall Street, where stocks barely budged in very light trading.

Market generally provide the markets with a boost, but with the telecom sector facing stiffer competition, investors saw the Verizon-MCI deal only as a necessary step in dealing with those competitive pressures.

Most investors kept to the sidelines while the sector's consolidation sorts itself out.

— compiled from staff and wire reports

Verizon agrees to buy MCI COURT FILINGS

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Verizon Communications Inc. is acquiring MCI Inc. for \$6.75 billion, a swift response to the acquisition of AT&T Corp. by SBC Communications Inc. and the third big telephone industry merger in two months.

The agreement announced Monday settles a competing bid for MCI by Qwest Communications International Inc., the primary provider of local phone service in Magic Valley.

The deal will result in about 7,000 job cuts from the combined Verizon-MCI work force of about 250,000 employees.

The purchase price was about a half billion dollars below what Qwest offered for MCI, which recently changed its name from WorldCom Inc. after emerging from bankruptcy and a huge financial fraud.

Verizon, the dominant local phone company in the Northeast and a top cellular player, likely won MCI's favor because it is larger and in better financial shape than Qwest, the land-line phone carrier across the more sparsely populated Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest.

Denver-based Qwest had no immediate comment on the deal when contacted on Monday.

"MCI is one of just a few beachfront properties you'd want to see, so it would be crazy not to keep your eyes out."

Verizon is also assuming MCI's debt, expected to total \$4 billion at closing.

The companies estimated that merger transaction expenses will total up to \$3.5 billion over three years after the deal closes, but that cost-cutting from redundant operations will yield about \$1 billion per year in savings starting in the third year.



Pedestrians walk past a Verizon Wireless shop Monday in Washington. Verizon Communications Inc. is acquiring MCI Corp. for \$6.75 billion, a swift response to the acquisition of AT&T Corp. by SBC Communications Inc. and the third big telephone industry merger in two months.

word in as snack and \$90 million in cash for MCI's shares. In addition, MCI shareholders will be paid \$1.463 billion.

Verizon is also assuming MCI's debt, expected to total \$4 billion at closing.

The companies estimated that merger transaction expenses will total up to \$3.5 billion over three years after the deal closes, but that cost-cutting from redundant operations will yield about \$1 billion per year in savings starting in the third year.

The deal is subject to MCI approval and regulatory approval, which the companies hope to get in about a year.

The deal comes some two weeks after a \$16 billion deal reached between AT&T and SBC, a top rival for both Verizon and Qwest.

"For Verizon, this deal represents a 'Why not strategy,' with significant security, Verizon can easily pay for this deal," said Ben Silverman, telecom analyst for investment newsletter Find-Prof.com. "The deal cement

Qwest's place as an 'also-ran' and has been in the telecom arena."

MCI investors are said to have reacted poorly to the prospect of being paid with shares of stock in Qwest, a company mired by its own accounting scandals and a more questionable future.

The buyout marks an abrupt change of direction for Verizon, which just two weeks ago dismissed the notion it needed to respond to either an SBC-AT&T deal or the merger agreement between Sprint Corp. and Nextel Communications Inc. in December.

The three recent mergers would reduce the U.S. telecom industry to five dominant players — Verizon, SBC, BellSouth Corp., Sprint and Qwest — through the cable TV industry has begun to emerge as serious threat on the consumer side with the accelerating rollout of telephone service.

"MCI is one of just a few beachfront properties you'd want to see, so it would be crazy not to keep your eyes out."

— Ivan Seldenberg, Verizon's chairman and chief executive

"The deal cement

Qwest's place as an 'also-ran' and has been in the telecom arena."

MCI investors are said to have reacted poorly to the prospect of being paid with shares of stock in Qwest, a company mired by its own accounting scandals and a more questionable future.

OfficeMax CEO resigns; company fires six workers

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — OfficeMax Inc. announced the resignation Monday of its president and chief executive officer and said it terminated six employees as a result of an ongoing internal investigation into accounting.

The No. 3 office products retailer with a Twin Falls store also said it oversteered operating costs of computer inventory fiscal 2004 by \$5 million to \$10 million by failing to record certain rebates and payments to vendors.

The accounting error led to the understatement of income in the second and third quarters of the company said.

Christopher C. Milliken has resigned and will be replaced on an interim basis by George J. Harad of Boise, the company's executive vice president.

Harad, a former Illinois-based company said it would begin a search for a permanent CEO.

Milliken's resignation was a "mutual decision" between the CEO and the board of directors related to the company's operations and financial situation, spokesman.

Harad said. He declined to elaborate.

