

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Cloudy with scattered rain and snow showers. High 43, low 30.
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MAGIC VALLEY

Reversed: Appeals panel vacates Twin Falls man's drug conviction.
Page B1



Water worries: Rain stirs hope in ag fair attendees.
Page B1

MONEY

Tax time: Learn how to reap a larger tax refund this year.
Page D1

FAMILY LIFE



Show us the funny: Vote in Round 2 of the Times-News comic strip tryouts.
Page E1

SPORTS



Champions: Shoshone won the IA state girls basketball title Saturday.
Page C1

OPINION

Build the bridge: Southern Idaho should get behind governor's bridge proposal, today's editorial says.
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Prescription for competition



After removing a cataract, Dr. Scott Allan, left, places a new intra-ocular lens in his patient's eye while Registered Nurse Marie Petersen assists in the operation at The Sawtooth Surgery Center in Twin Falls Thursday. The center, which opened about five years ago, offers some competition to Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, but in many ways its niche services help the Twin Falls hospital by freeing up its emergency rooms.

Health care competition is alive and well in area

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — When it comes to hospitals, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center is a sturdy, well-running ship.

And that's saying a lot considering the state of health care today.

"The hospital market is a turbulent sea," said Joe Lupica, a health care consultant working with the county.

It's a sea in which many ships are barely staying afloat. Indeed, one-third of hospitals in the United States are operating in the red, according to the American Hospital Association.

Magic Valley Regional has thrived under county ownership for almost 90 years, and it hasn't received county tax dollars since 1979 when the hospital's board took it off the county's tax rolls after taxpayers twice refused to finance a needed expansion. Since then, Magic Valley Regional has managed to make its own improvements and still produce healthy balance sheets. The 213-bed hospital brought in \$7.8 million in net income last year alone.

Can the hospital continue to survive under county ownership? No one has a crystal ball, but both hospital officials and county commissioners agree their ship is headed toward choppy waters. Medicare reimbursements are shrinking as

Please see HOSPITAL, Page A7



Magic Valley Regional Medical Center has thrived as a county-owned hospital for nearly 90 years, but the Hospital Board and county commissioners are now considering merging it with another health care organization.

MVRMC, county leaders ponder hospital's future

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — In January of 2002, the county-owned Magic Valley Regional Medical Center officially purchased its main local competition — the physician-owned downtown Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital — for \$16 million.

It turned out to be a smooth transition with physicians of both facilities coming together to form one cohesive medical staff. In early 2003, physicians

produced a significantly smaller death toll than the 101 killed in twin bombings in Baghdad and the holy city of Karbala a year ago.

The death this year included a U.S. soldier who was killed in Baghdad — when American troops responded to calls for assistance from Iraqi forces unable to cope with a slew of attacks.

With majority Shiites poised to take control of the country for the first time in modern Iraqi history, the interim government and Shiite politicians vowed the bloodshed would not cause the

nation to spiral into civil war.

Shiite bombings were attempts "to create a religious war within Iraq. Iraqis will not allow this to happen. Iraqis will stand united as Iraqis foremost, and Iraq will not fall into sectarian

Please see IRAQ, Page A2

About these stories

For almost 90 years, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center has thrived as a county-owned hospital. But

hospitals are facing increasing challenges in the world of health care, and hospital and county officials believe it might be time for a change. The Hospital Board and county

commissioners are now looking into a merger or sale of the hospital to a health care network that would be able to provide the resources the hospital needs to continue offering the best of medicine to people in Magic Valley.

The Times-News is taking a closer look at health care in the Magic Valley. Today, the paper looks at competition in the local health care arena and future governance of the county hospital.

• Magic Valley Regional — yesterday to today. Page A7

• The dollars of it all. Page A9

Stennett calls for more say on plant

Democrat hopes to broaden process

By Julie Pence
Times-News writer

BOISE — The possibility of San Diego-based Sempin Energy constructing a 750-megawatt coal-fired plant in Elmore or Jerome counties has prompted Senate Minority Leader Clint Stennett to craft legislation that would create a state slating committee for large energy-producing facilities.

As it stands now, all decisions about placement of such plants are left almost entirely to county commissioners.

The committee that Ketchum Democrat is proposing would evaluate sites for such things as coal-fired plants and large wind farms, Stennett said. Members

on the committee would come from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho

Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Commerce and Labor, the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Agriculture. County commissioners would be included from both the county of the proposed site and affected neighboring counties, too.

Stennett said he's not comfortable with keeping slating decisions for huge plants completely at the local level.

"The problem I have with slating is that it is an enormous facility, but the decision to site it could be made by just two county

commissioners," Stennett said. "Two part-time commissioners who might not know about the pollution that goes along with these things making decisions that affect thousands of people."

Twin Falls County Commissioner Bill Brockman agreed.

"I would not want a decision like that left at the county level," Brockman said. "I think I would like to be involved in the process, but I don't have the expertise to make the final decision."

Gooding County Commissioner Carolyn Elexpuru said she has had so many constituents calling her about the possibility of Sempin locating in Elmore County which borders her county to the west, that Stennett's idea appeals to her.

"A slating committee would be able to give us expert information on the pros and cons," she said.

Elexpuru noted that Gooding County would have no say should Elmore County commissioners approve a coal-fired plant on its east side between Glenns Ferry and Bliss.

That's one of the main issues

Please see PLANT, Page A2

Holy day in Iraq is also a deadly day; attacks kill 55

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Eight suicide bombers struck in quick succession Saturday in a wave of attacks that killed 55 people as Iraqi Shiites marched and lashed themselves with chains in ritual mourning of the 7th

century death of a leader of their Muslim sect. Ninety-one people have been killed in violence in the past two days.

For the second year running, insurgent attacks shattered the commemoration of Ashura, the holiest day of the Shiite religious calendar, but the violence

produced a significantly smaller death toll than the 101 killed in twin bombings in Baghdad and the holy city of Karbala a year ago.

The death this year included a U.S. soldier who was killed in Baghdad — when American troops responded to calls for assistance from Iraqi forces unable to cope with a slew of attacks.

With majority Shiites poised to take control of the country for the first time in modern Iraqi history, the interim government and Shiite politicians vowed the bloodshed would not cause the

nation to spiral into civil war.

Shiite bombings were attempts "to create a religious war within Iraq. Iraqis will not allow this to happen. Iraqis will stand united as Iraqis foremost, and Iraq will not fall into sectarian

Please see IRAQ, Page A2

7
days,
7
reasons to read

Sick and tired
Mononucleosis can be nasty, but it's not for everyone.
Monday

50 years of good reading
Ketchum's Community Library celebrates anniversary.
Tuesday

Idaho cuisine
A native style of cooking gains in popularity.
Wednesday

The right direction
Little boy needs guidance.
Thursday

Rockin' the boat
The Oakley Valley Arts Council presents the musical.
Friday

Coming home
Two former Twin Falls County farmers have reunited in Idaho Falls, where they're both ministers.
Saturday

To spank or not?
The time-honored parental debate seems to be turning.
Sunday



NATION

Governors oppose Medicaid cuts

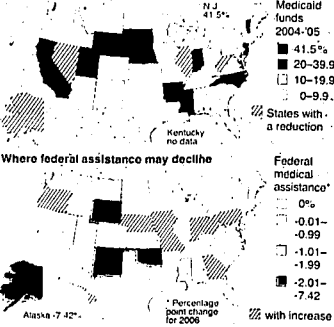
They say it is time for sweeping changes, though

The Associated Press

Medicaid strains state budgets

The President's budget proposal stipulates a number of Medicaid related changes including some cuts that will strain state budgets.

States showing growth in Medicaid



SOURCES: National Conference of State Legislatures; National Governors Association AP

against advocates for the poor and for health care providers who worry that a push to "flexibility" is just another way to cut people from care and short-change the medical profession. Medicaid has grown steadily — state spending has risen 9 percent or more for each of the last four years. The fastest-growing share of Medicaid payouts are for the elderly, who are the most expensive to care for — an ominous sign as baby boomers age.

Bush's budget proposes reducing federal spending on Medicaid for states by \$40 billion, limiting some payments

reducing the federal match on some services, and, especially taking aim at states that the federal government says wrongly use Medicaid funds for other government purposes.

Governors as a group are adamantly opposed to outright cuts, and to caps on how much states and spend on Medicaid — which many see that as a backdoor way of cutting that ignores the economic downturns that push more people onto Medicaid rolls.

In the last few weeks, a bipartisan group of governors has worked on a plan, aiming to bring the latest ideas to all the

governors at their annual gathering in Washington next weekend, when they'll talk together, meet with Bush, administration officials, and members of Congress.

Consensus has been easy to find on two main points, governors said: no cuts and greater flexibility. Beyond that, the working group has been struggling to find a common stance. "One thing governors feel, Democrats and Republicans alike, is that we have a health care system that, if you're on Medicaid, you have unlimited access to health care, at unlimited levels, at no cost," said Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican. "No wonder it's running away."

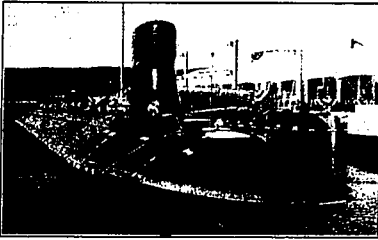
Republicans have been the most sweeping in their push toward market reforms, aiming to encourage patients to spend Medicaid dollars more wisely. Democrats, however, also are turning to concepts that require people on Medicaid to bear part of the costs, through copays or deductibles. Most try to spare additional costs, or cuts, from children and the poorest of the poor.

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The USS Jimmy Carter, the most heavily armed attack submarine built, is docked in Groton, Conn., Saturday. The Navy welcomed the \$3.2 billion submarine, the first named after a living ex-president, at a commissioning ceremony Saturday.

Navy commissions new sub, USS Jimmy Carter

GROTON, Conn. (AP) — The USS Jimmy Carter entered the Navy's fleet Saturday as the most heavily armed submarine ever built, and as the first of the Seawolf class of attack subs that the Pentagon ordered during the Cold War's final years.

The \$3.2 billion Jimmy Carter was commissioned Saturday, the first submarine named after a living ex-president. Carter, himself a submariner during his time in the Navy, was on hand for the ceremony signaling the end of an era in submarine building. "The most deeply appreciated and emotional honor I've ever had is to have this great ship bear my name," Carter said in remarks prepared for the ceremony at the Naval Submarine Base Groton. Carter was joined by his wife,

Sub's secrets
See page C7

Rosalynn, former Vice President Walter Mondale and his wife, and Stansfield Turner, CIA director in the Carter administration. The 453-foot, 12,000-ton submarine has a 50-ton payload and eight torpedo tubes. And, according to intelligence experts, it can tap intercept cables and eavesdrop on the communications passing through them.

It can reach speeds of more than 45 knots and carry Tomahawk cruise missiles and anti-submarine torpedoes, and it is engineered to be quieter than the other two Seawolves, making it better for surveillance.

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Former presidents tour sites hit by tsunami

BAN NAM KHEM, Thailand (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton's voice trembled with emotion as he and George H.W. Bush put aside their once-bitter political rivalry Saturday in the intense heat of a Thai fishing village where children gave the American politicians signs of giant waves sweeping away their relatives.

School children in red caps and white shirts waving paper Ameri-

can flags were among hundreds who greeted the former leaders in the shattered village of Ban Nam Khem where Bush and Clinton saw the tsunami's devastation at the start of their relief mission to the tsunami hit countries. About 2,000 people — a third of those killed by the tsunami in Thailand, died in and around the village.

Clinton's eyes watered as he spoke about the trauma suffered

by children in the village after two who had lost relatives presented the visitors with framed pictures tied in ribbons, one showing a giant wave and a rescue helicopter and the other of floodwaters sweeping away people, cars and boats.

"I thought about all of our religious traditions and how they all teach us how we are not really in control — but we don't really believe

it until something like this happens, and it reminds us all to be a little more humble and grateful for every day," Clinton said at a news conference after his visit to the village.

President Bush asked his father and Clinton to lead the U.S. effort to provide private aid to hundreds of thousands of victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami. They also plan to visit Indonesia, Sri Lanka and

the Maldives.

After arriving on the Thai resort island of Phuket on Saturday, the two men made their way by U.S. military helicopter and then motorcade to Ban Nam Khem, about 400 miles southwest of Bangkok. They later visited a memorial wall honoring foreign tourists who died, and they then dined with Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.



George H. W. Bush

Rice asks about lifting beef import ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice raised the issue of Japan lifting completely a ban on imports of U.S. beef while meeting Saturday with her Japanese counterpart.

Rice met with Nobutaka Machimura for bilateral talks. The Japanese understood U.S. concerns and were trying to accelerate procedures "and made a commitment the issue would be resolved," said a State Department official who attended the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hatsumasa Takashima, the Japanese foreign ministry spokesman, said beef imports came up in the talks and that Japan would make an effort to meet U.S. requests.

Japan imposed a ban on U.S. beef imports in December 2003 after the United States discovered its first case of fatal brain-wasting mad cow disease, known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE, in a Washington state Holstein.

Earlier this month a Japanese government panel took a step toward partially lifting the ban, but the decision still has to be approved by the government.

The panel recommended that Japan begin importing U.S. grade A beef, which comes primarily from cattle aged 12 to 17 months.

Although the panel's decision was welcomed by the U.S. government as an important step toward resuming trade, Japanese consumer organizations criticized the move, saying it was politically motivated.

Before the ban, Japan was the most lucrative overseas market for U.S. beef producers, buying \$1.7 billion in beef in 2003.

E-mail scams impersonate authorities in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal authorities are investigating two e-mail scams, including one targeting families of soldiers killed in Iraq. The scam is connected to the Homeland Security Department.

The scams "are among the worst we have ever encountered," Michael J. Garcia, director of the department's Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau, said Friday.

Both of the online pleas for help — and money — link themselves to the bureau. In one scheme, e-mail sent to families of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq include a link to the bureau's Web site. The e-mail seeks to recover money from a friend of the slain soldier.

In the other, the e-mail identifies itself as being sent by a federal agent trying to track down funds looted from the Iraqi Central Bank by Saddam Hussein's forces. The e-mail also links to the bureau Web site and asks for confirmation of the recipient's address by urging, "There is a very important and confidential matter which I want us both to discuss."

Garcia called both e-mail campaigns "bogus" and urged people to ignore and delete them.

"Most troubling is the fact that some are targeting the relatives of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq," Garcia said in a statement. "We are also concerned about the fact that these criminals are impersonating ICE agents and referring to ICE's official Web site in an effort to steal money from Americans who have lost loved ones."

Agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau were withdrawn from Iraq in March 2004, the agency said.

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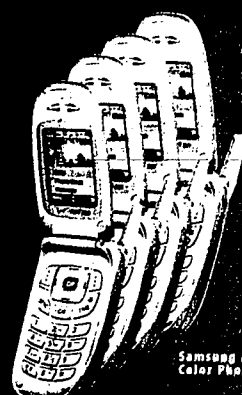
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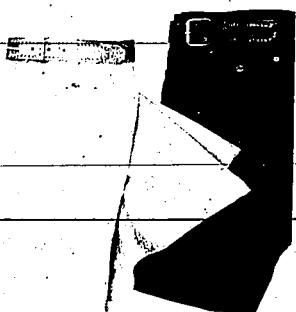


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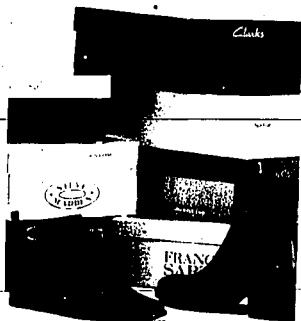
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Future

Continued from A1
 not-for-profit. The proposal failed at the ballot box. In 2001, commissioners seriously considered a proposal from the for-profit Community Health Systems to lease the hospital, but decided it wasn't in the best interest of the community.

Over the years, community advisory committees were formed to discuss the future of the hospital. But the discussions never brought about any change.

Two years ago, the Hospital Board and county commissioners decided to again look at the future of the county hospital. For a year, each month's board meeting

featured a **HEALTH CARE IN THE MAGIC VALLEY** speaking on a chief executive officer from an Idaho hospital and his or her type of governance. The Hospital Board and county commissioners heard the best and worst about being a non-profit, for-profit, county, district and foundation hospital. In January 2004, board members considered all they'd heard and voted 9-2 to recommend transferring governance of the hospital over to a nonprofit 501(c)3. Board members Bill Block and Tom Mikesell, the ones who recommended the board, cast the two no votes.

"There wasn't any reason to change other than governance," Mikesell said when asked why he voted no. "There wasn't a plan. There weren't any goals."

Block agreed the decision was premature.

"At the time, I just didn't feel there had been the necessary public involvement in the decision process," Block said. "You have to make sure the public has a chance to be involved. I just didn't think the groundwork had been laid."

But the community had consistently said no to any change of governance in the past. Why would they change their minds at that point? The answer needed to be understood.

Why a change of governance was needed before going to the ballot box, Block said.

"I've seen the community has consistently said no to any change of governance in the past. Why would they change their minds at that point? The answer needed to be understood."

Why a change of governance was needed before going to the ballot box, Block said.

Hospital

Continued from A1
 patients are graying. The number of uninsured and underinsured is on the rise. The hospital to make up the costs of unpaid bills. The hospital must meet more and more federal mandates. Magic Valley Regional is currently spending \$200,000 to implement the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act alone. There are the astronomical costs of ever-advancing medical technology. There are also the high costs of keeping up the facility. Magic Valley Regional wants to spend \$95 million over the next two years on remodeling and expansion.

Will the money be there? If all those challenges weren't enough, now there's a new one on the horizon. St. Benedict's Family Medical Center, currently located in downtown Jerome, is getting ready to break ground on a new \$18 million 25-bed hospital at Crossroads Point, just three miles away from Twin Falls.

All of these things have led the Hospital Board and county commissioners to agree that it's time to take a serious look at merging with, or selling to, a health care organization with bigger coffers.

Facing the competition
 In Idaho's capital, there are plenty of hospitals trying to keep two good-sized hospitals thriving.

The 370-bed St. Luke's and the 380-bed St. Alphonsus Regional are the two largest hospitals to peacefully co-exist in the city of Boise without one taking too much business away from the other. As tertiary care centers offering advanced specialty services like Level 3 trauma care and open-heart surgery, they get patients not only from Boise, but from across the state as well as eastern Oregon and northern Nevada.

"For a health care facility to survive, it must have volume. In heavily populated metropolitan areas, competition is not as much of a problem. But in rural areas with smaller populations, competition is a pretty proposition. Too little competition results in long waiting lists. Too much competition can put someone right out of business. Competition is alive and well in the Magic Valley and it has

"We had done a lot of work internally with the board, but we hadn't really had an outreach program and education program to have the public involved," Block said. "That's what we're doing now. We're very encouraged by what's happening now as far as public outreach and public participation."

When it comes to nonprofits, many local physicians, as well as hospital administrators, feel most comfortable with Boise-based St. Luke's Regional Medical Center. It was physicians who first approached the St. Luke's Magic Valley Board, an advisory committee made up of local community members that helps guide St. Luke's Regional Medical Center's services in the Magic Valley, asking to consider a merger with St. Luke's.

Physicians, said Dr. Brian Fortuin, a local internist and chairman of the Physician Steering Committee, feel comfortable with St. Luke's because the two hospitals have a history of working well together. For the past three years, St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute has been providing oncology services at Magic Valley Regional through an agreement between the two hospitals. Magic Valley Regional also has a long-term cooperative agreement for the transport of neonatal patients.

Since last summer, Magic Valley Regional and St. Luke's have been discussing merging to create a unified care delivery system called the Statewide Health System. The system would include St. Luke's facilities in Boise and Meridian, the Wood River Medical Center in Ketchum and St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute. The statewide system would be governed by a regional board that would include local residents.

Supporters say merging with St. Luke's would have an immediate benefit for Magic Valley Regional's coffers as well as provide a more unified insurance for the county. As soon as the two hospitals signed on the dotted line, it would remove about \$30 million in county-backed debt currently on Magic Valley Regional's books. Magic Valley Regional immediately added to \$90 million to

been for years. About five years ago, 14 local doctors got together and opened the Sawtooth Health Center, a name-day surgery center — on the corner of Washington Street North and Falls Avenue.

"Doctors realized they could provide high quality care at a more affordable cost," said Sawtooth Administrator Terry McCurdy.

Today, there are 22 physicians performing surgery at the center, focusing on minor procedures such as ear, nose and throat surgery, minor orthopedic procedures and cataract surgery.

"We do almost all the eye in town," McCurdy said. All of the physicians do surgery at other hospitals in the Magic Valley as well. Sawtooth, which averages about 200 to 300 cases a year, is part of Magic Valley Regional. After all, it's only competing for one service line — same-day surgery.

"They have a very focused service line," said John Kee, chief executive officer of Magic Valley Regional.

And there's plenty enough business to go around. If anything, the two organizations benefit each other. Performing minor surgery at Sawtooth frees up Magic Valley's operating rooms for more complicated procedures.

"Why would you put a cataract in front of a knee surgery?" McCurdy asked. "If there was just one hospital, they'd have a very difficult time doing everything. We have a very good relationship with the hospital. They'll call us and say, 'We're backed up here. We're really getting light.' But while things might balance out with just two same-day surgery options in town, it might not be true if some new players come along."

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Governance structures

Governance structures at Idaho hospitals of 60 beds or more:

- County: Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, Twin Falls; Potlatch Medical Center, Potlatch.
- District: Kootenai Regional Medical Center, Coeur d'Alene.
- For-profit: Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, Idaho Falls; West Valley Medical Center, Caldwell.
- Not-for-profit: Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise; St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Boise; St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Lewiston; Mercy Medical Center, Nampa; Bonner General Hospital, Sandpoint.

Source: Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

\$100 million to improve and expand its facility. By coming together, supporters say, Magic Valley Regional's patients would benefit from improved services that come with being part of a regional network.

Even Block, who is not yet sold on the idea there should be a change, agreed that the good thing about being part of a regional health-care network is that it "can tap into the expertise and technology. Even in Twin Falls, Idaho, you have the same kind of access to health technology."

"Joining a network of hospitals would also trim Magic Valley Regional's costs. Consolidating overhead operations brings about efficiencies in the same way that shoppers save money buying in bulk from the local warehouse store."

Magic Valley Regional Chief Executive Officer John Kee says he likes the idea of signing on with St. Luke's because it would keep health care dollars in the state.

Looking at all the options
 If commissioners decide it's best for Magic Valley Regional to merge with St. Luke's or another nonprofit, they could

servicing an underserved population in a rural area. The designation, which is only given to hospitals with 25 or fewer beds, allows the hospital certain perks, such as cost-based reimbursement for services to Medicare patients. Magic Valley Regional officials say that it's not a critical access facility, receives \$2 cents back on every dollar billed to Medicare. So Magic Valley Regional officials have questioned St. Benedict's decision to build at the Crossroads Point location that is seven miles away from downtown Jerome and just three miles away from Twin Falls.

Magic Valley Regional officials suspect St. Benedict's might eventually drop its critical access status and expand. After all, St. Benedict's will have 30 acres at the Crossroads site, plenty of room to grow. Future plans already call for a center of a long-term care center, outpatient center and medical office complex. And although St. Benedict's must be its own new hospital, as a wholly owned subsidiary of St. Alphonsus, it has some big money behind it. St. Alphonsus is part of the Christus Health, a \$6 billion hospital network.

But St. Benedict's officials say the Crossroads location makes perfect sense.

"It's central Jerome County," Maughan said. And its location is just off a highway and Interstate allows quicker travel from Eden, Hazelton and the rural areas.

"When you're dealing with an emergency in health care, time makes all the difference," Maughan said.

"When you're really come down to it, hospitals don't really compete at all, Maughan said. "Patients don't admit themselves to hospitals — doctors do. They're the gatekeepers. We're the portal. Patients listen to their doctors."

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make that decision without their approval. But if commissioners aren't sold on St. Luke's yet, they want to look at other nonprofit as well as for-profit organizations. If they decide to "sell" the hospital to a health-care network, be it nonprofit or for-profit, they will have to put the question on a ballot.

Last summer, commissioners Bill Brockman and Gary Grindstaff went off to a conference in Phoenix, Ariz., where they met Joe Lupica, president of Stroudwater Capital, a health-care consulting firm. Impressed with Stroudwater Capital's experience helping other hospitals negotiate mergers and sales, last month commissioners signed a contract with the consulting firm to help guide them in making a decision on Magic Valley Regional's future. The county will pay Stroudwater Capital a total of \$270,000 — \$45,000 a month on the guaranteed six-month contract. The fee will not only include consulting services, but services in negotiating a contract should commissioners decide to merge with or sell to a health-care network.

But there's still plenty of work to be done before any decisions are made. Stroudwater consultants have a lot of hospital and public market data to pore over. There are physicians and hospital staff to be interviewed. There's community outreach to be done, service calls to be made and public forums to be held. Getting students a chance to say what services they want their local hospital to provide. Their input will be considered when commissioners and consultants put together a "wish list" of criteria that potential partners would have to agree to provide before any contracts were signed.

Looking at all the options
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Magic Valley Regional Medical Center - Yesterday to today

1931: Twin Falls County commissioners levied \$29,574 for construction of a two-story, 36-bed Twin Falls County Hospital on property the county had purchased two years earlier on Addison Avenue West.

1920: Nurses' home opens.

1948: Understanding the need for a larger facility, county taxpayers approve a \$1.25 million bond issue. County commissioners appoint a new hospital board with expanded authority and responsibilities authorized by the Idaho Legislature.

1950: When construction bids come in short, taxpayers approve an additional \$300,000 bond issue for the new hospital.

1951: The new, \$1.875 million, five-story Magic Valley Memorial Hospital opens its doors.

1974: Taxpayers say no to a \$4.6 million bond issue to upgrade and expand the hospital. The hospital puts the bond issue off again just 30 months later. It would not be until two-thirds majority needed to pass.

1979: After the two bond issues failed, the Hospital Board determined the hospital would need to operate as a business without state support and transfer the hospital from the tax rolls. Hospital officials secure a 30-year bond to pay for a \$26.7 million expansion project that remodeled the hospital and added a new three-story wing.

1982: Hospital Board changes the name of the 165-bed facility to Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

1988: County commissioners conducted an advisory vote to see if the public desired to transfer county governance to a not-for-profit. The proposal failed at the ballot box.

1988: Based upon public demand, Magic Valley Regional adds a regional cancer treatment center.

1998: A community committee is formed to discuss options for governance.

2000: Hospital Board and county commissioners gather at a retreat to do some strategic planning. Commissioners publicly expressed a desire to gain a new governance to 501(c)3 to discuss the medical staff's active participation in defining the future health-care delivery system; and to appoint a smaller medical staff group to address potential affiliation partners. The physician group met with St. Luke's management and with the MSTI Community Board. Physicians wanted to hear from St. Luke's physicians and from the community.

December 2004: The administrative committee of Magic Valley Regional's Hospital Board meets with Twin Falls County commissioners to discuss the recommendation to appoint a facilitator to manage any proposed change process. In an executive session at the monthly board meeting, there is discussion on the role of a facilitator in the change process.

January 2004: County commissioners sign a contract with Joe Lupica, president of Stroudwater Capital, a Scottsdale, Ariz.-based health-care consulting firm, to help them make a well-informed decision on the future governance of the county-owned Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. The county will pay Stroudwater Capital \$270,000 — \$45,000 a month for six months — for consulting and research services as well as the negotiation of any contract that might come about. The county also will spend up to \$10,000 during that same period on Stroudwater Capital's expenses.

Source: Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

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THE DOLLARS OF IT ALL

Merger could inject dollars into MVRMC

By Sandy Miller
Times-News Writer

TWIN FALLS — The phone is already ringing. The letters of interest are pouring in.

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center would be a good catch for a health-care network, said Joe Lupica, a consultant advising county commissioners

as they consider the possibility of merging with or selling the county hospital to a larger health care organization.

This hospital is very highly regarded by people across the region as well as the country as a well-run and high-quality hospital," Lupica said.

Part of Lupica's job is to test the waters for potential partners, so he's begun calling health care organizations he thinks might have a logical interest. Health care corporations also find out about hospitals shopping for potential partners through newspaper clipping services and public cost reports, Lupica said.

Health care organizations, both nonprofit and for-profit, have already come calling.

Merging or selling would both put money into the hospital. And selling the hospital would be a cash cow for the county.

One of the options county commissioners and Magic Valley Regional's Hospital Board are considering is merging with St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, a nonprofit hospital based in Boise. Supporters say merging with St. Luke's would remove about \$30 million in county-backed debts currently

Find out more

So far, at least seven health-care systems have expressed interest in possibly adding Magic Valley Regional Medical Center to their networks of hospitals. Here are their Web sites where you can read more about their organizations.

- **St. Luke's Regional Medical Center**, a non-profit Idaho system based in Boise: www.slrnc.org

- **Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System**, a nonprofit Catholic network based in Kansas: www.sclh-sc.org

- **LifePoint Hospitals Inc.**, a for-profit corporation based in Brentwood, Tenn.: www.life-point-hospitals.com

- **Community Health Systems**, a for-profit corporation based in Brentwood, Tenn.: www.chs.net

- **Health Management Associates Inc.**, a for-profit corporation based in Naples, Fla.: www.hma-corp.com

- **Essent Healthcare**, a for-profit corporation based in Franklin, Tenn.: www.essenthealthcare.com

- **Essent Healthcare**, a for-profit corporation based in Nashville, Tenn.: www.essenthealth.com

on Magic Valley Regional's books and would give Magic Valley Regional immediate access to \$90 million to \$100 million to improve and expand its facility.

The Idaho-based St. Luke's network also includes facilities in Boise and Meridian, the Wood River Medical Center in Ketchum and the Mountain States Honor Institute.

Other health care organizations have also expressed interest, some estimating they could put anywhere from \$80 million to \$120 million into the hospital and the community, an amount that could retire all of the hospital's long-term debt, fund the hospital's capital needs and provide Twin Falls County with resources to meet other

community needs.

LifePoint Hospitals Inc., a for-profit corporation based in Brentwood, Tenn., has expressed interest as has Community Health Systems, a for-profit corporation based also based in Brentwood that came knocking on the county's door once before back in 2001. County commissioners have also received letters from Health Management Associates Inc., a for-profit hospital network based in Naples, Fla., and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System, a Catholic nonprofit network based in Kansas. Letters have also come from Essent Healthcare, a for-profit corporation based in Franklin, Tenn., and Essent Healthcare, a for-profit corporation based in Nashville, Tenn.

Some of the letters of interest indicated how much the networks might be able to invest in Magic Valley Regional's facilities and services as well as Twin Falls County's coffers. But those numbers aren't set in stone.

"These are just preliminary estimations of value, some based on public data more than a year old," Lupica said. "It could change in either direction due to other factors — the community's growth factor, the position of the hospital and other things they could learn when they come to town."

But the only organizations that will get a seat at the county's bargaining table will be those that can provide the "wish list," or "mission points" county commissioners will put together after assessing Twin Falls County's future health care needs. Commissioners already have a list of "stated values" they say should be considered as cornerstones for further discussions and recommendations. Those values include making sure patients have equal access to medical services regardless of ability to pay and making sure medical services meet the needs of people in Twin Falls County.

Lupica has seen what kind of damage choosing the wrong health care system can do. He

helped public officials in Las Cruces, N.M., get their local hospital back on its feet again after a health care corporation swept it up, sliced and diced its services and left the mess behind for the city and county to clean up.

Commissioner Tjorn Mikesell said it's way too early in the game to be looking at offers. He still wants to hear what county residents want from their local hospital.

"I don't care who wants to call us, right now," Mikesell said. "I just want to know what our goals and needs are."

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 733-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicvalley.com.

Spice up your life with the Food & Home section, every Wednesday in The Times-News

Arthur and Marsha Krebs were married Feb. 23, 1955, at Arthur's parents' home in Shell Beach, Calif. They lived in Oxnard, California before moving to Twin Falls six years ago.

He was in the Navy when they married. After he got out he worked Civil Service at Pacific Missile Test Center Oxnard, California. He was an Instrumentation Radar Technician and retired from there in 1988.

Martha worked for Hallmark Card Co. for 14 years in California. They are both very active in their church, the First Assembly of God Church in Twin Falls.

The event is hosted by their children, Ronda (Dale) Collins of Camarillo, California, Douglas (Michelle) Krebs of Paso Robles, California, John (Frankie) Krebs of Twin Falls, Idaho, Debbie (Jesse) Brookley of Boise, Idaho, California.

Arthur and Martha have 14 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. They are both very active in their church, the First Assembly of God open house.

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NATION

Artist will meet curious callers

Phone number in photograph leads to road trip

NEW YORK (AP) — A phone message to the nation: Please call 510-872-7325. Marc Horowitz wants to meet you for dinner.

Go ahead — dial it. If he doesn't answer, just leave him a message. That's what thousands of people have done after seeing his number scrawled on a dry-erase board in a Crate & Barrel catalog photo last fall.



Artist Marc Horowitz, 28, is shown at his home in San Francisco, Nov. 17. While working as a photo assistant, Horowitz wrote his phone number on a dry-erase board in a Crate & Barrel catalog furniture scene, and has since gotten thousands of calls.

Horowitz, a conceptual artist in San Francisco, was working as a photo assistant on a shoot for the catalog when he came up with an idea for an art project that would question social barriers and maybe make the world a little smaller.

The dry-erase board looked too blank, so he decided to write his cell phone number on it — and, if anyone called, maybe take a road trip to meet them.

"It's about illustrating the importance of conversation between strangers," Horowitz said. "We just plug into our computers and think that's the way to live, but old-fashioned face-to-face has what it's about."

It's not his first madcap art project aimed at bringing people together. Last year, he ran errands with strangers, which consisted of picking out their cereal and folding their laundry. The 28-year-old also regularly sets up a coffeemaker in Alamo Square Park and hands out — free — coffee to passers-by.

The dinner tour was supposed to be a three-month journey to meet a few dozen people, but now it has ballooned to include thousands of lonely souls. Horowitz left last week and plans to crisscross the country for at least a year.

But exactly who calls a number they see in a photo on the page of a Crate & Barrel catalog?

Gregg Plazzi, a 36-year-old chef who lives in Columbus, Ohio, was caller No. 34. He saw the number while flipping through the catalog, and stopped turning pages when he noticed it was not one of those fake 555-numbers.

"What are you doing?" his fiancée asked when Plazzi whipped out his cell phone.

"There's a real phone number in here," he said as he dialed. "I gotta call."

Horowitz answered, they talked for a few minutes, and now dinner with Plazzi is a planned stop on the nationwide tour.

Of course, callers left some nasty messages, including the occasional angry rant and at least one offer for sex. Many just hung up. Some yakked on and on about how they were raised by nuns, work at a gas station and take several kinds of medication.

"A lot of people are lonely and they just want to talk to somebody," Horowitz said. "I think people are looking for excitement — maybe I'll call this number, where is it going to lead? I think it's just curiosity and about people wanting to reach out and connect

with somebody."

The first call was from a Kansas man named Jake, "and it just started sprawling east and west from there," Horowitz said.

Horowitz eventually added his e-mail address and Web site to his voicemail greeting. After some publicity, his inbox was jammed with e-mails — dinner invitations, random ramblings and flirtations — from New Hampshire grandmothers to Florida firefighters.

They beg him to visit their homes and towns, offering a mean lasagna in Georgia, a "place to crash" in Massachusetts, "something like chicken and dumplings" in Alabama, coffee in Wisconsin and a Shabbat dinner in Maryland.

In their e-mails, they share intimate details. One woman in Las Vegas is saving up for gastric

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Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
Daily 7:00-9:00
Fri-Mon 12:15-2:30 • 4:45-7:00 • 9:00

Million Dollar Baby (PG) Daily 6:45-9:35
Fri-Mon 12:15-2:30 • 4:45-9:35

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Hide and Seek (PG) Daily 7:30-9:30
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Boogeyman (PG) Daily 7:15-9:20
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Fri-Mon 12:15-2:30 • 4:45-7:30-9:45

Because of Winn Dixie (PG) Daily 7:00-9:00
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Are We There Yet? (PG) Daily 7:30-9:45
Fri-Mon 12:45-2:00 • 5:15-7:30-9:45

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Fri-Mon 12:15-2:30 • 4:45-9:30

Coach Carter (PG) Daily 6:45-9:30
Fri-Mon 12:45-2:45 • 4:45-9:30

Work and the Glory (PG) Daily 7:00-9:30
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Constantine (PG) Daily 7:00-9:30
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Shoes give unwanted sound effect

SANFORD, Fla. (AP) — There's no uptone around the problem. Called "insole noise," customers complained that with every step, their shoes made the sound of someone passing gas.

"They were whooping cushions for the feet," said Bryan Thomas, an officer with shoe maker Goosebumps Products Inc. The Orlando-area company on Wednesday issued a supplier warning it of a gas-like odor, giving chemical for an insole gel, wrong the shoes an unwanted sound effect.

"It very nearly put us out of business," Thomas said. Goosebumps' insole distributor complained as well, and the company tossed at least 35,000 pairs at a cost of \$200,000 to \$250,000, said attorneys Robert W. Anthony and William H.

Beaver II.

The suit claims Bell Chem Corp. of Longwood delivered a low-grade glycerin that was watered down in late 2002 and early 2003. That caused air bubbles to form inside the insoles, it said.

When people step down on them, the inserts produce "a faulience-like noise," according to a report by a Goosebumps' chemist, Richard Cavestri.

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WORLD

REACHING OUT

Sharon looks to improve Middle East relations



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, left, and his Deputy Premier Shimon Peres pause during a session in the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem, Wednesday. Sharon, in an interview with an Egyptian newspaper Saturday, said that he looked forward to improved relations in the Middle East.

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, reaching out to the Middle East in an unprecedented direct appeal through an Arab newspaper Saturday, said he was ready to make painful concessions to end the region's half-century conflict and that he looked forward to improved relations with other Arab countries.

Sharon's interview with Al-Ahram, Egypt's most prominent newspaper, was an attempt to soften the widespread Arab animosity for a man considered a warlike enemy at a time when Egypt is pushing hard for a Middle East peace settlement.

"I want the Egyptian or Arab people to see me as a security man, a farmer and a politician who is looking for stability and peace," Sharon said, according to The Associated Press translator.

The two-hour interview with the pro-government paper was conducted in Hebrew in his office in Jerusalem and published in Arabic.

"Generals are always seen as people who want wars. The truth is otherwise," Sharon said. "It is important... that our generation who lived through it all really takes over the mission of pushing the peace process."

Sharon's effort to reach out to Egyptians through the interview came amid a major warming of ties across the region in the past few weeks. In a summit at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, earlier this month, Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas agreed to end more than four years of violence between their two peoples.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordanian King Abdullah II agreed to return their ambassadors to Israel as well. Mubarak, the summit's host, once disparaged Sharon, but in the new atmosphere of optimism that followed the death of Yasser Arafat, called the Israeli leader the region's best chance for peace.

For many Arabs, Sharon is still reviled as a warmonger and a "butcher."

Most scorn him for his role in the 1982 massacres in Lebanon's Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps, where hundreds of Palestinian refugees were killed by Israeli-armed militiamen.

He is blamed by Egyptians for the deaths of many Egyptian POWs during the 1967 and 1973 wars and accused of orchestrating Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

In September 2000, Sharon infuriated Arab Muslims with his visit to holy shrines in Jerusalem. Riots followed, and grew into the Palestinian uprising.

Sharon el-Sheikh prompted two days of demonstrations at universities and professional unions in Cairo and other cities, with protesters calling his visit a "shame" and a student statement to the prosecutor general demanding that Sharon be arrested and tried for war crimes against Egyptians.

His visit earlier this month to Saturday, Sharon recalled a different visit in 1981, when he was agriculture minister. He was invited by late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to help "develop agriculture and the rural areas in Egypt." The visit resulted in years of successful cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture, the mainstay of many Egyptians.

Sharon recalled being flown to an area on the border with

Sudan by two Egyptian air force pilots who had fought in the wars against Israel.

"I said in my youth this is what creates peace. An Israeli minister who was a commander of forces... sits in a plane with two pilots who attacked his forces a short while before. Here they are together on a mission to search for arable areas for the production of food. This way, I saw peace."

Sharon said he returned to Egypt in February this year as a politician, after having met fighters and farmers alike.

"Now, I returned in the Sharm el-Sheikh conference as a politician, with great faith and determination that in cooperating with President Mubarak we can take the opportunity to push the Israeli, Egyptian and Palestinian people forward, toward a future characterized by calm, security, peace and regional stability," he said.

Sharon said that he has the impression that Abbas is ready to help in that goal.

He hinted that he would like to see a Palestinian state established during his term in office, saying he has no intention of leaving office soon — but stressed that Israeli security was foremost.

"I am determined to exert all efforts to reach a political settlement," he said. "I can offer painful concessions for a real peace, peace for generations to come. But I am not ready to offer any concession when it comes to the security of Israeli citizens."

Banker accused of money laundering freed

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — A private banker who had more than \$4.4 million hidden in his home was freed Saturday as police kept searching for possible links to an alleged IRA money-laundering ring and a Northern Ireland bank heist worth \$50 million.

Ted Cunningham, 56, refused to comment as he left a police station in Cork, Ireland, without charge after a two-day interrogation. Earlier, police also freed

his domestic partner, Cathy Armstrong.

Police said they were preparing a book of evidence for state prosecutors to consider against Cunningham, a common practice in Ireland, where authorities often take weeks to mull over information before making a decision.

Police said they were making similar deliberations in the cases of four other people re-

leased without charge. All were arrested in nationwide raids against suspected IRA money-laundering operations, when cash worth nearly \$5 million was seized in four locations, mostly in Cunningham's home.