Last month, OfficeMax Chief Financial Officer Brian Anderson resigned, and the company said its fourth-quarter earnings report would be delayed because of accounting problems.

"We are taking steps to strengthen the OfficeMax management team, and fully expect to demonstrate the value inherent in this business for our shareholders," Harad said in a statement Monday.

OfficeMax said it fired six employees over its findings that

some workers fabricated supporting documentation for about \$3.3 million in claims billed to a supplier of its retail business.

It had announced four of the firings last month after first disclosing the finding.

OfficeMax said Monday it will report fourth-quarter and full-year results March 14.

It said it expects operating income to be \$125 million to \$135 million for 2005.

The company said its investigation should conclude by late February.

George Harad

Micron lobbies to stop international bank loan

The Associated Press

BOISE — A lobbist from the U.S. Export-Import Bank to subsidize memory chip manufacturing in China has been rejected. That was the goal of lobbying by Micron Technology Inc. and Idaho's congressional delegation.

Micron, the world's No. 2 maker of computer memory chips, is also the largest employer in the Boise area, with about 10,000 employees. Company spokesman Dave Parker said financial assistance to Shanghai-based Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. would have oversteered the market and led to a loss of American jobs.

"We don't think the U.S. government should be using U.S. taxpayer money to finance the movement of semiconductor jobs to China," company spokesman Dave Parker said.

Micron lobbysts teamed with members of the congressional delegation including U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, who heads a subcommittee overseeing the Export-Import Bank's operations, to have the loan denied.

Congressional and industry sources said the bank has effectively rejected the \$769 million loan request made by

China's leading semiconductor maker to buy chip-making equipment.

Empco spokesman Susan Wheeler said the senator felt the decision was appropriate because there was no consensus on whether the loan guarantee was good or bad for the U.S. economy.

The Shanghai-based SMIC would have bought the equipment from California-based Applied Materials Inc., a leading high-tech exporting company. Applied Materials had argued that the loan would have complicated the bank's mission of fostering exports from the United States.

But Micron's Parker said the industry could already be entering a period of oversupply, and with having more international products, it would impact pricing.

"The U.S. government should not contribute to this oversupply situation by providing a subsidy to SMIC," at the expense of competitors in the United States, like Micron," Parker said.

He said a facility built in Utah four years ago, slated to employ 1,000 people, is idle in production and is used as a testing plant because current market conditions do not support its startup.

The k-plan for the lazy man

WASHINGTON — First there was paternalism. Employers starting 401(k) plans said to workers, "We pick a few investment funds for you, and you put your money in. But many workers didn't bite."



Next there was choice. Employers said, "We'll give you boatloads of options and you can 'Take Control.' But again, many workers didn't bite. Then there came the automatics. Employers said, "If you don't say otherwise, we'll automatically enroll you in the plan, automatically put you in 'suitable' investment option, and that may be a 'life cycle' fund that automatically adjusts as you age."

But even these hands-off features, a growing number of employers are concluding, don't get their k-plans where they want them to be. So, encouraged by a regulatory climate that appears to grant employers more latitude in giving workers advice — not to mention the prospect of lawsuits by workers who claim they didn't get help and therefore made bad

Please see MANAGEMENT, Page D-6

Quick takes on money topics

The Internal Revenue Service is sitting on more than \$2 billion in cash that could be loaned to 1.7 million people could still claim by filing a return for 2001. Much of this is due to people who had taxes withheld by employers during that year but who had no (initial) income that the weren't required to file a return — so they didn't. The IRS estimates that half of those who could claim refunds would receive more than \$400. And low-income workers may qualify for the earned income tax credit, which could add to their refunds.

But the deadline for 2001 is April 15, 2005. After that, the refund money becomes the property of the U.S. government. The IRS doesn't impose a penalty for filing a late return where the refund is due. However, the agency won't issue a 2001 refund if the taxpayer hasn't filed for 2002 or 2003. Also, the refund can be used to offset other amounts owed, such as back taxes, past-due student loans and child support.

IRS records show that 5,900 Idahoans who have not filed returns for 2001 could lose \$6 million in refunds if they don't act in time.

The cost of automobile insurance expected to rise about 1.5 percent for 2005, but the increase is expected in five years, according to the Insurance Information Institute, an industry group.