Including police commander Noel Conroy, cautioned it could be several days before authorities announce whether any of the seized money came from the robbery of Northern Bank.



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Kuwaiti police apprehend terror suspects

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwaiti police Saturday arrested two men wanted for allegedly being connected to a terror group planning to attack Americans and Kuwaiti security forces, an interior ministry official said.

The men surrendered peacefully in a Kuwait City suburb, the official said on condition of anonymity. He would not identify them except to say they were Kuwaitis.

Since Jan. 10, four policemen and eight suspected terrorists have been killed in clashes around the country. A group of Muslim extremists is suspected of planning to target American civilians living in Kuwait and members of the U.S. military stationed here or on their way to Iraq. Kuwait's state security apparatus also was a target, authorities said.

The alleged ringleader of the group, Amer al-Zenei, died of a heart attack while in custody, authorities said.

The group did not carry out any attacks. But in one of their safe houses, near the border with Saudi Arabia, authorities found handwritten instructions for making bombs and chemicals that could be used to do so.

The alleged 24-member terror group included Jordanians, Saudis, Kuwaitis and stateless Arabs who have lived in this oil-rich state for decades without becoming citizens. The interior minister has said they received funds from Saudis and embraced the ideology of al-Qaida.

About 40 people suspected of having links to the group, including the wife of the deceased ringleader, are in custody, but it is not known whether they will stand trial.

Disease kills more than 125 children in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Disease fueled by freezing weather has killed more than 120 Afghan children, and desperate parents are feeding their children opium in a bid to alleviate their suffering, the health minister said Saturday.

A total of 128 children have died of ailments including pneumonia, measles and whooping cough, Mohammed Amin Fatemi told The Associated Press. He said he had no figures for cold-related deaths among adults.

"Many parents are giving opium to the children in the belief it will stop the coughing," Fatemi said. "Maybe for two or three hours it will sedate them, but it is poison for their bodies and can turn them into addicts."

Hundreds of Afghans have reportedly died since heavy snow and freezing temperatures set in across much of Afghanistan in late December, highlighting how vulnerable people remain after more than two decades of impoverishing conflict.

Some have died in accidents and avalanches, while former refugees even in the capital have apparently frozen to death in makeshift camps, exposing a lack of basic necessities despite three years of international aid.

The hardest hit area appears to be the western province of Badkhash in the Hindu Kush mountains, where deep snow has cut off scores of villages.

Fatemi said 62 children had died there in the past three weeks; 46 had died in Kabul, and 20 had died in Badkhash in the remote northeast.

He said officials were checking reports of cold-related deaths from other provinces and said a statement by Catholic Relief Services, a U.S.-based relief group, that 265 people had died in western Afghanistan were plausible.

Two Afghan helicopters carried three tons of medicine, including antibiotics, and two teams of doctors and nurses to the area, he said. Similar teams had been dispatched to seven other provinces.

CRS said on Friday that its staff had reached only 6,000 people in 16 of the 250 villages in Ghor. Up to \$200,000 was being funneled through the group to try to aid the population with stoves, fuel, medicine and snow-clearing machinery, it said.

N. Korea backs off talks

Chinese official hopes country will reconsider



Kim Jong Il

BEIJING (AP) — A top Chinese Communist Party official met with North Korea's No. 2 leader Saturday seeking a change of heart after Pyongyang reportedly rejected any further negotiations over its nuclear weapons program.

The head of the Chinese Communist Party's international department, Wang Jiarui, who flew to Pyongyang on Saturday, had a "friendly conversation" with Kim Jong Nam, the North's official news agency, KCNA, said. The report did not further elaborate on the session.

During his stay, Wang plans to meet the country's reclusive leader, Kim Jong Il, to give a "strong recommendation" that Pyongyang return to the six-party disarmament talks. South Korea's Munsu Ilbo newspaper reported, quoting diplomatic sources in Beijing.

Xinhua, quoting an unidentified North Korean foreign ministry official, said earlier Saturday that the North no longer wanted to negotiate directly with the United States to ease the ongoing standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The official reiterated the communist regime's decision on Feb. 10 to indefinitely suspend its participation in six-party nuclear disarmament talks with the United States and four other countries, Xinhua said.

The United States and other countries are seeking to use what leverage they have — including the good will between North Korea and its last major ally, China — to persuade Pyongyang to resume multilateral negotiations. North Korea had demanded one-on-one meetings with the United States after saying it would withdraw from

the six-party talks — a move Washington rejected.

Revising the stalled talks has taken on greater urgency since North Korea's explosive but unconfirmed declaration earlier this month that it has become a nuclear power.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said his country was withdrawing its offer of direct talks with Washington because of what the official described as the United States' persistent attempts to topple the communist regime, Xinhua said.

"The DPRK has no justification to take bilateral talks ... on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula with the United States now," Xinhua quoted the spokesman as saying. DPRK is the acronym for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Washington hopes Beijing will use its economic influence on the North to persuade Pyongyang to return to the negotiating table. Beijing has insisted that it has little influence over Kim's regime, though China is an indispensable source of fuel and trade for the impoverished North.

U.N. committee approves resolution on human cloning

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A bitterly divided U.N. committee approved a resolution calling on nations to ban all forms of human cloning incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life.

Supporters of stem cell research said they will not be bound by the declaration, calling the language vague and expressing concern it could be interpreted to ban all forms of cloning, including stem cell research.

The 71-35 vote Friday reflected the divisions among the 191 U.N. member states. There were 43 abstentions, in-

cluding many Islamic countries.

"The resolution now goes to the U.N. General Assembly for a final vote. If approved, the resolution would only be a recommendation, not a legal requirement."

The United States called it a victory.

"We're obviously very pleased," said Richard Grenell, spokesman for the U.S. mission to the United Nations. "This means that the United Nations is stating very clearly that member states should adopt legislation outlining all cloning practices."

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EDITORIAL

Benefits of a new bridge outweigh the costs, risks

It began as a politician's attempt to sell a bridge. But now, the idea of building a new Snake River canyon is a progressive part of the Magic Valley's future.

The more you listen to the idea of a new canyon bridge, the more compelling it is. Still, there are risks and concerns that need full discussion.

Southern Idaho residents should pay closer attention to Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's "Connecting Idaho" initiative, which would use GARVEE bonds to build 13 major road projects statewide.

accident on the bridge cripples traffic flow into the city for an extended period.

• Feasibility of GARVEE bonds - Idaho wouldn't be the first to use GARVEE bonds for road projects, since 15 other states have used the funding mechanism to their advantage.

Twin Falls Rep. Leon Smith rightfully points out that there will be years where interest payments would take up half the federal highway money received by the state. But taxpayers should remember that those payments come from federal grants on federal fuel taxes. It does not require the state to raise new taxes.

• Avoid rising costs - The longer we wait to build this bridge, the higher the costs will rise. Kempthorne is right, we can either wait on this project, and pay more in the future, or we can build it now and pay the interest on the bonds.

In addition to construction costs, the state must secure easements and right-of-way segments for a new bridge. By waiting to do that, state transportation officials risk higher costs and more difficult routes. If the government waits, other developers could move in and boost the land prices to much higher levels. Acting now doesn't just save money, but it also helps steer proper development of neighborhoods and retail in future years.

Critics have noted that the bridge project is a late, political addition to the state's highway project list. By throwing plums to all Idahoans, the initiative is bound to gain more popularity. And maybe that's true.

Some legislators favor a plan to issue GARVEE bonds on a percentage of the federal government's fuel tax disbursement rather than the full \$1.6 billion price tag. That's better than doing nothing at all.

The future always belongs to those who prepare the best for it. Southern Idaho residents should encourage their leaders to take that route with a new canyon bridge.

• Traffic congestion - City and state officials say the Perrine Bridge entrance to Blue Lakes Boulevard won't reach capacity for 15 to 20 years. But the problems are already manifest. More traffic violations, bulging amounts of retail on one stretch, difficult paths for freight trucks, are already evident.

Kempthorne's plan says a bridge will require 10 years of work. So why not act now to stem traffic concerns in the future? A new bridge will allow truck traffic to avoid the Perrine Bridge altogether. And it's only a matter of time before some kind of ac-

• City leaders and planners already know that a third bridge will be necessary for connecting Highway 93 and Interstate 84. The only question is whether we wait 30 years for this kind of structure, or move now so that it's in place within 10 years.

In our view, the sooner we can act, the better. Magic Valley residents should support a new bridge for numerous reasons, but the following top the list.

• Traffic congestion - City and state officials say the Perrine Bridge entrance to Blue Lakes Boulevard won't reach capacity for 15 to 20 years. But the problems are already manifest. More traffic violations, bulging amounts of retail on one stretch, difficult paths for freight trucks, are already evident.

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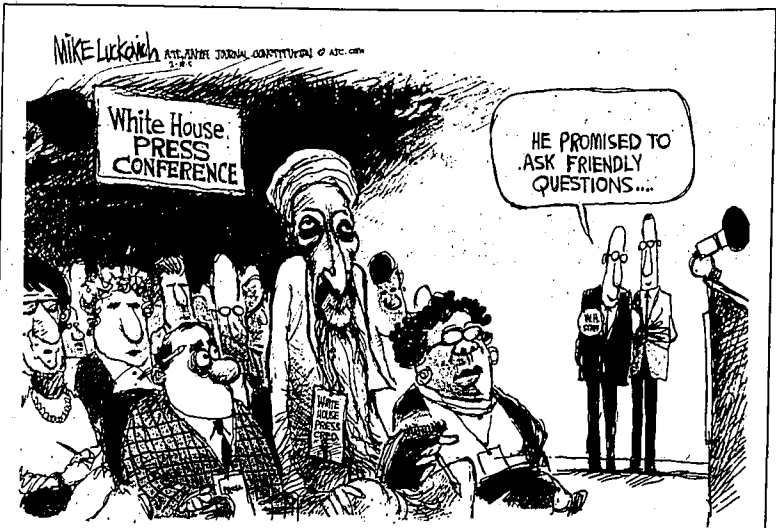
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Invasion of reporter snatchers

I am very impressed with James Guckert, aka Jeff Gannon.

How often does an enterprising young man, heralded in press reports as both a reporter and a contributor to *Military.com*, *Militaryescorts.com*, *MilitaryescortsM4M.com*, *Workingboys.net* and *Meelocalmen.com*, get to question the president of the United States?



In an era when security concerns are paramount, what kind of Secret Service background check did James Guckert get so he could saunter into the West Wing every day under an assumed name while he was doing full-frontal advertising for stud services for \$1,200 a weekend? He used a driver's license that said James Guckert to get into the White House and, once inside, switched to his alter ego, asking questions as Jeff Gannon.

They're waging a jihad against journalists - buying them off so they'll promote administration programs, trying to put them in jail for doing their jobs, and replacing them with ringers.

At last month's press conference, "Jeff Gannon" asked Bush how he could work with Democrats "who seem to have divorced themselves from reality." But Bush officials have divorced themselves from reality.

Who knew that a hotmail-stud wanting to meelocalmen.com so easily get to the face of the commander in chief?

said Wednesday that he had designed a gay escort site for Gannon and posted naked pictures of Gannon at the client's request.

McClellan shrugged this off to Editor & Publisher, adding noting, "People use aliases all the time in life, from journalists to actors."

They flipped TVs in the West Wing and Air Force One to Fox News. They paid conservative columnists handsomely to promote administration programs. Federal agencies distributed packaged "news" video releases with faux anchors so local news outlets would run them. As CNN reported, the Pentagon produces fake sites with "news" articles intended to influence opinion abroad and at home, but you have to look hard for the disclaimer. "Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense." The agencies spent a whopping \$88 million spinning reality in 2004, splurging on PR contracts.

It's hard to believe the White House could hit rock bottom on credibility again, but it has, in a bizarre maelstrom that plays like a dark comedy. How does it credential a man with a double life and secret pass?

And The Wilmington News-Journal in Delaware reported that Guckert was delinquent in \$20,700 in personal income tax from 1991 to 1994.

I know the FBI computers don't work, but this is ridiculous. After getting gismacked by the louché sagas of Guckert and Bernard Kerik, the White House veterans should consider adding someone with some blogging experience.

Even the Nixon White House didn't do anything like this. It's worse than hitting the press. It's an attempt to reinvent it.

"Jeff Gannon" was waved into the press room nearly every day for two years as the conservative correspondent for two political Web sites operated by a wealthy Texas Republican, Scott McClellan, often called on the pseudoreporter for softball questions.

McClellan replaced Art Fleischer, he said he'd renew the pass - after a new Secret Service background check that would last several months.

Does the Bush team love everything military so much that even a military-stud Web site is a recommendation?

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for The New York Times. Her e-mail is libertas@nytimes.com.

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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.

Getting in touch

Want to make your feelings known to your representatives in Congress? Here's how:

Sen. Mike Crapo
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202 Falls Ave., Suite 2
Twin Falls, ID 83301
734-2515; Fax 733-0414
In Washington:
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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(202) 224-6142
email messages can be sent via Sen. Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/~crapo

Rep. Mike Simpson
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Fax: (202) 225-8216
Access Simpson's e-mail through his Webpage: <http://www.house.gov/simpson>

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathews, regional director
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Sen. Mike Crapo
In Twin Falls, call or write: Heather Tiel, senior regional director
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In Washington:
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6142
email messages can be sent via Sen. Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/~crapo

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathews, regional director
560 Filer Ave., Suite A

Responsibility for pets lies with pet owners

I cannot believe the editorial of Feb. 15 blaming the People for Pets-Magic Valley Humane Society for the over-abundance of animals.

You should read the article, "But It's Not My Car" by M. Keith. If the animal lives, then it is your responsibility. If all the folks would take responsibility for the animals "in their care," we would not have the problem of too many pets.

Personally, I think the People for Pets-Magic Valley Humane Society is doing a great job and should be applauded for its efforts.

JUDY HUCKINGHAM
Twin Falls, ID

Find a rant other than gay marriage

In response to Randy Tolman's delightful missive, "Celebration announcement an unpleasant surprise" on Feb. 16, I must implore you, Randy: Do not cancel your ranting for The Times-News.

From the look of your turgid, non-linear and awkwardly written prose, I suspect The Times-News is not a few sources of reading you may have. Cutting yourself off will only further alienate you from knowledge. To do so would make you actively complicit with ignorance, and I think you'd agree, there's no excuse for ignorance.

Idaho future more secure with Nez Perce deal

How about this Nez Perce water agreement we are hearing so much about?

As a current property owner and a descendant of some hardy American pioneers dating back to the mid-1600s I would like to turn the calendar back to the time when these treaties with the American Indians were being signed and whisper instructions into some ears. However, since this is not possible, we must work with what our forefathers signed and pledged our country to, and what we wish they had signed.

As I see it, we, the state of Idaho, can take the stance that we will not sign the current agreement and turn it over to the court system. This seems to me to be a long and costly process and, at the end of the

Letters

Last, why not just end this anti-gay tomfoolery, Randy? Aren't there better things for you to do out there in Jerome? You know that gay marriage is illegal in Idaho. You have no moral scruples about violating the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by supporting legislation that offends its equal protection under the law clause.

Isn't it time to move on? Join the wolf debate or complain about Jerome's sheriff. Anything but that silly letter you wrote.

CODY ELDRIDGE
Twin Falls

Idahoans, to urge your legislators to vote to ratify the Nez Perce agreement.

JOHN C. HAIGHT
Twin Falls

Blame thiers, not state owners, for prepay

The cost of being in business is so astronomical I can't help but think people should be more understanding of businesses that have to take drastic measures to protect their profits from theft.

If a gas station has to hire a person (or two) to help customers so they can have the convenience of no trips inside, their profits now are going to that rather than lost to drive-offs.

This solution could cost the owner in excess of \$25,000 a year. Solutions such as planning ahead for the amount of fuel you will purchase or using a credit or debit card at the pump could help. How easy does our gas have to be before we appreciate things for what they are?

I thank those business owners for having a business I can use. Most businesses can barely make it in today's economy, so I feel whatever measures they need to use to protect their profits; I will respect without whining.

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This

Behavior key to fighting AIDS strain

News of a potentially virulent strain of HIV invading and infecting a new generation of homosexual men should come as no surprise. After years of a growing laxness of gay men who were increasingly complacent about AIDS and engaging in risky behavior, fueled by Internet liaisons and inhibition-lowering drugs — rather than behavior modification or lifestyle transformation — AIDS workers are "dismayed," as The New York Times put it in a Feb. 15 story.



CAL THOMAS

While data and interpretations of it vary as to whether homosexuals are any more promiscuous than heterosexuals, those who are at greatest risk for contracting and spreading this new virulent strain of HIV are promiscuous in the extreme. They hook up at "sex parties," engage in anal sex without using condoms and often use crystal methamphetamines to enhance their sexual experience in sex marathons with multiple partners.

In New York, some veterans of the war against AIDS are proposing a new approach to

the spread of risky sex. They want to track down people who know they carry the virus, but have sex anyway, spreading the disease. Charles Kaiser, a historian and author of "The Gay Metropolis," told The New York Times, "A person who is HIV positive has no more right to unprotected intercourse than he has the right to put a bullet through another person's head."

This attitude follows two decades during which telling anyone they should stop doing what they are doing because it harms them and others got them labeled "homophobic." Not many were able to stand up to such condemnations and so they mostly remained silent. People who refused to change their risky behavior blamed the Reagan Administration for not "doing enough" to fight AIDS. "Safer sex" campaigns have been tried before — at bath houses and "glory hole" facilit-

ties in San Francisco and similar places in New York and other cities. Initially the campaigns produced some admirable results as people became aware of the dangers, they faced from "unsafe sex" and the jeopardy in which they placed uninfected "partners." Soon, though, the messages were ignored and the risky be-

havior resumed. There have been some reports of "suicide missions" by uninfected men who knowingly have sex with HIV positive men, believing that to be infected gives them a certain societal status.

"Behavior remains the key," says Dr. Koop. After at least two decades during which we have been told that changing homo-

sexual behavior is nearly impossible and conversion to celibacy — a heterosexual lifestyle is a sham that denies "who we are" — getting people to listen to a message about behavior change will be increasingly difficult, like finding the miracle vaccine Dr. Koop doubts is around the corner.

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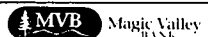
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WORLD

Slain U.S. nun at heart of battle over Amazon

ON THE BOA ESPERANCA SETTLEMENT in Itaipu (AP) — A crude cross of tree branches marks the spot where American nun Dorothy Stang died on a red mud road cutting through dense green jungle. It also marks ground zero of a battle over how the Amazon, the world's largest remaining tropical wilderness, will be developed — or destroyed.

Stang, 73, a spunky, softly spoken nun from Dayton, Ohio, was shot dead on Feb. 12 in a dispute with an influential rancher in the eastern Amazon state of Para, on the frontier of forest and development, where powerful interests collide with the Amazon's poor.

"Before she came here, she was in southern Para, where loggers cut down everything, and she saw that model brought only disgrace for many and no benefits for only a few," said Felício Pontes Jr., a federal prosecutor who often worked with Stang on land issues. "She vowed not to let that happen here."

That vow cost Stang her life — and made her a symbol for rain forest defenders.

When Stang, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, was shot she became the most celebrated martyr to die defending the rain forest since Chico Mendes, the rubber tapper and guardian of the Amazon who was killed in 1988.

While her death brought international attention, increased environmental awareness and government regulations, much has remained the same.

The Amazon is still a wild, mostly lawless region. Loggers, ranchers and developers are still cutting it down — about 20 percent of the 1.6 million square mile wilderness already has been destroyed.

An estimated 9,169 square miles of the Amazon rain forest was cut down in 2003, the last year for which government figures are available.

Stang preached living in harmony with the forest rather than cutting it down for quick gain. But Stang, unlike Mendes, had a vast arsenal of environmental laws and land use regulations that strengthened her argument with ranchers.

"Dorothy would call up all the government agencies and demand this and that and when they'd hang up on her she'd go to Belém (the state capital) or Brasília and knock on their doors. She'd even open up their file cabinets," rancher Cláudia-Marcia Cavalcante, 51, an agricultural technician with the farming cooperative formed by Stang.

Stang's success earned her the hostility of local ranchers, who were used to grabbing whatever land they wanted, using forged deeds or no deeds at all.

"They threw up a fence and sent 'pistoleros' to the fence and keep people out. If there are people there they burn down their huts and force them off at gun point," explained Cavalcante.

According to witnesses, Stang was killed because she was trying to halt logging in an area of near-pristine jungle coveted by rancher Vitálmio Gonçalves Moura. Police are searching for Moura but think he fled the re-



American nun Dorothy Stang is seen at Para's legislature in Belém, northern Brazil, on Feb. 12.

Brazilian police arrest suspect in killing of nun

ALTAMIRA, Brazil (AP) — A man wanted in the killing of an American nun who tried to protect the Amazon rain forest and its poor residents from loggers and ranchers has surrendered to police, authorities said Saturday.

Amar Freijoli da Cunha, known as Tato, was taken into custody after turning himself in to police in Altamira, a city about 80 miles from where Dorothy Stang, a 73-year-old member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, was shot dead Feb. 12, police said.

Authorities were still searching for two purported gunmen and a rancher accused of ordering the slaying, police investigator Ana Indira Vaz said. Arrest warrants for Cunha and the three other suspects were issued Monday.

Stang claimed Moura had no right to the land where she wanted to create a Sustainable Development Project — where settlers are granted land if they agree to preserve the forest.

For weeks, men working for Moura knocked down and burned the settlers' rickety thatched-roof huts in an attempt to expel them from the land.

"They kept burning down the huts and Dorothy kept having us put them back up. She ruined their plans, so they killed her," said settler Halmundo Alfredo Campelo Maia, 39, who lives near the spot where Stang was killed.

Maia recalls taking long walks with Stang through the jungle to visit poor settlers, where she talked about her commitment to the poor and saving the environment.

"She always spent the night with the poorest people. She lived like they lived and ate what they ate," said Maia.

Stang was searching for Moura but think he fled the re-

nationwide against suspected IRA money launderers. The source netted about \$4.75 million in cash, most of which was found in the County Cork home of private banker Ted Cunningham. He walked free from a Cork police station Saturday after two days' interrogation, but police said they were preparing a file of evidence against him to send to state prosecutors, a process that could take weeks.

SURPRISE!!!
Happy 11th Birthday,
ASHLEY H.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Drew

FINDING UNITY

Long-divided Lebanon comes together with Hariri's assassination

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — At the flower-strewn grave of Rafik Hariri, a woman made the sign of the cross next to a man who spread his hands and solemnly recited the faith, the first verse of Islam's holy book, the Quran.

It was an extraordinary scene in a country where Christians and Muslims have feuded for centuries and fought a bitter, 15-year civil war — a sign perhaps that the Lebanese finally are learning to live at peace with each other.

Ironically it took the assassination of Hariri, a Sunni Muslim, a former prime minister and the nation's most prominent politician, to accomplish that.

After his murder by bomb on Monday, and especially at his funeral two days later, Christians, Muslims and Druse came together in a vivid manifestation of unity rare in Lebanon's violent, sectarian-charged history.

"Maybe our great loss in his death will lead to the unity of the Lebanese people," said Abdul-Halim Shehadeh, a grocer in Beirut's Hamra district.

"His grave has brought people together. We hope that this national unity continues. Nobody likes to see his country divided," Shehadeh said as he sipped bitter black coffee.

Pessimists immediately predicted that Hariri's slaying would bring an explosion of sectarian violence but — at least so far — the Lebanese have proved them wrong.

Instead of turning on each other, they turned against Syria, which maintains 15,000 troops in Lebanon and holds sway over the country's politics through its allies in the Lebanese government.

In an unprecedented show of defiance, reflecting a widespread suspicion that Syria was behind the killing, the hundreds of thousands of mourners marching behind Hariri's casket



An unidentified man stands behind a portrait of slain former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, hung with rosary beads, at his grave in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday. The Monday's assassination of Hariri brought together Lebanese Christians, Muslims and Druse.

chanted "Syria out" and slogans against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The slaying of a Lebanese political leader is not at all rare. During the 1975-90 civil war that killed 150,000 people and wreaked destruction, the country lost two elected presidents, a prime minister and the Sunni Muslim spiritual leader.

Such killings often trigger revenge attacks.

The 1977 assassination of Druse leader Kamal Jumblatt led to the killing of hundreds of

Christians. In 1982, after the murder of the Christian president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, his militia allies massacred hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camp.

Many Lebanese remain divided over Syria's role in their country and the issue will continue to boil between the pro-Syrian government and the opposition.

But it comes as a relief that this time the split is along political rather than religious lines, since both pro- and anti-Syrian camps have Christian, Druse and Mus-

lim politicians.

"His blood united all of Lebanon," said Walid Jumblatt, a Syrian ally who has accused the Hariri government and its Lebanese allies of engineering the killing.

"What they did not take into consideration, those criminals in the Lebanese and Syrian intelligence services, is that they did not know that the Lebanese people were united behind Rafik Hariri," said Jumblatt, who inherited leadership of the Druse sect after his father, Kamal, was murdered.

Syria and the allied Lebanese government have denied involvement. Both tried to picture the killing as an attempt by unknown enemies to re-ignite Christian-Muslim violence.

But at the funeral, the emotional outpouring cut across the lines. Tolling church bells mixed with Islamic prayers along the procession route. Catholic nuns and Muslim clerics came to pray and pay respects. Members of the Druse and Maronite parties, fierce foes in the civil war, were there with their banners.

Even the militant Hezbollah movement, his such avowed political opponent, called his slaying a "national catastrophe."

Hariri is credited with negotiating the 1989 Christian-Muslim power-sharing agreement that ended the civil war, and with rebuilding Lebanon.

As prime minister for 10 of the 14 years since the civil war ended, he was often an ally of Syria but had begun to change course when he resigned in October after Syria orchestrated a three-year extension of the term in office of his political rival, the pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud.

Although not always popular as premier and often blamed for the country's huge debt, Hariri was nonetheless viewed by many as the best hope to revive Lebanon's prewar glory as the Middle East's tourist and commercial hub.

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Wild times on the bus ride to celebrity

A chilly Canadian wind blew prematurely fallen leaves across the infield of Athletic Park. Two out, two runners on base, eighth inning, the 1992 and deciding game of the fifth annual League Championship Series between the home team, Medicine Hat Blue Jays and the Idaho Falls As.

He needed to have bothered. Canseco's fly thudded into his glove 10 feet short of the fence. A sportswriter for the Idaho Falls newspaper at the time, I was leaning on a dugout, maybe 30 feet from the As manager, who was coaching third base. "Too little," he said to no one in particular as he headed back to the dugout. "Too little, too late."

By the time Canseco became the American League Player of the Year for the Oakland Athletics six years later, he weighed 255 pounds and stood 6-3. He ended up hitting 462 home runs in 16 major league seasons. I thought about that September evening in Medicine Hat last week when Canseco released his explosive tell-all book about major league baseball and steroids. "Juiced: Smash Hits and How Baseball Got Big" in which he brags about what performance-enhancing drugs did for his career, and lists a dozen other players in their use.

Canseco takes credit for introducing steroids to baseball on a widespread scale, and indirectly for the power surge that culminated in Barry Bonds' record-setting 73 home runs in 2001. In part because of "juiced," when Bonds breaks Henry Aaron's all-time home run record sometime this season or next, it's an achievement that will be forever tainted in the minds of a lot of baseball fans. Because steroids, of course, do more than artificially inflate athletes and the statistics they produce: They also damage, sometimes irreparably, the bodies of the jocks who depend on them.

For that, Canseco seems absolutely unrepentant. "For certain individuals, I truly believe, because I've experimented with it for so many years, that it can make an average athlete a super athlete. It can make a super athlete incredible. The just legitimate." So how did Canseco get from Idaho Falls to infamy? In the summer of 1982 he was a preternaturally shy Cuban-American kid, drafted by the Athletics in the 15th round out of Miami's Coral Park High School. In Idaho Falls, he lived in the coldest of coldwater apartments - in his book he calls it "Animal House" - with

Snowpack levels table with columns for watershed, snowpack %, and date. Includes a note about a comparison of basin snowpack on Feb. 15, 2005.

Court vacates T.F. man's conviction

Judges: Police improperly searched wallet

By John Miller, The Associated Press

BOISE - An Idaho Court of Appeals panel has vacated a Twin Falls man's drug conviction, ruling that evidence he had methamphetamine in his wallet during a traffic stop shouldn't have been allowed at his trial because police improperly expanded a search of his car to include his possessions.

Eric K. Gibson successfully argued that probable cause to search his vehicle shouldn't have meant they could search belongings. In February 2003, an officer with the Twin Falls Sheriff's Department stopped a car after observing the driver and the passenger switch places. After calling for backup, including a drug-sniffing dog, the officer identified Gibson as the man who had been in the passenger seat before the switch. During a search, the dog detected a drug odor on the passenger side of the car. Following the dog's alerting to a controlled substance, Gibson and a 14-year-old boy were

taken from the car. The officers removed items from Gibson's jacket, including his wallet. Though a search of the car failed to turn up drugs, police found a small bag of methamphetamine in Gibson's wallet. He was subsequently arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance. At Gibson's trial, District Court Judge Daniel C. Hubbutt denied the defendant's bid to suppress evidence of meth possession. Gibson pleaded guilty - on the condition that he could appeal the verdict and Hubbutt's refusal to suppress the evidence. In reversing the conviction, the three-judge appeals court

panel disagreed with Hubbutt's decision that the police were allowed to search Gibson's belongings after they didn't find drugs in the car. The appeals court ruled that after the drug dog alerted to the vehicle, there was only probable cause to search the car - not Gibson or his possessions. "Occupants of a car continue to have a heightened expectation of privacy," wrote Judge Protem Jesse R. Walters in the decision, which was backed by the other two judges on the panel, Karen L. Lansing and Sergio A. Gutierrez. "There exists a unique, significantly heightened protection afforded against searches of one's person. Even a

limited personal search intrudes on cherished personal security and an annoying frightening and perhaps humiliating experience." The alert of a drug dog on a car seat where an occupant had previously been seated does not, standing alone, give police probable cause to believe that the occupant had drugs on his or her person, the court ruled. Only the vehicle was fair game to be searched, it said. "Thus, the search of Gibson's wallet was unlawful and its fruits should be suppressed," Walters wrote. Prosecutors can still appeal the reversal to the Idaho Supreme Court.

WATER WORRIES



Jesse Helton prepares to climb out of a display tractor to his father Steve and brother Paris at the Agriculture Fair held at the Eldon Evans Expo Center Saturday. The fair consisted of many different businesses showing off what they have to offer to the agriculture industry.

Rain stirs hope in ag fair attendees

By Megan Hinds, Times-News writer. TWIN FALLS - The rainy weather seemed to lift the spirits of those attending the annual KMYT Agri-Action expo Saturday - the overall mood was cautiously optimistic. "Any moisture is a good thing," said Marden Plant, a sales representative for Precision Pumping Systems of Burley. The company had a booth at the expo. Hundreds of agriculture en-

thusiasts milled around the displays set up inside the Eldon Evans Expo Center on the College of Southern Idaho campus, checking out irrigation systems, new tractors and dairy equipment. Naturally, water worries were on the minds of many at the expo. With the years-long drought likely to persist this growing season and water allocation issues lingering between surface and groundwater users, those in the ag business are a little skittish these days. Plant said the number of peo-

ple checking out Precision Pumping Systems' booth were down this year from last. The company sells computerized systems that essentially set a "cruise control" on irrigation systems, making the systems more water- and energy-efficient. Plant attributed the lower numbers to farmers' apprehension to spend money on new systems when the upcoming growing season could be a poor one. "Down dollar years are the best times to buy one of these

systems because they save time, money and electricity," Plant said. "It's just the matter of coming up with the initial capital to buy one." Just down the aisle from Plant's booth, Tony Brand of Jerome-based Magle Valley Compost was touting the benefits of the natural fertilizer. Using compost on fields can improve the soils' water efficiency by 20 percent, making the ground less susceptible to runoff, he said. In a short water Please see A6, Page B7

Minority relations group redefines goals

By Dixie Thomas Reale, Times-News correspondent. JEROME - Members of the city of Jerome's Committee on Minority Relations are trying to inject new life into their group. This past week, members got down to discussing goals and establishing a fundamental purpose for the committee. Councilwoman Marjorie Schmidt said she envisions the committee building bridges between the Anglo and Hispanic cultures in the community. She suggested the centennial celebration that will be held in 2007 would be a good opportunity to involve both cultures in remembering and memorializing the city's roots. City Administrator Travis Rothweiler noted the importance of cross-cultural understanding.

Next meeting. The city of Jerome's Committee on Minority Relations will hold its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. March 16 at El Sombrero. "The best water and sewer systems in the world mean nothing if late crimes occur in the community," he said. The committee was created in 2000 by then-Mayor Dennis Moore. Last year attendance at committee meetings dwindled until only a handful of members were left. Then-chairwoman Lape Cisneros resigned during the summer due to an illness in her family. At the Mexican Independence Fiesta held in September several community representatives expressed interest in reinvigorating the committee.

Nike Shaw, human rights trainer for the Association of Idaho Cities, told committee members that he hoped the newly reorganized group would focus on actually implementing their plans. Any Rothweiler agreed that there should be a way to track goal achievement. "How are we going to measure our success? How will we know if the committee is succeeding?" she asked. Art Brown, county planning and zoning administrator, said the committee could look at before-and-after numbers of Hispanic and Anglo children playing together in recreational settings for success indicators. Chief of Police Dan Hall suggested the committee hold meetings at different places around town in restaurants and churches to get more involve-

ment from the Hispanic community. He said he sees two distinct subcultures in the larger community of Jerome: one Anglo and one Hispanic. Hall spoke of an underlying current of mistrust due to poor communication between the community and the committee needs to show that inclusiveness benefits the community socially and economically, Hall said. Brown agreed, saying that holding meetings in different locations around town would show inclusiveness and build a stronger committee. Mayor Charles Correll said he would like "the two cultures to feel comfortable enough with one another that anyone could go into any business in town and feel welcome."

Judge orders new trial in Kunau case

Jury had awarded ex-principal more than \$180,000 in December

By Laurie Welch, For The Times-News

RUPERT - Judge Monte B. Carlson has ordered a new trial in the case of a former elementary school principal who won a settlement against the Minidoka County School District last year.

A jury awarded former Heyburn Elementary School principal Nancy Kunau a settlement of more than \$180,000 in December 2004 following an eight-day trial. But both sides in the case filed post-trial motions challenging the jury's verdict. The jury found the district had constructively discharged Kunau from her job and had defamed her, but other parts of the verdict indicated that defamation was not evident. Kunau was transferred from her position in Heyburn to a vice principal's position at Minico High School in 2002. The move came after a series of allegations were lodged against her. Those allegations were investigated, but none were ever substantiated.

Kunau never took the position at the high school and resigned from the district. "I'm not going to get back to square one on one issue, defamation," said the school district's lead attorney, Brian Julian. Julian said it is likely the case will be heard in Carlson's 5th District courtroom, but either party can ask for a different judge. The case may not be back in court until late fall, he said. "A different judge could be assigned to it in any event," Julian said. In Carlson's order for a new trial, which was issued Feb. 10, he said that the jury instructions were the target of his scrutiny. He found the instructions confused the jury and resulted in an inconsistent verdict.

Jason Walker, attorney for the district's board, said the school district is pleased with the decision. "It means the big judgment is gone and we'll get another crack at it," he said.

NewsTracker

- Last we knew: In December 2004, a jury awarded former Heyburn Elementary School Principal Nancy Kunau \$183,214 in her lawsuit against the Minidoka County School District.
The latest: Fifth District Judge Monte B. Carlson has granted a new trial.
What's next: The new trial could begin as late as November.
Preston's accident occurred at milepost 167 at about 6:15 a.m. The crashes are being investigated by Idaho State Police. If anyone witnessed these accidents, they are asked to call 736-3070.
A crane is assisting in the recovery of Ross's vehicle.

Separate single-car accidents kill two Jerome residents

The separate crash sites. Sgt. Doug McFall of the Idaho State Police located tire marks that went over the canyon rim on Yingst Road, an access road to the Snake River Canyon near Auger Falls 6.5 miles south of Jerome. According to an ISP press re-

lease, it appeared Rose had failed to negotiate a curve and drove over an embankment. His 1997 Ford F150 pickup fell 200 feet before coming to a rest. Earlier Saturday, Preston was killed as she was headed eastbound on Interstate 84, near

Jerome. She lost control of her 2002 GMC Envoy and was ejected from the vehicle as it rolled off the right side of the road, according to an ISP news release. It was unknown whether she was wearing her seatbelt, the news release said.

Preston's accident occurred at milepost 167 at about 6:15 a.m. The crashes are being investigated by Idaho State Police. If anyone witnessed these accidents, they are asked to call 736-3070. A crane is assisting in the recovery of Ross's vehicle.

The Times-News

MAGIC VALLEY

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3278 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Donald K. Justus



Science in economics in 1950. From this marriage his children, Karan and Steven, were born and we lived primarily in Boise.

In 1960, he married the love of his life, Shirley Howard in Idaho Falls. She brought two children to the marriage, son, Patrick, and daughter, Sara. During this period, Dad worked at Sears as a department manager. A son, Kevin, was born a few years later and the family moved back to Boise. Dad went to work at the Bureau of Reclamation, eventually becoming regional economist for the Northwest region.

Dad retired from the bureau in 1987 and began working at his true passion, ranching. He

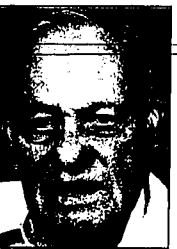
ranching in Hailey, Stanley Basin and Sweet. He was never happier than when he was out moving sprinkler pipes, branding the cattle or having a rock picking party! As his grandson, CJ, said, "He was a hardworker and loving grandpa."

Dad, you are our hero. We will miss you more than words can say. Let God's perpetual light shine up you.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Shirley; his daughter, Karan Anton, and her husband, Chris; and sons, Aaron, CJ and Cooper. He is also survived by his wife, Valerie, and daughter, Tiffany; son, Kevin Justus, and his wife, Sharon; stepson, Pat Howard; stepdaughter, Sam Ballenger; and her children, Ian and Britt, and several great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his only sibling, Royce Jeanne Shaffer.

The family would like to thank Boise Samaritan Village and the staff of the Star unit for their loving care of our dad during his year and several months there and the care and concern for us as a family. They were truly outstanding. We would also like to thank St. Luke's Hospice without whom it's questionable whether we could have survived inpatient during the last few days of Dad's life.

Gerald (Jerry) G. Teter



an electrician and an accountant who enjoyed hunting and photography.

loved to go to Jackpot, Nev., and enjoyed traveling in his younger years. Jerry was also a member—the National Rifle Association.

He is preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Marvin and Melvin.

In addition to his wife, Linda of Twin Falls, he is survived by three daughters in Montana, several grandchildren, three nieces and three nephews.

A graveside service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005, at Sunset Memorial Park with Pastor Kevin Anderson officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park."

Ingeborg Kamrud Eriksen



love and respect for the culture and traditions of her and Snorre's native land of Norway. They returned together to visit family in Norway many times. She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Buhl and the Northview Ladies Club.

Helen Winegar



cheating, sewing, baking and she was always talking about the loves in her life, her cats. Her pride and joys were her children, grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is survived by her siblings, Colleen Winegar-Salisbury, Dick Winegar and Harvey Winegar; her children, Sami Johnston (Mark) of Boise and Roger Wilkinson Jr.

Cobb of Buhl, Martha A. (Helen) Shaver of Pocatello, Norma (Robert) Bliss of Filley, and Elcen (Al) Tetz of Pocatello; 16 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Ingeborg was preceded in death by her husband, Snorre; her parents, five sisters, one brother, a grandson, a great-grandson and a great-granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in memory of Ingeborg, to the charity of your choice.

A funeral will be held at noon Monday, Feb. 21, 2005, at Farmer Funeral Chapel with Pastor Mark Latham officiating.

A graveside service will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Family and friends may call from 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005, at the funeral home.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl, Idaho.

of Hailey; two granddaughters, Molly Harvey (Kurt) and Elizabeth Sapp, both of Twin Falls; and two beautiful great-grandchildren, Taylor and Coral Harvey.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Elias Winegar and Lena Winegar, and siblings, Veda Winegar-Bianchi, Milford Winegar, Dean Winegar, Elaine Winegar and Clinton Winegar; and her infant son, Samuel Winegar.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 21, 2005, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park" with Bishop Charles Hansen officiating. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. Monday until service time at the mortuary. On Tuesday, visitation will be from 10 until 10:45 a.m. at Russon Brothers Bountiful Mortuary, 295 S. Main, with a graveside service at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005, at the Bountiful City Cemetery in Utah.

OBITUARY



Ada Arlene Vogel

HEROME — Ada Arlene Vogel died Feb. 17, 2005, at St. Bonifacius Long Term Care Facility in Jerome, Idaho.

She was born Feb. 1, 1924, at Ravinia, S.D., to Arthur and Mary Lydia Hyde Wilson. The family farmed near Wagner, S.D., until 1937 when they moved to Custer, S.D., where Ada continued her schooling. She was married to Charles Lee Vogel on July 18, 1940, in Custer, where they resided until 1955. They moved when Charlie was employed on road construction. They lived in several western states, moving to Jerome, Idaho, where Charlie later retired. Charlie later died in 1987. Ada continued to reside in Jerome. She was an active member of St. Jerome's Catholic Community.

Ada is survived by two sons, Lawrence and wife Donna, and Leon and his wife Mary, both in Jerome; She has 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; her sister, Hazel Collier of Kuna, Idaho;

and several nieces and nephews. Her husband and parents preceded her in death.

Rosary will be recited at 6:45 p.m. followed by a vigil service at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005, at the St. Jerome's Catholic Church.