The Institute estimates the aver-

The Times-News

COURT FILINGS

BOISE — Recent activity in U.S. bankruptcy court included these Magic Valley filings:

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, under \$50,000

- Sara Lavera Lehnert, 1011 Woodmont, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01917.
- Anthony Robert Williams, 417 7th St. W., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 14-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01491.
- Cynthia Dawn McCarthy, also known as Cynthia Dawn Davis, 2401 Cambridge, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 14-5 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01491.
- Joyce H. Richardson, 1401 Wynn Springs Road, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 14-5 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01491.
- James Scott and Jennifer Scott, also known as Jennifer Scott, 2401 Cambridge, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 14-5 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01491.
- Barbara Ann Vaughn, 1749 Iowa Drive, N., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 14-5 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01491.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$50,000 to \$100,000

- John Callaghan, also known as John Callaghan and John Callaghan, 6070 E. Ella St., Rupert, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01491.
- Marie Terhune, also known as Matthew Lee Beach and Kimberly Michelle Birch, also known as Kimberly Simmons and Ruth Simmons, 227 Locust, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01082.
- James W. McLaughlin, 427 E. A. Wendell, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-01025.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$500,000

- Douglas Jay Welch and Diane Anne Welch, 1411 12th Ave. N., Idaho, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 15 creditors, assets under \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 05-01082.
- Guidelines: Chapter 7, 15 creditors, assets under \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 05-01491.
- Gene Henderson, 1601 1/2th Lake Blvd. S., Twin Falls, and Mary Lynne Henderson, 1601 1/2th Lake Blvd. S., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 05-01082.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$500,000 to \$1 million

- Franklin M. Peterson, also known as Franklin H. Peterson, 1200 E. Highway 75, Merano, No. 200, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 15 creditors, assets under \$500,000, liabilities \$500,000 to \$1 million. Case no. 05-01019.

Chapter 7, business, \$100,000 to \$500,000

- Andrew S. Girman, doing business as J. Tom Caswell, Inc., Integrator Electronic & Video, 1200 E. Highway 75, Merano, 75, Ketchikan, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 15 creditors, assets under \$500,000, liabilities \$500,000 to \$1 million. Case no. 05-01019.

Chapter 13, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$500,000

- Ferry Wayne Moore, and Leah Marie Moore, 1200 E. Highway 75, Merano, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 13, 15 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 05-01019.

Age cost for 2005 will be \$870 — up \$13 per vehicle from last year, according to a recent slowdown in rate increases. The average premium rose 2.8 percent last year.

The group cited the declining number of auto accidents, safer cars, new auto safety technology and strengthening efforts to save motorists behind the trend, though it said that those have been largely offset by rising costs for medical care and vehicle repairs and higher jury awards.

The IRS has certified the 2005 Honda Insight, Civic Hybrid and Accord Hybrid as eligible for the clean-fuel vehicle deduction. This means that a taxpayer who buys one of these hybrid vehicles now may claim a tax deduction of up to \$2,000 on Form 1040.

The Honda just the '05 Toyota Prius and Ford Escape Hybrid, which the agency certified late last year.

Under new legislation, the clean burning fuel deduction is up to \$2,000 for certified vehicles first put into service in 2004 and 2005, but it will be cut to \$500 for vehicles acquired after the end of next year and eliminated after 2006. The deduction must be taken in the year the vehicle is originally used, and the taxpayer must be the original owner. However, individuals do not have to itemize deductions to claim the deduction. It can be taken as an adjustment to income on Form 1040.

MONEY

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various fund categories like American Express, CDOs, and others.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

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

MARKET SUMMARY

Table of market summary data including NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and DIARY sections with columns for Most Active, Volume, and various market indicators.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

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

INDEXES

Table of market indexes including Dow Jones Industrials, S&P 500, and other major indices.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of stocks of local interest including columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various local stock symbols.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Text explaining how to read the market report, including details on stock symbols, volume, and market indicators.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

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

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Soybean, Corn, Wheat, and various oil futures.

PORTLAND CEMENT

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Portland Cement, Wheat, and other grain futures.

CHEESE

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Cheddar, Swiss, and other cheese types.

POTATOES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Idaho, Russet, and other potato varieties.

SUGAR

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Sugar, Molasses, and other sugar products.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Cattle, Hogs, and other livestock prices.

FEEDER CATTLE

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes various feeder cattle grades.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, and various metals.

POULTRY

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Chicken, Turkey, and other poultry.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Monday

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes various futures contracts.

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NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Monday

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes various futures contracts.

BEANS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Soybean, Lentil, and other bean futures.

GRAINS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Corn, Wheat, and other grain futures.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Iron

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close, Change. Includes Iron, Steel, and other metal products.

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Management

Continued from D-4. choices — so many companies are signing up outside experts who will offer disinterested advice and in some cases take over all the decision-making for a worker if he or she chooses.

Management

Widgund Group of mutual funds with others, has signed up more than 20 companies, with \$36 billion in plan assets and more than 500,000 workers.

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