A celebration of life Mass will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 21, 2005, at St. Jerome's Catholic Church with the Rev. Father Ronald Wekerle and the Rev. Father Caleb Vogel officiating. Interment will follow the service in the Jerome Cemetery. The family suggests memorial donations to the St. Jerome's Catholic Church, Building Fund. Funeral services are under the direction of the Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

DEATH

NOTICES

Wilma E. Kuykendall

TWIN FALLS — Wilma E. Kuykendall, 87, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Feb. 19, 2005, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Heywood Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Alex Bilbao

GOODING — Alex Bilbao, 81, of Shoshone, died Friday, Feb. 18, 2005, at his home. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005, at Demaray's Gooding Chapel with Father Carlos Perez officiating. Burial service will follow at the Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding. Family and friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at Demaray's Gooding Chapel.

Mabel E. Johnson

BOISE — Mabel E. Johnson, 83, of Boise and formerly of Jerome, died Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005, in Boise. Arrangements will be announced by Farnsworth Mortuary and Crematory, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome.

Lauro Pina Sr.

BOISE — Lauro Pina Sr., 54, of Boise and formerly of Twin Falls, died Friday, Feb. 18, 2005, at his home. Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Ralph F. Koener

BARTONVILLE, Ill. — Ralph F. Koener, 82, of Bartonville, Ill., and formerly of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2005, at his home.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005, at Davidson-Fulton-Woodland Chapel in Fort Collins, with the Rev. Darin Fish officiating. Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Parkview Cemetery in Beavira. Memorials may be made to Children's Chicago Memorial Hospital for heart problem research or Spina Bifida Association of America for research.

SERVICES

Edna S. Doner of Glens Ferry, graveside service at 2 p.m. Monday at the Kohler-Lawn Cemetery in Nampa; visitation from 1 to 5 p.m. today at the Atsp. & Persons Funeral Chapel.

Louise Price of Rexburg and formerly of the Wood River Valley, funeral at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Rexburg 12th Ward building; viewing from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Flamm Funeral Home in Rexburg; interment at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Carey Cemetery.

del. funeral at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Wendell United Methodist Church; family and friends may call from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at Demaray's Wendell Chapel.

Lenore Marcella McKelvy of Hailey, memorial service at 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Blaine Manor in Hailey (Wood River Chapel).

For more obituaries, see page B3.

Marshall Howsden of Wen-

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OBITUARY

Katherine (Wirth) Graves Bright Hurd

BOISE — Katherine Hurd, 94, of Boise, died Thursday, Feb. 17, 2005, at a local care center.

The service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005, at Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel, 1205 W. Barnock, Boise. Burial will follow at Dry Creek Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel.

Katherine was born in Winnipeg, Canada, to Carl and Katherine (Lezliana) Wirth. She was the third of eight children. At an early age in her life, the family moved to Minnesota and then to Nebraska. Katherine completed the eighth grade in school. She left home to go to work in Sterling, Colo. While working there, she met and married Mark Graves. While they were living in Sterling, their daughter, Dolores (Graves) Winkle was born. They moved to Montana and then on to Filer, Idaho. They later moved to California and while they were living there, World War II broke out. Katherine and Mark both worked in different airplane factories. After the war,

Mark took the family to Santa Fe Railroad and they moved to New Mexico. Katherine and Dolores moved back to California as Mark transferred to Arizona. While Mark was in Arizona, he was killed in a car accident in 1947. In 1948, Katherine and Dolores moved back to Filer. Katherine got a job at the Twin Falls County Hospital, where she worked for about 10 years.

Katherine met and married Roy Bright in Twin Falls. Several years later, they were divorced. Katherine got a job with Ore-Ida in Burley and moved to Burley. She worked there until she retired.

Katherine married a lifetime friend, Wayne Hurd, after his wife, Tess, died. They lived in Shoshone, Idaho, until Wayne's death from cancer.

Katherine moved to Boise to be with her daughter and son-in-law, Dolores and Bill Winkle,



and her grandchildren. She lived several years at Harrison Hills Retirement Home, she then moved to Plantation Place Assisted Living, and finally, to Boise Samaritan Village.

The family wishes to thank all the people at Plantation and Boise Samaritan for their loving care and great friendship. Thank you very much.

Katherine is survived by her daughter, Dolores and son-in-law, Bill Winkle; grandchildren, Susan (Bill) Misura of Sacramento, Calif., Stewart (Jill) Winkle of Boise, Idaho, and Jim (Michelle) Winkle, also of Boise, Idaho; five great-grandchildren, Anne and Will Winkle of Boise, and Katie, Alyssa and Reena Misura of Sacramento, Calif.; sisters, Lydia West of Nebraska and Edna Nichols of Colorado; stepsons, Clayton (Sharon) Graves of Montana, his children in Washington, and Dean (Marilyn) Hurd of Utah, and their children of Boise, Idaho.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father, two brothers, three sisters, and her husband, Mark Graves. Roy Bright and Wayne Hurd. She was also preceded in death by two step-granddaughters.

The family requests no flowers, but suggests memorial contributions may be made to Boise Samaritan Village, 3115 Sycamore Drive, Boise, ID 83703, or to the charity of your choice.

OBITUARY

James C. (J.C.) Bennett

TWIN FALLS — James C. (J.C.) Bennett, age 68, of Twin Falls, passed away Friday, Feb. 18, 2005, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

He was born Oct. 3, 1936, at Tracy, Tenn., the son of J. C. and Berta May Bennett. He was raised and educated in Tennessee and moved to the Magic Valley two years ago to be close to family.

James was a Christian who

enjoyed fishing, camping, the out-of-doors, traveling, and playing golf. He was known for his love of animals, especially stray ones that he was constantly bringing home. James was also known for his charitable disposition towards wayward people.

He is survived by his children, Roxanne (Gary) Alford of Kimberly, Idaho, Debbra (Gene) Jess of Twin Falls, Idaho,

and Brian (Debi) Bennett of Kimberly; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Henry Bennett, brother of Spokane, Wash.; and two sisters, Eloise Kinsey and Elise Cavanaugh, both of South Carolina. He was preceded in death

by his parents, one sister and one brother.

Private family services will be conducted at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park."

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The family of Fred Locke extends their appreciation to each of you, whether you sent a card, called, thought of us, attended the service, or held us up in prayer.

Our Special Thanks go to the Veterans and the Boy Scouts of America, who gave a moving testament of Dad's life.

We also thank you for the food, flowers and contributions.
What wonderful people you are!

The Locke Kids Walt, Louise and Bob
The Grandkids Ben, Brian and Christine
The Great-Grandkids Alyssa, Jake and Xanti

Memories

To offer your sympathies or share a story about a departed friend or family member, visit the online guest book. The "In Loving Memory" site lets you leave a personal message and read messages left by others, all for free.

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IDAHO/WEST

Tot dies days after alleged beating

GARDEN CITY (AP) — A 2-year-old girl has died, days after police say she received severe injuries while in the care of her 17-year-old cousin.

Laryssa Soto died Friday at a Boise hospital after her parents removed her from life support Thursday, according to the Garden City Police Department. Her injuries included bleeding

and swelling on her brain.

Soto's 17-year-old cousin was baby-sitting her Sunday. When police and paramedics arrived to a call of a beaten child, the girl was struggling to breathe and having seizures, police said.

The teen is being held without bond in the Ada County Juvenile Detention center on a felony charge of injury to a child. Ada

County Prosecutor Greg Bower said he could be charged with murder pending a review by the prosecutor's office, detectives, the coroner and pathologist, set to begin next week.

The teen, whose name is withheld because he is charged as a minor, may also be tried as an adult.

"He is going to be an adult the

first week in March and given the severity of the crime in the case and the nature of the crime and the abuse, this is a case that the adult system should be handling," said Deputy Ada County Prosecutor Jean Fischer.

The Ada County Coroner's office was scheduled to perform an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Suspect in officer shooting appears in court over video

NAMPA (AP) — The man accused of shooting a Nampa police officer last week appeared in court over video to be formally arraigned at the Washoe County Courthouse in Reno, Nevada.

Mariano Perez Jr., 27, was arrested by Reno Police Feb. 11 after a three-state manhunt. He faces counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and trafficking a controlled substance.

Washoe Deputy District Attorney Dianne Headen said Perez was appointed a public defender Friday. He will next appear in court for a preliminary hearing on March 1.

Nampa police say he shot Cpl. Allen Williamson in the chest after a foot chase two days before his arrest. Nevada pressed local charges after being notified of Perez's extradition to Idaho to face charges connected to the officer shooting.

Couple accused of torturing kids was once praised for parenting

BEVERLY HILLS, Fla. (AP) — When John and Linda Dollar adopted eight children a decade ago, social workers regarded them as model parents who filled their home with love and even dealt out punishment with a patient hand.

But now the Dollars stand accused of monstrous acts against five of the children, ages 12 to 17, who told investigators they were starved, shocked with a cattle prod, beaten with a hammer and had toenails yanked out with pliers. Their emaciated bodies were compared by police to victims of Nazi concentration camps.

"This is probably the worst that I've seen," Citrus County Sheriff's Capt. Jim Cernich said. "Hitting their feet with rubber mallets and canes. Making them sleep in a closet."

John, 57, and Linda, 51, face aggravated child abuse charges. They were arrested in Utah two weeks ago, and were brought back to Florida late Saturday. They were being held in the Citrus County Jail without

bond pending a court appearance Sunday.

The couple fled Florida ahead of a hearing with the Department of Children & Families, which put the children in foster care after the abuse allegations surfaced.

Authorities discovered the alleged abuse Jan. 21, when the Dollars' 16-year-old son — weighing less than 60 pounds — was taken to the hospital with a head wound and red marks on his neck.

The couple's attorney, Charles Vaughn, said the Dollars want to tell their story, but are waiting for their return to Florida.

If the torture allegations are true, experts said they would defy expectations. The Dollars are a well-educated and religious couple who, according to a 1995 state application to become foster parents, seemed successful and were doing a fine job raising five adopted children while seeking permission to take in three more.

"Adoption provided my wife

and I the opportunity to extend our love to children we were not fortunate enough to have on our own," John Dollar told Florida welfare workers in his application. "We both found God sending us children who needed us and we needed them."

The dazzled caseworkers wrote: "The Dollars love and want to help children. They feel the more children they have, the merrier they are."

John Dollar is a commercial real estate appraiser and his wife is a former businesswoman with a master's degree in education. The Dollars live in a spacious home in a secluded development about 70 miles north of Tampa. They drive a luxury SUV and own an upscale motor home.

But the abuse allegations show not a loving home but a house of horrors. Investigators said they found a cattle prod, a pair of pliers and what appears to be toenails in the home, which they say corroborate what the children told detectives.

Student body leader gets impeached

BOISE (AP) — Boise State University's student body president has been impeached amid accusations from the school's Senate that he violated the student body constitution.

The University's student Senate accused David Morris of improperly accepting a waiver of his spring fees and failing to administer the student body's 2004-2005 budget.

Morris got a waiver without being approved by the senate, as per the constitution's requirement. Morris said his job description includes lobbying, so he didn't think he needed the Senate's approval for the fee waiver.

The BSU Alumni Association claims it paid the \$1,760 fee for Morris. Alex LaBeau, association president, said the student senate has no control over those funds or the matter itself.

The alumni association pays the student fees as a way to encourage students to become more involved in the legislative

process, LaBeau said.

Regardless of the charges, BSU students will elect a new president in March. Morris is not running.

Police officer shot a year ago returns to work

BOISE (AP) — Police Officer Derek Whippis took his first patrol duty—half-Saturday—since being shot during a traffic stop last year. He said his motivation to get back to work came from about 1,000 cards and letters and endless support from friends and strangers.

"It gave me a lot of motivation to work through the pain and the physical therapy," Whippis said. "My job is to serve the community. I felt an obligation to get back on the job as soon as possible."

Juventino Torres-Vargas was convicted in August of the attempted murder of a police officer. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison without the possibility of parole. After he serves his sentence, he will be deported to his native Mexico.

Torres-Vargas pulled a gun and shot Officer Derek Whippis, 32, three times at point-blank range through the car window during a routine traffic stop Feb. 28.

Two of the slugs hit Whippis bulletproof vest but the third

struck him in the side, collapsing a lung before lodging in his neck.

Flowers and fixies flooded the hospital the weekend of the shooting, his wife, Stephanie, said. Handmade "get well" cards came from schools across the state.

Whippis said he hoped to inspire his community to give similar support to Nampa Police Cpl. Allen Williamson, who was shot after a foot chase Feb. 9. He said he planned to meet with Williamson this week and encourage him in his recovery.

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Monday: No school
Tuesday: Burritos
Wednesday: Pizza
Thursday: Fish sticks
Friday: Hot dogs

BUHL SCHOOL

Breakfast Menu
Tuesday: Cheese nachos
Milk served daily. Choice of fruit or juice every day.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Cereal
Wednesday: Biscuits and gravy
Thursday: Breakfast pizza
Friday: Sausage and cheese, macaroni
Lunch Menu
Salad bar and milk served every day.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Cheese nachos
Wednesday: Cheeseburgers
Thursday: Chili macaroni
Friday: Mini corn dogs

BURLEY JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Breakfast Menu
Milk served daily. A variety of fruits and vegetables are served with each meal.
Monday: Scrambled eggs
Tuesday: Doughnut
Wednesday: Cereal
Thursday: Waffles
Friday: Bagel with cream cheese
Lunch Menu
Salad bar and milk served every day.
Monday: Pizza or cheese square
Tuesday: Hamburger, cheeseburger or burrito
Wednesday: Turkey and cheese or ham and cheese
Thursday: Pig in a blanket
Friday: Chicken Malibu or tuna

CASTLEFORD SCHOOL

Breakfast menu
Milk and juice served daily.
Monday: Donuts
Tuesday: Pancakes
Wednesday: Cinnamon rolls
Thursday: Biscuits
Friday: Breakfast muffin
Lunch Menu
Salad bar and milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Burritos
Wednesday: Toasted cheese sandwich
Thursday: Taco salad
Friday: Deli sandwich

CLOVER TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Chicken patties
Wednesday: Pizza
Thursday: Turkey sandwich
Friday: Corn dog

RANSEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Breakfast Menu
Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Biscuits and gravy
Wednesday: Scrambled eggs
Thursday: Cream of wheat
Friday: Cereal
Lunch Menu
Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Nachos
Wednesday: Chicken nuggets
Thursday: Pigs in a blanket
Friday: Sloppy Joes

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Choice of milk every day.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Soup and salad bar
Wednesday: Turkey roast
Thursday: Baked potato bar
Friday: Beef and cheese pizza

KIMBERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Pizza pocket
Wednesday: Chicken and noodles
Thursday: Peanut butter uncrustable
Friday: Nachos

KIMBERLY HIGH SCHOOL

Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Pizza pocket
Wednesday: Ham and cheese sub
Thursday: Peanut butter uncrustable
Friday: Nachos

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monday: No school
Tuesday: Barbecue pork sandwiches
Wednesday: Fried chicken
Thursday: Waffles
Friday: Pizza

MAGIC VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Choice of milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Sandwich buffet
Wednesday: Hamburger gravy and mashed potatoes
Thursday: Potato soup
Friday: No lunch

MAGIC VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Choice of milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Hot pocket
Wednesday: Hot Italian sub sandwich
Thursday: Popcorn chicken
Friday: Papa John's pizza

MINDOKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Choice of milk served daily.
Breakfast menu
Monday: No school
Tuesday: No school
Wednesday: Breakfast cookie
Thursday: Scrambled eggs
Friday: Bacon hot pocket
Lunch menu

MINDOKA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monday: No school
Tuesday: No school
Wednesday: Turkey sandwich
Thursday: Hamburgers on bun
Friday: Hard shell taco

MURTAUGH SCHOOL

Breakfast menu
Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: No school
Wednesday: French toast sticks
Thursday: Ham and cheese pocket or breakfast cookie
Friday: Breakfast burrito
Lunch menu
Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: No school
Wednesday: Hamburgers
Thursday: Corn dog or chef salad
Friday: Macaroni and cheese or hard shell taco

ROBERT STUART AND O'LEARY JUNIOR HIGH

Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Pigs in a blanket
Wednesday: Hamburger gravy over potatoes
Thursday: Chicken and pasta
Friday: Chicken nuggets

ST. EDWARDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Monday: No school
Tuesday: Cheeseburgers
Wednesday: Chef salad
Thursday: Spaghetti
Friday: Rainbow treats

TWIN FALLS ELEMENTARY

Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Waffles
Wednesday: Cereal
Thursday: French toast
Friday: Cereal
Lunch menu
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Corn dog
Wednesday: Turkey and noodles
Thursday: Manwich sandwich
Friday: Chicken nuggets

TWIN FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Breakfast is served daily.
Lunch: The high school has a choice of main line, hamburger bar, and salad bar each day, taco bar on Wednesdays and potato bar on Fridays. Main line menu varies every day.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Pasta bar
Wednesday: Cheeseburger
Thursday: Popcorn chicken
Friday: Papa John's pizza

VALLEY SCHOOLS

Breakfast is served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Chicken burger
Wednesday: Cheese pizza
Thursday: Nacho chips
Friday: Baked cheese sandwich

BLISS SCHOOL

Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Beef bites
Wednesday: Sub sandwich
Thursday: Sloppy Joe
Friday: Beef stroganoff

CASSIA SCHOOLS

Milk served daily. A variety of fruits and vegetables are served with each meal.
Breakfast menu
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Cereal
Wednesday: Breakfast on a stick
Thursday: Crispy cereal bar
Friday: Scrambled eggs
Lunch menu
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Taco
Wednesday: Corn dogs
Thursday: Crispy burrito cookie
Friday: Chicken nuggets

DIETRICH SCHOOLS

Salad bar, fruit, milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Burritos
Wednesday: Potatoes with gravy
Thursday: Cheese bake
Friday: No school

GLENN'S FERRY

Monday: No school
Tuesday: Corn dog
Wednesday: * Milibu chicken sandwich
Thursday: Egg roll
Friday: Submarine sandwich

GOODING SCHOOLS

Choice of milk served daily. The third choice is for junior high and high school students only.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Burrito
Wednesday: Pigs in a blanket
Thursday: Enchiladas
Friday: Deli bar

HAGERMAN SCHOOLS

Choice of milk offered daily.
Breakfast menu
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Breakfast cookie
Wednesday: Cereal
Thursday: Biscuits and gravy
Friday: Cereal
Lunch menu
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Taco
Wednesday: Pizza
Thursday: Macaroni and cheese
Friday: Hamburger

JEROME SCHOOLS

Milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Fiesta
Wednesday: Barbecue beef
Thursday: Chef salad
Friday: French dip sandwich

RICHFIELD SCHOOLS

Breakfast
Milk and juice served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: French toast
Friday: Cereal
Lunch
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Hamburger
Wednesday: Hot dog
Thursday: Hot turkey sandwich
Friday: Pizza

SHOSHONE SCHOOLS

Breakfast and choice of milk served daily.
Monday: No school
Tuesday: Ham
Wednesday: Beef stew
Thursday: Sloppy Joes
Friday: Closed

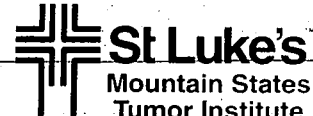
School lunch menus are printed as a public service. To have the lunch menu (breakfast menu if desired) printed with the menu in Sunday's paper send the menu to: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303, or fax it to 734-5538, attention: Lunch Menus. Deadline is noon Wednesday for publication Sunday.



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WEST

Utah banks won't refund tuition money

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A bank that offered loans to students of a failed nursing school has decided it won't forgive their debt.

BankOne and KeyBank had provided several Academy of Nursing students thousands of dollars in tuition money.

But the students have been left in limbo, having taken out loans for a school that no longer exists.

KeyBank has agreed to forgive all or part of the loans, but BankOne said Friday it had sold the loans and students should deal with the Boston-based trust that bought them.

"It's not really for us to say whether they received valuable services for their investment," said BankOne spokeswoman Mary Jane Rogers.

National Collegiate Trust bought the loans from BankOne, but the debts are managed by American Education Services of Pennsylvania. If students default, The Education Resources Institute is ultimately responsible.

The money students borrowed was supposed to pay for tutoring classes at the Academy and testing fees for Excelsior College, a New York school that grants nursing degrees by examination.

Instead, the academy kept most of the money and, when students tried to withdraw, refused to give them returns.

In the meantime, the Attorney General's Office is continuing its investigation into the use of tuition funds by academy owners and brothers, Mark and Aaron Hansson. That investigation could take months.

The Hanssons were cited in January by the State Division of Consumer Protection for collecting too much tuition up front from students, who are estimated by the state to be out upward of \$2.5 million.

Great Salt Lake mercury levels alarm scientists

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Federal scientists studying the Great Salt Lake have found some of the highest levels of mercury ever measured anywhere — prompting concern about some of the migratory birds that feed on the lake's brine shrimp.

U.S. Geological Survey and Fish and Wildlife Service researchers were initially gathering information on selenium in the lake, but decided also to test the samples for mercury.

Concentrations of methylmercury — the element's most poisonous form — exceeded 25 nanograms per liter of water. Fish consumption warnings have been issued when there was just 1 nanogram per liter.

"We thought we would find some high levels of methylmercury," said David Natfz, the USGS research hydrologist who is heading the Great Salt Lake project, "but not to the highest the USGS has ever found."

There are no fish in the Great

Salt Lake, and no evidence yet that mercury from the lake is getting into the human food chain.

But the brine shrimp the project scientists have studied show evidence of mercury buildup that could be harmful to the lake's migratory birds.

The bird they studied is the caged grebe, which eats brine shrimp from May to December. The researchers found mercury levels in the birds' livers more than doubled during their

months on the lake.

The study's preliminary findings, essentially, may overturn the long-held idea that areas of the lake's deep brine layer, which has no oxygen, is a kind of disposal system where toxins sink to the lake bed and become inert. Instead, the USGS study suggests the lake's peculiar chemistry actually speeds the conversion of mercury to its more toxic organic form.

"It's not a disposal, it's a factory," Natfz said.

Mercury is a highly toxic element that occurs naturally in the environment but also has been introduced through mining and industrial activity.

Though the USGS study has not found any evidence that mercury in the Great Salt Lake has entered the human food chain, ducks and geese that feed in the lake's wetlands could be subject to the same accumulation found in the caged grebes, said Fish and Wildlife researcher Bruce Waddell.

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Agency unveils management plan

Plan for Minidoka North Side lands emphasizes resource enhancement

By Rose Marie Parsons
For The Times-News

RUPERT — The Bureau of Reclamation has completed a resource management plan for the Minidoka North Side lands, which encompass about 17,700 acres in scattered parcels in Cassia, Minidoka, Jerome, Lincoln and Blaine counties.

The purpose of the plan is to manage natural and cultural resources, facilities, recreation and access on the bureau's

lands for the next 15 years.

The bureau's plan emphasizes natural and cultural resource enhancement while maintaining current recreational opportunities on Minidoka North Side lands. Some facility improvements are also proposed.

Agricultural and grazing leases, location of sand and gravel extraction sites, and the location of drain water wetlands are also addressed in the plan. Improved management of

camping areas, off-road vehicle use, and elimination of trespass onto bureau lands are also outlined. Meanwhile, areas with higher wildlife habitat values would generally remain unchanged.

The bureau completed an environmental assessment with a finding of no significant impact in November 2004. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the bureau has examined a range of alternatives. The selected alternative has an emphasis on restoration, protection and enhancement of resource values.

Public involvement included three public meetings, seven ad

hoc work group meetings and six news briefs mailed to over 200 users groups, residents and agencies.

Eleven formal comments were received on the project. All comments received, as well as the bureau's responses, appear in the final environmental assessment.

A digital version of the documents can be accessed on the bureau's Web site at www.usbr.gov/pn. Follow the links to the Minidoka North Side resource management plan.

Some of the documents are also available at the Burley Public Library.

School board reviews drug testing policy

By Margaret Jones
Times-News correspondent

KIMBERLY — School Board members have voted to revise the Kimberly School District's drug testing policy.

The new policy is very similar to the old one, with the exception that it now allows for the testing of a saliva sample.

School officials say this type of testing is as accurate as the older method of using a urine sample, but much easier.

The policy still requires students involved in extracurricular activities to submit to random testing.

In another matter, the School Board reviewed the upcoming trustee election. Residents in the Kimberly School District will be voting for two School

Board members come May 17.

The term for Rob Champlin from Zone 1 will be up for grabs and the position held by Phyllis Ann Melnyk also will be up for election. Melnyk is finishing out the term vacated by Dick Rees.

Any resident who wishes to run for these seats must return their completed petitions to the clerk's office by April 15.

In other business, the board accepted bids for two new school buses: a 48-passenger bus and a 72-passenger vehicle.

The school calendar for next year was accepted and shows the fall session will start Aug. 22. Christmas vacation will be from Dec. 22 through Jan. 2. The last day of school will be May 26. There are total of 177 student instruction days.

Declo council wants to stop compression brakes in town

By Mary Lynne Bristol
Times-News correspondent

DECLO — The City Council passed three ordinances at its February meeting, including one that prohibits the use of compression brakes within the city limits.

Signs will be placed at the entrances to the city on Highways 77 and 81 to advise drivers against using the brakes.

A second ordinance makes owners of rental property responsible for paying utility fees.

The third ordinance creates a portion of a subdivision on the south side of town. A public hearing on the petition to abandon the property was held in January, and the ordinance removes the property from restrictive covenants on the subdivision.

The blocks include property owned by Dwight Lofgren and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The City Council also proposed two new ordinances during its February meeting.

City Attorney David Shirley was asked to draft an ordinance to vacate the portion of First South Street between First West and Second West streets with no public access pathway granted.

Shirley was also asked to amend the current dog ordinance to assess a fine of \$50 for the first citation issued to a resident whose dog is caught running at large. A \$100 citation will be issued for each subsequent violation.

In other council business, Mayor Jay Darrington informed the council that the city's application to vacate the portion of Commerce Block Grant of Commerce Highway 77 with 25 mph signs. The department said it would place 45 mph signs further out.

by the Department of Commerce in April," Darrington said.

The total cost of the proposed electrical project is \$2.1 million, and the city has already done some of the work as part of its match.

After an explanation of the revised contract with North Cassia Rural Fire Department, the council accepted the new contract with the provision that the costs will be reviewed in six months.

Under the new contract, volunteer firemen for Declo will be part-time employees of the city. The city's costs will be reimbursed by the fire district.

The Idaho Transportation Department has approved the city's proposal to replace 35 mph speed limit signs at the north and south city limits on State Highway 77 with 25 mph signs. The department said it would place 45 mph signs further out.

Possible cases of whooping cough hit Canyon County

CALDWELL (AP) — Rising number of potential whooping cough cases in Canyon County have health officials alarmed, and warning that it poses a serious health threat to young children and the elderly.

Southwest District Health officials reported the rash of suspected cases in the Nampa-Caldwell area on Friday. Officials there noticed some cases of the disease in November.

Although the exact number of cases is still under investigation, it is large enough to prompt an alert, officials said.

Whooping cough, or pertussis, is transmitted through droplets and is airborne, said Jacque Walker, preventive health manager with the health department.

The highly contagious disease is often characterized by a persistent cough lasting up to 10 weeks where people can't catch their breath and can even provoke vomiting, usually ending with a typical high-pitched "whoop."

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Ag

Continued from B1

year, figures like that make the company's compost — which is partially made from waste from dairy cows — more attractive to growers.

But like Plant, Brand has been convincing to do in order to get growers to put up the initial cash to invest in his product.

"The ones that take the

time to try it are hooked on it," Brand said.

At the Idaho Agricultural Credit Association booth, loan officer R. Scott Lish was discussing the upcoming winter year with Spencer Maughan, a sugar beet grower from Paul. Maughan said he expects to receive about 10 to 20 percent less water for his beets this year, but

"nobody knows exactly what's going to happen."

"It's not a good situation," Maughan said. "I hope we get some rain."

Lish said the credit association is "still pushing through loans like the waters going to be there."

"The farmers seem to know their individual situations and

they're adjusting to it," Lish said.

Times-News writer Megan Hinds can be reached at 735-3230 or megan.hinds@tn.net.

Crump

Continued from B1

seven teammates. That was one-third of the Idaho Falls A's roster.

The Pioneer League — the first stop in professional baseball for most of the A's — was a grueling experience. Its cities were spread out over 800 miles of Idaho, Montana and Alberta mountains and prairie, and players spent half of their nights riding buses, sleeping in a motel room a couple of hours in the morning and subsisting on fast food.

But it was intended to be a crucible, to sort out those who were willing to do what it took to play big-league baseball and those who weren't.

Some folks connected with the Athletics with whom I talked that summer placed Canseco in the latter category. Some considered Lou Girdler struck out in one-third of his official at-bats, batted .258 and hit two home runs. That was a point echoed by two of his future Oakland teammates, Dave Stewart and Terry Steinbach, in interviews last week.

For his part, Canseco claims that his teammates in Idaho Falls made fun of him, which I can remember from covering that season, and that the Athletics made it clear to him back then there was no place for young Latinos like him in major league baseball.

The latter is simply not true. In a visit to Idaho Falls that summer, Walt Jocketty — then Oakland's director of player development, now the general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals — told me that "Canseco is one to watch in the future."

Jocketty didn't know how right he was.

Sometime between his 1984 minor-league season in Modesto, Calif., and his 1985 season in Huntsville, Ala., Canseco says he discovered steroids. The drugs — and the drugs alone, apparently — made him a celebrity.

That's too bad. I met Canseco when he was a ballplayer.

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Steve Crump is The Times-News features editor. Write to him at scrump@magicvalley.com.

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

“If you're good, you're good — whether it is the era of the steroids, or the cigars, or the hot dog, or the beer, or the amphetamine, or the red juice or the whiskey.”

— San Francisco Giants manager Felipe Alou

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Don Larsen and David Wells both threw perfect games for the New York Yankees, the former in a World Series game. What other remarkable connection do they have?

...answer below

IN BRIEF

Little Cat wrestling registration starts

BURLEY — Little Cat Wrestling registration for first-through-sixth-graders will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at Burley High School's main gym, upstairs in the wrestling room.

Cost is \$15 and includes a team T-shirt.

Practices will be held from 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 1 through March 17 at Burley High School. Tournaments will be held Saturdays at various Magic Valley high schools.

For more information, contact coaches Don Sandmann or Clint Milliron at 878-6606.

Tri-Cities soccer registration begins

RUPERT — Registration is now open for Tri-Cities covered youth spring soccer for ages 5-15 years-old.

The league is open to all boys and girls in the Mini-Cassia area. Games will be held Monday evenings in Rupert, Paul and Heyburn. The season begins in April. Registration deadline is March 16. The cost is \$18 by the deadline. Late registration is \$32. Registration can be delivered or mailed to the Rupert City Office Recreation Department, P.O. Box 426, Rupert, ID 83350.

For more information, call 434-2400.

ISU hosts 'Remember the Titans' coach

POCATELLO — The Associated Students of Idaho State University Program Board will present guest speaker Herman Boone, the coach featured in the Disney movie "Remember the Titans," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the Ponds Student Union Ballroom.

The title of Boone's talk is "Remember the Titans: Conflict, Resolution and Unity and Lessons of Diversity." Tickets are free for ISU and high school students; \$3 for ISU faculty and staff, and \$5 for the general public.

Mixed tennis league begins Feb. 25

TWIN FALLS — The USTA plans a 2005 Spring Mixed League Tennis season for combined NTRP of 5.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 level players. The local league begins Feb. 25, with weekend indoors play at the YMCA.

For more information, call Lita Nallan at (208) 734-8556.

Goodbody takes second at Simplot

POCATELLO — Jaymie Goodbody of Wendell cleared a height of 5-foot-6 to take second place in the high-jump-jump-at-Saturday-Simplot Invitational. Holt Arnsa lost to Colorado's Chelsea Taylor. She also took seventh in the shot put with a personal best of 39-feet, 3-inches.

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

They both attended Point Loma High School in San Diego.

2005 STATE GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

It's academic

Shoshone dominates in 1A state girls title game

By Eric Larson Times-News writer

NAMPA — For Idaho's Class 1A girls basketball teams, figuring out how to beat the Kendrick Tigers has proved tougher than sorting through the Pythagorean theorem.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, the Shoshone Indians were awarded the academic state championship before Saturday's state tournament championship at The Idaho Center in Nampa. After 32 minutes of heady play, the Indians took home another trophy — and a state basketball title.

Shoshone used the perfect combination of brains, brawn, and the scorching hot shooting of junior guard Kallie Axelson to garner a 50-32 win and another state banner to hang next to the 2004 state volleyball championship they earned only four months ago.

"What's so good about these girls is that they're smart enough that we can adjust and do some things against any type of opponent," Indians head coach Tim Chapman said. "That's where it helps being the academic champions too."

Holding a senior 15-13 lead with 2:10 left in the second quarter, Shoshone's senior guard Meghan Sorensen swiped the ball from an unsuspecting Kendrick guard and found Axelson open for a spot-on 3-pointer to widen the Indians' lead to 18-13. After Kendrick's Megan Eichner was called for an over-the-back foul on the other end, Axelson struck again, dribbling into open space and nailing her fourth trifecta of the half and giving Shoshone a 21-13 lead heading to the half-time break.

Starting in injured Kyli Astle's usual spot on the court, Axelson led with 15 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

"After Kyli got hurt, we all needed to step up," Axelson said. "I really think I needed to step up for her." If the first half belonged to Axelson, the second was junior post Katie Strunk's. Despite going up against 6-foot Kendrick's Nichole Scott and a much taller Tigers team, Strunk found her way to the hoop to the tune of 16 points and seven rebounds.

"Kallie hitting those 3s really



Shoshone junior Kallie Axelson smiles while engulfed in a group-hug after the Indians defeated Kendrick to claim the Class 1A Idaho state girls basketball tournament championship at the Idaho Center in Nampa Saturday.

forced Kendrick to come out," Chapman said. "That opened things up for us on the inside. Katie got going and helped get Scott in some foul trouble and that helped a ton. Katie was not afraid at all."

The Indians showed no fear in the paint outbounding Kendrick 34-19 for the game. Senior Amanda Guilford snagged nine rebounds to go along with six points, while Sorensen swiped six rebounds to match her six points.

"We just use our quickness to get in there," Sorensen said. "We know they'd be standing there like trees, waiting for the ball to come to them, so we use our quickness to get in front of them."

With the Indians holding on to a commanding 48-32 lead with 22 seconds left in the game, the large contingent of Shoshone fans erupted with cheers as Astle hobbled from the Indians bench onto the court. With a two-foot long brace protecting her injured left knee, she played — standing near halfcourt — until the game's buzzer. In typical fashion for the hustling junior, Astle attempted to get back on defense after Sorensen hit a free throw to make the score 50-32. Astle took a few labored steps toward the Kendrick end of the floor before teammates told her not to worry about it.

"It was so awesome," Strunk said. "I started crying I was so happy. I couldn't wait for the final second so I could get to



cheer. Then Kyli comes out and I start crying even more. I've had three knee operations so I know what she feels like. To see her get out and play was awesome." For an Indians team that garnered two state championships in four months to go along with last year's second-place finish, the win cements their spot as one of the top groups in recent Idaho high school sports history. "I almost feel sorry for the younger girls, that they'll have to try to live up to this," Chapman said. "But hopefully those

Indian Junior Halley Harris, 20, drives past her Kendrick defender during the third quarter of Shoshone's 50-32 win over the Tigers.

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Team Name. Class 1A State Tournament results: 1st Shoshone 50, Kendrick 32; 2nd Lapwal 52, Rimrock 49; 3rd Wallace 51, Oakley 45; 4th Hagerman 34, Genesee 28.

"These girls have been focused all year," Chapman said. "After last year's loss, every girl got an 8x10 photo of the Idaho Center with Feb. 19, 2005 written on it. Because that was the goal — to show everybody we could win it all." Not only did they win it all, the 26-1 Indians left no doubt that they are Idaho's best Class 1A basketball team — by at least 18 points.

Small table listing individual player statistics for Shoshone and Kendrick, including points, rebounds, and assists.

Times-News sports writer Eric Larson can be reached at 1-800-658-3883. Ext. 639, or elarson@magicvalley.com.

Bruins take third at state

By Dustin Lappay for The Times-News

NAMPA — Poise, a steal and a third-place trophy.

In the waning moments of the Class 5A Idaho Girls Basketball State Tournament third-place game, Twin Falls senior forward Amy Bratvold was fouled in the paint and sank a pair of free throws to give the Bruins a 40-39 lead with 12.6 seconds remaining.

In the ensuing possession, Bruins senior Jamie Edwards intercepted a pass and dribbled down court to run out the clock and give the Bruins the one-point win.

"Amy made the clutch free throws and Jamie got the steal and we ran the clock out," Twin Falls coach Joe D. Shepard said. "It took every little bit of our team to win this one." The Twin Falls crowd roared its approval as Edwards dribbled in empty space and the Bruins were awarded the third-place trophy, the highest state award in Twin Falls girls' basketball history.

The Bruins won the consolation championship last year. "It means a lot," Bratvold said. "We played so hard. It may not have been what we wanted, but we played so well. This is the best that Twin Falls has ever done — that was a big goal."

Bratvold led the Bruins with 12 points in the game. Hannah Hiedreich added eight points and Edwards finished seven points, five assists and four rebounds. Edwards, the point guard, played all 32 minutes of the game. Heidi Reitsma chipped in 11 points.



Bruins senior Amy Bratvold, top, flares up for two of her 12 points during the first quarter of Twin Falls' 40-39 win over Centennial during the third-place game of the Class 5A Idaho state girls basketball tournament in Nampa Saturday.

Wildcats win first trophy since 1978

By Joe Paisley Times-News writer

KUNA — On Monday, Filer athletic director Loyd Geyer may want to wipe off what must be dozens of fingerprint smudges off the 3A state girls basketball tournament third place trophy.

Because after the Wildcats downed Priest River 63-50, no one wearing red, white and blue could keep their hands off of it Saturday at Kuna High School.

For good reason, since Filer won its first state girls basketball trophy since 1978 relying

on its smothering, physical defense area 3A opponents know so well.

"We wanted this really bad," said senior Lindsay Heimkes. "We wanted to come out and take it to them."

"I certainly did. Filer jumped out to a 14-4 lead after one quarter and further took command with a dominant second quarter, leading 29-16 at the break.

"We hurt ourselves by missing three 1-and-1s," said Spartans coach Marty Landry. "We made a little run at them

Please see WILDCATS, Page C2

Spartan girls make history

By John Derr Times-News writer

MEHDIAN — After a tough loss on Friday evening the question was, would the Spartans respond? The answer came early.

Mincio controlled the paint all day, earning a 50-35 victory over Lakeland and the third-place trophy at the 4A Idaho state girls basketball tournament Saturday morning at Mountain View High School in Meridian.

"It was really emotional, but we knew we had to move on. We have 10 seniors and it was our

last game, we wanted to win it," said post Amber Warth, who led Mincio with 15 points and five rebounds.

The last time Mincio brought home hardware from the state tournament was four years ago when current Stanford Cardinal Claire Bodensteiner led the Spartans to the 5A consolation trophy. This is the best finish ever at the state tournament.

Megan Boettcher hit a pair of free throws then Warth and fellow post Meghan Whitlock each converted a put back as the lead was 6-0. Whitlock again came off the bench to spark Mincio.

Please see SPARTANS, Page C2

SPORTS

CSI men hold on to SWAC lead Oakley girls take sixth place

The Times-News

SALT LAKE CITY — A little breathing room is always nice. The College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team earned it Saturday night.

The Golden Eagles held off Salt Lake Community College in a furious back-and-forth second-half battle on the way to a 78-73 victory to remain atop the scenic West Athletic Conference standings.

With a win, CSI ranked CSI (24-2, 12-2 SWAC) holds a two-game edge and tiebreaker over No. 12 SLCC (21-5, 10-4). The SWAC regular-season winner hosts the Region 18 men's basketball tournament.

Peery improved his head coaching record to 2-1 at CSI as he fills in for the suspended Gib Arnold for the second straight night.

CSI scored the win when the Bruins' Marc Pratt missed a 3-point shot with 12 seconds remaining, allowing the Golden Eagles to maintain a 76-73 advantage.

On the ensuing possession, Hixon missed a 3-point attempt as the shot clock expired, but picked up the loose ball and drove in for a layup to put CSI ahead 75-69.

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CSI women 76, Salt Lake CC 69. No. 25 Salt Lake (19-7, 10-4) trimmed the CSI (25-1, 13-1) lead to four points with just over one minute remaining.

CSI men hold on to SWAC lead. The Golden Eagles held off Salt Lake Community College in a furious back-and-forth second-half battle on the way to a 78-73 victory to remain atop the scenic West Athletic Conference standings.

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CSI women 76, Salt Lake CC 69. No. 25 Salt Lake (19-7, 10-4) trimmed the CSI (25-1, 13-1) lead to four points with just over one minute remaining.

The South Idaho Press

NAMPA — The Oakley Hornets' run for IA Idaho state girls basketball tournament hardware ended Saturday morning at Nampa High School with a 51-45 loss to the Wallace Miners.

The Hornets managed only three points in the third quarter and found themselves trailing 41-30 heading into the game's final period.

"We had a slow third quarter," Oakley coach Brett Graham said. "We had a few turnovers and couldn't get our shots."

The Hornets were hampered by turnovers that resulted in 25 Wallace points.

Hagerman grabs 1A consolation title

By John Derr Times-News writer

NAMPA — From the bottom to a spot after being bounced from the sub-district tournament in two games, the Hagerman Pirates are now one of the better teams in the state.

Despite a highly disadvantageous Hagerman bid—the quickness (eight steals) and won the battle of the boards, 39-34, to defeat the Genesee Bulldogs 34-26 for the consolation title.

Hagerman coach LuAnne Axelson said in every game there is one key player. Megan Valdez came up with that player.

After leading by seven at the break, a cold shooting quarter for Hagerman brought Genesee within two points heading into the final period.

Knight scored 10 of the next 11 points for the Pirates, hitting three straight 1-upers and adding four free throws for a 33-24 lead late.

"It is a thrill that we brought home some hardware, but it is sad to see it end," said Knight, who scored a game-high 18 points.

Axelson was proud of the way the team progressed through the season.

"This is for the girls. In one season to come from two and out-of-district to fifth at state, can't say enough about what that means," said Axelson.

Shamell Knight added a long jumper and the lead was quickly sprung up to 30 and the Bulldogs kept attacking, but each time the Hagerman stand-out had an answer.

Knight scored 10 of the next 11 points for the Pirates, hitting three straight 1-upers and adding four free throws for a 33-24 lead late.

Hopkins wins 20th straight title defense

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bernard Hopkins reached an official milestone, and won another fight.

Hopkins easily defended his middleweight title for the 20th time Saturday night with a unanimous 12-round decision over Howard Eastman.

Hopkins' career has usually slow start to dominate the fight, keeping his undisputed middleweight title with a lopsided win over the game but outclassed Eastman.

Hopkins was not by hazy by many at the Staples Center. Hopkins won easily on all three ringside scorecards to remain unbeaten in the last 11 years.

"It's an accomplishment I wanted ever since I got to 10 defenses," Hopkins said. "He gave some good shots but I gave some good shots back."

The fight was the first for Hopkins since turning 40, an age when most fighters have long left the ring.

But he appeared to be the fresher fighter in the later rounds.

One judge had the fight 119-110 in favor of Hopkins, while a second had it 117-111, the third judge had the fight 116-112. The split score is as the Associated Press.

Though it was lacking in excitement at times, there was no question who won the fight.

No question that is, except from Eastman, who complained he should have been given more credit for pursuing Hopkins much of the fight.

Eastman, a British fighter, has never lost in the United Kingdom. And he's never won outside of it, losing a title fight to James Topp in 2001 and then losing his second title shot to Hopkins.

Eastman (40-2) threw far more punches than Hopkins (46-2-1), but many of them were blocked or rebounded well," said Straatman, whose team won the battle of the boards 51-41. "After that it's tough, but we have lots of seniors and knew they would, I think."

Straatman also acknowledges the work of assistant coach Kelly Arritt, who is stepping down after the season.

Eagles look to maintain momentum

By Kevin Colbert Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The last time the College of Southern Idaho baseball team headed south, it came home with four losses.

CSI will try to use the momentum of two Friday victories over the College of Eastern Idaho in Twin Falls when it takes on a trio of Arizona schools in Phoenix.

The Eagles play doubleheaders against South Mountain Community College (9-2-1) today, Phoenix College (3-3) on Monday and a single game against Glendale College (6-6) on Tuesday.

On its first trip south of the Idaho border, CSI (2-4) went 0-4 on Feb. 4 and 5 in Henderson, Nev.

"We've developed a little bit of a rivalry with Phoenix College," CSI head coach Boomer Walker said. "We had some great games against them a couple of years ago."

"South Mountain is a good club. They beat Dixie earlier this year. And I know Glendale's beat some of the better teams in our conference earlier this year."

This trip may be equally as tough as the first, not only because of the quality of the opposition, but because of a quirk in scheduling. The Eagles are in the middle of a stretch where they play 11 games in eight days, but that was not originally the plan.

CSI's conference against Colorado Northwestern Community College had originally been scheduled for March 4 and 5, but they were later moved up to this coming Friday and Saturday after the Arizona trip had already been set in stone.

"We were thinking, 'Well, we'll get a whole bunch of games in a row and then we'll have some time off before conference starts to work out the kinks again,'" Walker said, chuckling. "But when we moved our conference (opens) back up, CSI is still working on cementing its pitching staff, while also coming up with a consistent hitting order."

Sophomore outfielder Jared Arhart, who's been hampered with a pulled groin, took two at-bats against Eastern Utah but appeared to tweak the injury in his final plate appearance, in which he struck out swinging.

The injury has forced Walker to juggle his batting order, moving Eric Catton, the usual leadoff hitter, to third to provide a solid bat in the middle of the lineup.

"We still need to get our lineup set," Walker said. "We still need to get our defense set and get things set so we can get Eric back hitting where he should."

CSI in Phoenix

Sunday CSI vs. South Mountain (Ariz.), 1 p.m. (2) Monday CSI vs. Phoenix, 4 p.m. (2) Tuesday CSI vs. Glendale (Ariz.), Noon

3A State Tournament

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5A State Tournament

Saturday's games Twin Falls 40, Centennial 39. Consolation Coeur d'Alene 47, Highland 44

Free throws lift Tigers past Spartans

By Diane Philbin Times-News writer

JEROME — Free throws may only be worth one point but many a game has been won or lost by them. And they proved to be all the difference Saturday night in Jerome.

"We made our free throws," said Jerome coach Houston Finn. "We are just so happy to get this playing."

Jerome senior Chance Craig put on a free throw clinic as he converted 10-of-10 free throws; eight of those in the fourth quarter, and knocked down a pair of 3-pointers.

He scored a game-high 16 points to lead Jerome to a 54-39 victory over the Spartans.

Wildcats

Continued from C1

at the end and then (Jenetta Mechem) hit that big shot. That was kind of a back-breaker.

Priest River (12-10) had built a lead of 32-21 with Mechem scooped up a loose ball near the top of the key and buried a 25-footer with two ticks left in the first half.

The Spartans, a young squad featuring three freshmen, came out with more intensity in the second half, but Filer would find an answer.

Priest River trimmed the Wildcat lead to 32-21 with 5:22 remaining but then held scoreless — three turnovers, a jumpball and two missed free throws — over the next three minutes.

Spartan point guard Kendra Koyle assisted on Lacy Miller's 3-point play then converted the first Spartans turnover on a fast break.

Mechem hit another 3-pointer with 29 seconds left in the third to give Filer a 44-32 lead heading into the fourth. She finished with 21 points in 32 minutes. Heimkes added 13 points and eight rebounds.

Priest River rallied in the final four minutes as senior forward

Boys regional hosts

Great Basin Conference West playoff win. The Tigers next play at Burley at 7:30 Monday night. They will need to defeat the Bobcats twice to earn the West title and an automatic berth to state.

Senior Curtis Bell and Jared Harrison added 11 points for the Tigers.

The game was a reflection of our season. We completed and played hard. But we just made too many turnovers and missed free throws," said Minico coach Mike Graefe. "The kids did everything I asked them to. I enjoyed being their coach."

Jerome converted 12-of-14 free throws in the final quarter as the Tigers outscored the Spartans 19-7. Jerome led 35-32 at the end of three quarters.

Senior Matt Schenk had seven points to lead the Spartans and Kyle Straatman and Michael Konrad each posted six points.

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Calli Jo Turner, saddled with four fouls since the first half, returned, scoring six points as the Spartans scored on five straight possessions.

"We took her out of the game," Wildcats coach Joel Bate said. "We used a diamond and one and we frustrated her. On the defensive end she picked up some fouls."

Turner still managed a team-high 12 points and eight rebounds before fouling out. Senior Brian Miller added 10 points while freshman Lacy Hopkins added eight despite foul trouble.

Filer's Miller made it all a next point. She buried four straight charity shots on the next two possessions to clinch the win with 1:47 left. She finished with 10 points.

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SPORTS



The clubhouse of Riviera Country Club and a few hardy golf fans are reflected in a pond several feet deep on a bunker on the 10th hole after several inches of rain fell on the course overnight on Friday. Saturday's play was a washout because of the rain.

McCullough leads ACE Group Classic

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Mike McCullough shot a 3-under 69 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead over Hale Irwin and Mark James in The ACE Group Classic.

The 59-year-old McCullough, seeking his third Champions Tour victory, had a 9-under 135 total on the Club at Twin Eagles course. Irwin, the 50-and-over tour's career victory leader with 41, shot a 70. James had a 68.

McCullough made a 35-foot birdie putt on No. 18. The 59-year-old Irwin, battling a cold, did not speak to reporters after the round.

Curtis Strange, playing his first Champions Tour event, followed his opening 74 with a 71. The two-time U.S. open champion was tied for 32nd, 10 strokes back.

Mike Reid (68), Jerry Pate (70) and R.W. Eaks (72) were 6 holes in. PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said.

Even that might be wishful thinking. Some rain is in the forecast Sunday with more heavy showers expected on Monday.

The Match Play Championship, a \$7.5 million World Golf Championship, is scheduled to start Wednesday down the coast at La Costa.

This was the first washout on the PGA Tour since no golf was played in the second round of the Match Play Championship last year.

Russell said there is still slight hope for a 72-hole tournament, but even going to a Monday finish to cut 54 holes requires a break from the dreary skies over Sunset Boulevard.

"We're at the mercy of the elements, and right now it has us on the ground," Russell said. Brian Davis of England has not hit a shot since he opened with a 65 for the first-round lead on Thursday.

More optimism on NBA labor talks from Stern and Hunter

DENVER — Asked to name the specific areas where they've made progress on a new collective bargaining agreement, NBA commissioner David Stern and union director Billy Hunter pursued their lips and slowly turned toward each other.

"The man came up with an answer. More public optimism was dished out Saturday at Stern's annual All-Star news conference, but little detail disclosed about what kind of progress — if any — has been made in negotiating sessions thus far.

The league's seven-year labor agreement expires at the end of June, and the two sides have agreed to meet several times in the upcoming weeks in an effort to narrow their differences.

"I may be combining reality with hope, but I think there will be done by the end of the season," Stern said. But both sides have said the differences that remain are substantial, and Hunter has gone so far as to describe some of the owners' demands as "repugnant" in meetings with his membership.

Among the items the owners and players differ on are the league's desire to raise the minimum age from 18 to 20, the use of the NBDA as a minor league to which young NBA players could be assigned to, and the percentage of overall league revenues that will be devoted to player salaries.

Stern indicated the sides have jumped from issue to issue, making more progress on some topics than others. "You sort of move pieces around and see how it feels

Storm washes out Nissan Open, more rain expected

LOS ANGELES — Heavy rain that flooded bunkers and covered the greens with thousands of worms forced officials to cancel golf Saturday in the Nissan Open, raising the possibility of the PGA Tour's first 36-hole event in nearly nine years.

"Our main goal is to get 36 holes in," PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said.

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"I don't anticipate there will be an application for reinstatement, and I'm not thinking about the subject now, period," he said.

Deputy commissioner Russ Granik said there would likely be no rules changes for the 2005-06 season, the league generally pleased with the flow of the game and the trend toward higher-scoring games.

Stern also said the league would set records for attendance, gate receipts, and local television revenue this season. "Business is better than ever," he said.

During her more than five months of captivity, Villareal slept on a mattress in a makeshift tent at an abandoned campground called Las Nieves, or The Snows, in Venezuela's Andean mountains.

The nearest village was an eight-hour drive away, and police who eventually rescued her came by helicopter and boat up a mountain river in Venezuela's Bolivar province, some 250 miles southeast of Caracas.

The camp was a drug traffickers' hide-out, police said. On Saturday, they blamed Venezuelan and Colombian drug smugglers for the kidnapping, saying authorities found weapons, grenades and a huge cache of at least 1,300 pounds of cocaine at the camp.

Chavez showed reporters a Colombian identity card found at the camp and believed to belong to one of the men who escaped.

Villarreal told reporters late Friday she was not treated "well or poorly," and that the most hurtful thing was having to bear her captors' taunts that her wealthy son did not love her because he did not pay the \$6 million ransom demand.

She said she had sent letters to her son and that her captors had filmed videos of her, but Chavez said the family received no evidence of her condition in captivity.

"I'm being reunited with his mother late Friday in Caracas, more than five months after being abducted from her home in a southeastern suburb of the capital by men dressed as police. The house there stands out as the most expensive on the block — Urbina's salary last year was \$4 million.

Stewart charges to Busch win

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Tony Stewart drove through the grass, passed his buddy Dale Earnhardt Jr. and wound up in Victory Lane.

Stewart, the 2002 NASCAR Nextel Cup champion, claimed his first win Saturday on his 42nd career start in the sepiadale Busch series.

He also ended Earnhardt's three-race Busch winning streak at Daytona International Speedway.

"I had the drama, had the recovery, had the comeback," said Stewart, who charged to the lead with three laps remaining and won under a yellow flag after a last-lap crash. "I could not have scripted it any more exciting if I was making a movie."

Stewart, driving a Chevrolet owned by fellow Nextel Cup bad boy Kevin Harvick, led a race-high 46 laps on the 2.5-mile oval.

But Stewart's hopes nearly ended with 25 laps to go when a bump from Carl Edwards sent Stewart skidding through the infield grass at 190 mph. Somehow, he kept the car going in the right direction, steering it back onto the high-banked oval.

"I couldn't pay the fines for what I was thinking," Stewart quipped. "There were a lot of things going through my mind. The first was, 'What am I going to tell my mom from the emergency room?'"

"It turned out a lot better than I thought it would. I thought I was going to hit the wall. It was just a matter of how hard."

Stewart fell to eighth, then all the way to 17th after his crew needed extra time on the next pit-stop to repair the damage.

Meanwhile, Edwards turned to Earnhardt. Junior played a waiting game early in the race, content to stay near the back of the pack along with teammate Martin Truex Jr., the defending Busch Series champion.

After the halfway point, Earnhardt and Truex began drafting



Busch Series driver Tony Stewart (33) takes the checkered flag while the race is under caution to win the Hershey's TAKE 5 300 race Saturday at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. Behind Stewart is Kevin Harvick (21), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (82), Martin Truex Jr. (8), and Bobby Gordon.

on for a 1-2 finish as a three-car accident behind them brought out a caution for the final lap.

"He deserved to win a lot more than he has, and we're glad he broke that wall," said Harvick, who will use Stewart in five more races this season.

Earnhardt, who will go into Sunday's Daytona 500 as the favorite to repeat last year's victory, shrugged off the third-place finish.

"That's Tony Stewart," Earnhardt said. "He can do anything." Truex, who will make his first

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Daytona 500 start Sunday, was encouraged by his fourth-place showing.

"Harvick and Stewart must have ganged up," Truex said. "They were coming like a freight train and there was no way we were going to stop it."

Kasey Kahne wound up fifth, followed by Robby Gordon, Michael Waltrip, Greg Biffle, 19-year-old Reed Sorenson and Carl Edwards. Cup regulars — the "Buschbabes" — took eight of the top 10 spots.

"We got ganged up on by those Cup guys," said Sorenson, a Busch rookie.

Earnhardt team faces Daytona 500 challenge

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A week ago, just about everybody else was convinced that the Dale Earnhardt Inc. team's Daytona dominance was done.

Forget it. After struggling last week in qualifying, the DEI duo of Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Michael Waltrip suddenly jumped back into the role of favorites for Sunday's Daytona 500 with an electrifying performance in their 150-mile qualifying race.

After coming from the rear of the pack Thursday in the qualifier, two-time 500 winner Waltrip shot past defending race champion Earnhardt on the final straightaway to win by half a car length.

"Dale Jr. said that everything would be clear after Thursday, and I think he's right," Waltrip said, grinning. "We've got fast cars."

Even after losing Thursday, Earnhardt was sounding just as confident. "It never was that we were falling off," Earnhardt explained. "It's just that other people have been catching up. Nobody should be surprised if me and Michael are still running good at Daytona."

True. Daytona International Speedway and Talladega Superspeedway — NASCAR's longest and fastest ovals — are the only tracks where the cars are slowed for safety reasons by horsepower-reducing carburetor restrictor plates.

The slower speeds tend to bunch up the field, with a lot of two- and three-wide racing. Over the past few years, DEI has been the team able to get the most out of its plate engines and give Earnhardt and Waltrip a real advantage.

They have turned that edge into 11 victories in the last 16 races at the plate tracks. That includes wins in three of the last four Daytona 500s.

But there is evidence that other teams have made serious inroads, particularly Hendrick Motorsports with two-time 500 winner Jeff Gordon and Nextel Cup championship favorite Jimmie Johnson.

"It cycles," Earnhardt said. "There was a time when Dale Jarrett was dominant at Daytona for four or five years. We had our run, and we've all known that they've been closing the gap over the past couple of years."

"It's been a lot of a challenge to win these races. Yet we're still competitive. We ain't fallen off to the point where we can't compete. We just peaked."

Earnhardt noted that nobody keeps an advantage for long in NASCAR. "When you're out front and leading the pack in any category,



NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. watches from the NEXTEL Garage at the Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Friday, Earnhardt's pit crew was servicing his car during a practice session for the Daytona 500.

Daytona 500

TV: Fox, 11 a.m.

Cup driver Brian Vickers could be a threat. Also worth watching: Joe Gibbs Racing's Tony Stewart, who won Thursday's second

bumper race, the MB2/MBX teammates Joe Nemechek and Scott Riggs, three-time Daytona 500 winner Dale Jarrett and his Robert Yates Racing teammate Elliott Sadler, and the Roush Racing trio of reigning Cup champion Kurt Busch, Matt Kenseth and Mark Martin.

Martin and Rusty Wallace, each starting his final season in NASCAR's top stock car series, saw their chances in the 500 lessen when they got caught up in a wild crash during their 150-mile and heavily damaged their primary cars. Martin was trying to repair his, but Wallace will have to use his backup Sunday and go to the back of the field.

There will also be a lot of attention on Kevin Harvick, whose bump on Johnson's rear bumper during the multilap crash and infuriated Johnson and other drivers.

Harvick and Johnson were summoned to the NASCAR hauler in an effort to defuse a burgeoning situation. Some drivers were still upset, though, including Nemechek, who also was involved in the crash.

"It's cost a bunch of people good race cars, hard work, a lot of money, and they ought to make him pay for it," Nemechek said.

If everyone can stay out of trouble Sunday, nobody will be surprised if Earnhardt's No. 14 Chevrolet and Waltrip's No. 15 Monte Carlo are at the front of the pack heading toward the checkered flag — least of all the DEI drivers.

everybody else is working hard to catch you, and eventually they will," he said.

Gordon, who split the four plate races with Earnhardt last year, agrees. "I don't think there's much doubt that the Hendrick cars and a few others have closed the gap on those DEI cars," Gordon said. "They're not done, though. They kind of lulled everybody last week with their qualifying, but those guys are always good in the draft."

"In these plate races, it's all about positioning, and Junior and Michael always seems to be in the right spot when the race gets down toward the end."

Still, everyone is expecting a wild-open race on Sunday. Besides Gordon and Johnson, whose first plate race victory came here Feb. 12 in the non-points Budweiser Shootout, the Hendricks entry of second-year

Mother of Tigers pitcher rescued from kidnappers

MAURA VILLAREAL makeshift tent at an abandoned campground called Las Nieves, or The Snows, in Venezuela's Andean mountains.

The nearest village was an eight-hour drive away, and police who eventually rescued her came by helicopter and boat up a mountain river in Venezuela's Bolivar province, some 250 miles southeast of Caracas.

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wealthy son did not love her because he did not pay the \$6 million ransom demand.

She said she had sent letters to her son and that her captors had filmed videos of her, but Chavez said the family received no evidence of her condition in captivity.

"I'm being reunited with his mother late Friday in Caracas, more than five months after being abducted from her home in a southeastern suburb of the capital by men dressed as police. The house there stands out as the most expensive on the block — Urbina's salary last year was \$4 million.

Coming Monday The latest from Daytona.

Iowa State stuns No. 2 Jayhawks

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Curtis Stinson scored all seven of Iowa State's points in overtime, including the game-winner in the lane with 5.1 seconds left, to lead the Cyclones to their seventh straight Big 12 victory after opening the conference season 5-0.

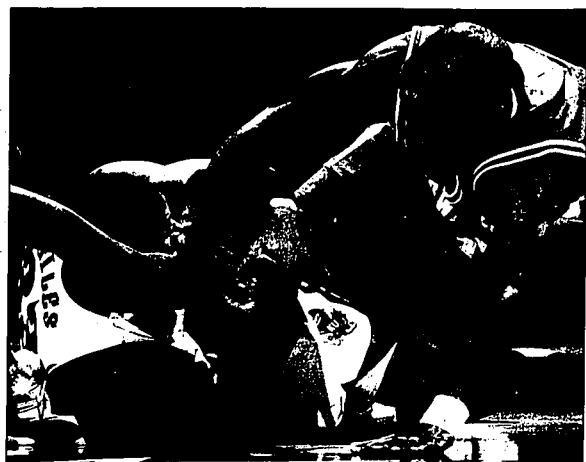
The Cyclones won 63-61. Kansas' Keith Langford tied it 56-all with a 4-footer over Jarrod Homan with 6 seconds left in regulation as the Jayhawks erased a nine-point deficit over the final 2 minutes.

Stinson, who had 29 points, hit the short jumper for the winning basket.

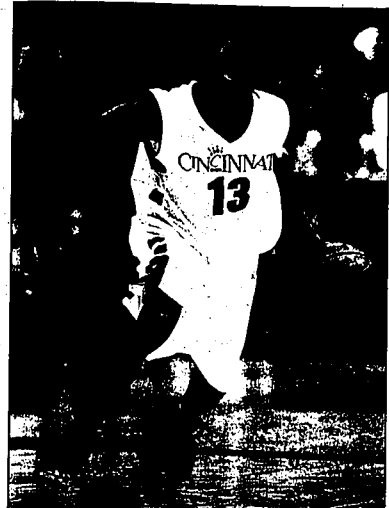
College basketball right after he had missed two free throws at the other end. Langford missed in desperation 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

The Cyclones (15-8, 7-5) have beaten four ranked teams in the streak and have won three road games. Before the streak, the Cyclones had not won a conference road game in almost 4 years.

Kansas (20-3, 10-2) was held to its lowest point total of the year in its conference home loss in 32 games. The Jayhawks were coming off a one-point loss in double overtime at Texas Tech.



Iowa State guard Curtis Stinson, right, battles Kansas center C.J. Giles for a loose ball during the second half Saturday at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan. Stinson scored 29 points leading Iowa State to a 63-61 overtime victory.



Cincinnatti guard Jihad Muhammad brings the ball upcourt against Houston, Jan. 29, in Cincinnati. Muhammad is among the few who know what it's like to be a high-profile Muslim player in a country where insecurity rises and falls with color-coded alerts. The NCAA doesn't keep track of religious affiliation, so there's no count of Muslim players. Only a handful play major-college basketball. Muhammad grew up in an Islamic community and attended Plainfield High School in New Jersey.

Muslim hoops player overcomes doubters

CINCINNATI (AP) — During an idle moment before a human development class, two University of Cincinnati students struck up a conversation about the basketball team's new point guard.

"They weren't interested in his statistics or accomplishments. They couldn't get past his name: Jihad Muhammad."

"I heard one person say, 'Isn't that supposed to mean holy war or something?'" said Anwar Salahuddin, a junior sitting nearby.

It wasn't the first time someone had wondered aloud about the distinctive name. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the dreadlocked point guard from New Jersey has wound up explaining himself to fans who think he's worst.

"They're like, 'Ooh, Jihad,'" said Muhammad, sitting in an interview room at the Bearcats' court after practice. "It's just the name. Just the word that's scaring people. They really don't have a good understanding of it."

Few know what it's like to be a high-profile Muslim player in a country where insecurity rises and falls with color-coded alerts. The NCAA doesn't keep track of religious affiliation, so there's no count of Muslim players. Only a handful play major-college basketball.

Muhammad grew up in an Islamic community and attended Plainfield High School in New Jersey. The most unusual thing about his upbringing was the size of his family — six brothers, seven sisters. He was the youngest boy.

"Basically, you learn to share," he said. "You learn how to relate to different personalities. Before I left home, I had to make a lot of prayers in my room or in the hotel when we were on the road."

His play attracted the attention of Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins, who desperately needed a point guard. Huggins quickly grew fond of Muhammad and his sincerity, dedication and eagerness to do well.

"He's a great kid," Huggins said. "He wants to be a good player. He listens, he tries. Things have been much easier off the court in Cincinnati, where Muhammad is a junior majoring in criminal justice and

finding out what it's like to be a prominent player on a basketball-crazed campus. The Bearcats won back-to-back national championships in 1961-62. Huggins revived the program in 1989 and NCAA-coached the Bearcats to a Final Four and 13 straight NCAA tournament appearances, the third-longest streak in the country.

They were talking — and wondering — about Muhammad long before he arrived. "I thought, 'Wow, I've never heard of any one person who had that name before,'" said Justin Smaier, a senior accounting and finance major who attends most games and is president of the student government. "Then I started looking at his stats and what he had done in junior college."

"I think some students were skeptical at first, as I was. We're all realizing what Islam is, and we need to realize it's a peaceful religion."

No. 1 Illinois 75, Iowa 65
IOWA CITY, Iowa — Deron Williams and Dee Brown each scored 18 points and No. 1 Illinois turned back the Jayhawks' threats from Iowa to remain unbeaten with a 75-65 victory Saturday.

Illinois (27-0, 13-0 Big Ten) is off its best start, having won 23 straight conference games and now has 14 consecutive road victories.

Adam Haluska had 20 points for Iowa (16-9, 4-9), which fell to 1-4 since leading scorer Pierre Pierce was kicked off the team. The Hawkeyes trailed by just two points with 7.5 minutes to play before a 14-5 run finished them off.

No. 4 North Carolina 88, Clemson 56
CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Jawad Williams scored 17 points, sixth-man Marvin Williams added 14 and the Tar Heels improved to 51-0 all-time at home against Clemson.

Sean Mar finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Tar Heels (22-3, 10-2), who moved into a first-place tie with Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Chris Dier and Clemson (12-13, 2-10) with 13 points.

No. 8 Oklahoma State 85, Texas Tech 56
STILLWATER, Okla. — John Lucas III scored 25 points and James On Curry had 10 of his 15 in the second half as the Cowboys moved into a tie for first place in the Big 12 with Kansas.

Curry had 13 points in a 14-2 run that helped Oklahoma State (20-3, 10-2) pull away early in the second half. Martin Zeno had 19 points for Texas Tech (16-7, 6-4).

No. 11 Michigan 78, Purdue 57
WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Alan Anderson and Maurice Ager each scored 12 points for the Spartans on the day Purdue honored retiring coach Gene Keady at halftime.

Michigan (19-4, 10-2 Big Ten) won its fifth straight and ninth in 10, the only loss to Illinois.

David Teague led the Boiler-makers (7-16, 3-9) with 15 points and seven rebounds.

No. 13 Gonzaga 75, San Francisco 73
SPOKANE, Wash. — Adam Morrison scored 21 points and a second remaining pushed No. 13 Gonzaga past San Francisco 75-73 on Saturday to bolster the Bulldog's claim to their fifth straight West

Coast Conference regular season title. Morrison scored a career-high 28 points as the Bulldogs (21-4, 11-2) avenged an earlier loss to the Dons (11, 5-7) and moved 2.5 games ahead of Saint Mary's in the race for the regular season championship.

J.P. Batista of Gonzaga had 17 points including two free throws to tie it at 73 after the Dons staged a furious rally in the second half. Morrison secured the win with a jumper from near the 3-point line.

Ronnie Turin added 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Gonzaga. John Cox had 19 of his 25 points in the second half for San Francisco and Tyrone Riley added 23 points and nine rebounds.

No. 14 Utah 65, Air Force 56
AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Andrew Bogut scored 20 of his 23 points in the second half as the Utes won their 18th straight and clinched the Mountain West Conference regular season title.

Utah (23-3, 11-0) snapped Air Force's 24-game home winning streak. Jacob Burschi and Nick Welch each had 15 points for the Falcons (15-10, 6-4).

No. 16 Alabama 87, South Carolina 68
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Kennedy Winston and Earnest Shelton combined to hit seven 3-pointers in the second half as Alabama remained unbeaten at home and won for the 10th time in 11 games.

Held to a combined six points in the first half, Winston finished with 13 and Shelton had 16 for the Crimson Tide (21-4, 10-2 Southeastern Conference).

Carlos Powell had 17 points for the Gamecocks (14-9, 6-6), who were coming off an upset of No. 3 Kentucky.

No. 18 Connecticut 85, Rutgers 63
PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Charlie Villanueva and Josh Boone each scored 21 points and No. 18 Connecticut used an early 26-5 run to embarrass Rutgers 85-63 on Saturday night in a game in which some Scarlet Knights' students called for the firing of coach Gary Waters.

Denham Brown added 18 points and Connecticut hit eight 3-pointers and made a couple of highlight film dunks in handling Rutgers (8-15, 2-11 Big East) its third straight loss and 12th in 14 games.

Marquis Webb had 15 points and Manny Quezada added 12

for the Scarlet Knights, who have lost seven games at the Rutgers Athletic Center this season, the most in any year since it joined the Big East in 1995-96.

No. 21 Oklahoma 69, Kansas State 68
MANHATTAN, Kan. — Drew Lawrence's improbable basket at the buzzer won the game as the Sooners' high 29 points and snapped the three-game road losing streak for the Sooners (19-6, 8-4 Big 12).

Cleat Stewart stole David Godbold's inbounds pass and then hit the second of two free throws with 4.5 seconds to go, putting Kansas State (13-9, 3-9) up 68-67.

But the 5-foot-7 lavender, who did not start for the second straight game, tore down the court and flipped the ball up from the baseline with less than a second left. Time expired as the ball hit the rim, bounced twice — each time just missing an Oklahoma player's hands — and fell through to extend the Wildcats' losing streak to six games.

Carrier Martin had 22 points for Kansas State.

No. 22 Maryland 92, Virginia 89, 207
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — John Gilchrist had 22 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:12 left in the second overtime for the Terrapins.

Virginia had a chance to tie it with 18 seconds to go in the second overtime, but Elton Brown missed two free throws, capping his 3-for-13 showing from the line.

The Terrapins (16-8, 7-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) twice saw the game extended when Virginia made 3-pointers on its final possessions.

Freshman Sean Singletary had 23 points and nine assists for the Cavaliers (13-11, 4-9).

No. 24 Cincinnati 72, UAB 69
CINCINNATI — Jason Maxwell had 22 points and 11 rebounds to lead flu-stricken Cincinnati.

The Bearcats (20-6, 8-4 Conference USA) had a nine-point lead cut to one in the final minute, but Armeim Kirkland clinched it by making two free throws with 4.9 seconds left. UAB's Caldwell "Squeaky" Johnson missed the rim with a long 3-pointer just before the buzzer.

Donnell Taylor and Marvett McDonald each had 16 points for Alabama-Birmingham (16-9, 6-6), which has lost four in a row for the first time since 2001-02.

Women
No. 10 Rutgers 59, No. 5 Notre Dame 48
PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Chelsea Newton had 14 points and eight assists and No. 10 Rutgers posted its fifth win over a top 10 team this season with a 59-48 victory over No. 5 Notre Dame on Saturday, snapping the Irish's season-high 10-game winning streak.

Cappie Pendexter added 13 points as the Scarlet Knights (20-5, 11-2 Big East) stayed unbeaten at home (12-0) and moved into first place with Connecticut, a half game ahead of Notre Dame (23-4, 11-3).

Jacqueline Batten and Magan Duffy had 14 points apiece to lead Notre Dame, which was held to a season-low point total. The previous low was 50 in a loss to Connecticut and a win over Marquette.

No. 7 Baylor 82, No. 19 Iowa St. 77
WACO, Texas — Chelsea Whitaker scored all of her career-high 20 points after halftime and had two key steals to help Baylor stay alone atop the Big 12 standings.

Whitaker, a 26-year shooter in this season, missed all four of her shots in the first half. But the senior was 8-for-11 after that, including the layup that put the Lady Bears (21-3, 11-2) ahead to stay. Lyndsey Medders had 24 points for Iowa State, while Katie Robinette had 21 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 11 Connecticut 85, Syracuse 49
HARTFORD, Conn. — Chardae Houston had 20 points and four blocked shots and Ann Strother added 16 points to lead Connecticut.

UConn (18-6, 11-2 Big East) handed the Orange (11-14, 3-11) their sixth straight loss and made it look easy.

Youngstown St. 60, No. 23 Wisc.-G.B. 56
GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jen Ferguson scored 12 points, and Barb Fabianova and Cathy Hanek each added 11 as Youngstown State snapped the Phoenix's 16-game winning streak.

The Penguins became the first Horizon League opponent to beat Wisconsin-Green Bay (22-3, 13-1) at home in seven years. The Phoenix had won 55 consecutive home games and Ann Strother against league foes. Youngstown State (10-15, 4-10) also beat Wisconsin-Green Bay for the first time in school history after 12 straight defeats.

Mile-high All-Star game is LeBron's first, Shaq's 12th

DENVER (AP) — A mile above sea level, just a little to the left of America's midsection, the NBA All-Star game has arrived lacking a clear-cut theme.

It will be LeBron James' first appearance and Shaquille O'Neal's 12th in the league's showcase event, and in between those two the frequent starter has 22 other well-deserving players of various shapes and sizes — though there's rarely a Nugget to represent host team, and no compelling story line to reel in the casual fan.

"Whoa, I have no idea. Better ask someone else," Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons said when asked to come up with a motif for this year's game.

"I can't come up with something I don't know," offered Tracy McGrady of the Rockets.

Kobe Bryant said, "I don't know," and Yao Ming, who might have forgotten the game, said the leading superstar already had his first official on-court clash back on Christmas Day.

"How about Yao vs. Shaq?" Yao was asked in return. After Shaq's first game with the Western Conference squad the past two years before O'Neal

was traded last summer to Miami. This time, O'Neal will be starting for the East and jumping center against Yao when the opening tip goes up shortly before 7 p.m. MST.

"I won't be using all six of my fouls against him," Yao predicted.

This will be the league's 54th All-Star game and the first time in 21 years it's being held in Denver. It comes during a somewhat troubled year, the defining moment of the current season coming on the third Friday of November when Ron Artest and Stephen Jackson of

the Pacers charged into the stands and pummeled Pistons fans as a wild brawl broke out in the final minute of an Indiana-Detroit game.

Two of the principal figures from that troubling night, Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal and Detroit's Wallace, will be teammates on an East squad that will try to break the conference's three-game All-Star losing streak.

The big event is the All-Star game itself, and it's wide open in terms of being here for the taking for someone who wants to stamp it with his own signature.

Coming Monday
The latest from Daytona.

YOUR SPORTS

YourSports Desk: 733-0931, Ext. 239 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)



Local boxer Jesse Carnell of Jerome is pictured.

Jerome boxer takes third in nationals

The Times-News
JEROME — Local boxer Jesse Carnell of Jerome competed in the National Silver Gloves tournament in Kansas City on Feb. 2-5, where he achieved a third place national ranking in the 90-pound weight class.

Carnell defeated Michael Lucero of Minneapolis, Minn., by 3-round decision to advance to the semifinals, where he lost by 3-round decision.

Carnell, 14, fights for Brit-Cam Boxing and is coached by his father Ron Carnell.

Roping club holds annual dinner, raffle

The Times-News
DECLO — The Big D Roping Club recently held their annual year-end dinner and raffle at Southside Electric.

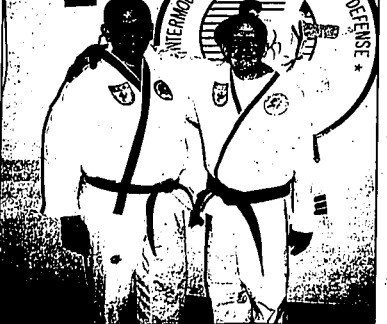


New officers elected for 2005 will be Tracey Thaxton, president; Kenny Koepnick, vice president; and Tammy Koepnick, secretary.

The Big D Roping Club awarded belt buckles for the year-end team roping and team sorting events. Winners in the two-man sorting were Chase Bryce and Chuck Kowitz.

Local martial arts instructors advance

The Times-News
TWIN FALLS — Two local martial arts instructors were recently promoted by the Iwa-Hang Tai Kwon Do Federation.



Dr. Matt Jolley was promoted to the rank of Fourth Dan (fourth degree black belt). Jolley has trained in various martial arts since the age nine.

Don Rider was promoted to the rank of Fifth Dan (fifth degree black belt). Rider has trained in various martial arts, since age 13 but has trained at Master Hartwell's International Martial Arts since 1980.

Dr. Matt Jolley and Don Rider are pictured.

Local gymnasts perform well in Icebreaker

The Times-News
TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Gymnastics boys team took home several ribbons from the recent Icebreaker meet held in Twin Falls.



Pictured from left to right are Jason Bride, Marcus Ko, Bryler Reed and Ryan Gelst. The coach is Power Jensen.

Misfits take first at TFWBA tournament

The Twin Falls Women's Bowling Association City Tournament got underway last weekend and here are the standings so far.

LET'S GO BOWLING
Theina Tucker

YOUR SCORES AND STATS

Table with multiple columns listing scores and statistics for various sports including Trap, Shooting, Snake River Trap, Bowling, and others. Includes sub-sections like 'MAGIC HOLE, TWIN FALLS' and 'MAGIC HOLE, TWIN FALLS'.

Do you know of a local sporting event that ought to be in the paper? Tell us about it!

Please include: First and last names. Home/phone numbers for people mentioned. Date and place of the event. Scores or places won for the participants. A name and phone number for more information. Photographs are encouraged. Please send a self-addressed envelope to: P.O. Box 244, Twin Falls, 83420-0244 or Fax to 733-4533.

SEEKING RESPECT

Two Jima vet seeks recognition for role at flag raising

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. — The old man gazes at the photo of the flag flying over Iwo Jima and sees himself 60 years younger, a Marine in uniform with a radio on his back and his head tilted up at the Stars and Stripes. It's not the photo known the world over of six men struggling to raise Old Glory. No, this is a black-and-white of the smaller American flag first raised by Marines atop Mount Suribachi, earlier the same day. But because of the iconic later picture, this event is largely lost to history.

And as another anniversary of the flag-raising arrives Wednesday, 79-year-old Raymond Jacobs says he has been similarly overlooked all this time. The young radioman in the photo is himself, Jacobs insists. And armed with pictures, newspaper clippings, correspondence and his own account of the siege on the extinct volcano, the white-haired former Marine has been rounding up veterans, members of Congress and authors as allies in his fight for recognition. "When the folks in Washington, D.C., kept saying, 'No, no, no, I gora tude bit pushed so I 550-foot I'm going to prove to them,'" Jacobs says. "I understand their skepticism because there have been any number of people who've claimed to have been part of this group and they weren't, they were just telling sea stories."

Jacobs' story begins Feb. 19, 1945, when he and thousands of Marines were pinned down on the black sand beach as bullets, mortars and artillery rained down from an invisible enemy burrowed in the island.

Iwo Jima would be the deadliest battle in Marine Corps history—killing nearly 7,000 Americans.

On the morning of Feb. 23, after a four-man reconnaissance patrol returned from the 550-foot summit of Suribachi, Jacobs, a member of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, says he was ordered to fill in for Easy Company's radioman on a combat patrol up the mountain.

With a 40-pound radio strapped to his back and carrying an M-1 rifle, Jacobs says, he made a nerve-racking scramble up the rugged peak with 40 soldiers.

"The amount of fire that they poured down on us in previous days was so incredible that you were twitchy," he says. "All the time you're moving, you're looking around waiting for the first round to hit."

After making it to the summit without resistance, a group of the men tied a small flag to a line of water pipe found in the debris and hoisted it. When it was aloft, a spontaneous roar rose from the shore.

"All of a sudden you could hear voices down below screaming, 'That's our flag!'" Jacobs says. "It was an incredible feeling, a very emotional feeling. The boats who were beached and the big ships at sea started



Raymond Jacobs identifies himself as a Marine radioman atop Mount Suribachi, on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, in this photograph displayed at his home in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., Monday.

blowing whistles and horns and all the rest of it."

Lou Lowery, a photographer for Leatherneck magazine, captured the moment from several vantage points. But those photos were not published for two years. That piece of history was shielded when a second patrol planned a replacement flag.

The reason for the swap is not clear. Some suggest the first flag was taken as a souvenir, others said it was too small.

For whatever reason, a larger flag was run up the hill, and Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal forever defined the moment as his shutter caught five Marines and a Navy corpsman pushing the second flagpole skyward.

Jacobs says he was off the mountain when the second flag went up but spoke with reporters after the first flag raising. The Feb. 24 front page of the now-defunct Los Angeles Herald-Express, one of his hometown papers, says: "Pfc. Raymond E. Jacobs of the Twenty-eighth Marines was revealed in an Associated Press dispatch today as being a member of the patrol of 14 basic detachments who proudly raised the flag on rugged Mount Suribachi, on the southern tip of Iwo Jima yesterday." The Los Times Times incorrectly put Jacobs' name in the caption of the Rosenthal photo on its front page the following day.

Jacobs endured the horror of the battle for another two weeks

Severance says he doesn't buy Jacobs' story. "Ideally, he doesn't think Jacobs' commander would have released his radioman for the mission."

"We thought we were going to storm that mountain," Severance says. "If my radioman had left me, he'd still be in jail."

It was specifically because Severance kept the Easy Company radioman at the command post that a replacement was sent. Severance acknowledges that someone went up Suribachi with a radio, but he disputes it was Jacobs.

Retired Col. Walt Ford, editor of Leatherneck, says Jacobs was a hero for being on Iwo Jima, but he adds some people have wondered why he waited so long to raise his voice and why he didn't attend two Jima reunions when more living veterans could have verified his account.

Ford says the sole recognized survivor of either flag raising, Charles Lindberg, said he doesn't remember Jacobs. Attempts to reach Lindberg by phone at his Minnesota home were unsuccessful.

But Jacobs and Lindberg both spoke at an event three years ago in Long Prairie, Minn., dedicating a monument to the first flag raising. It names both of them.

Jacobs also points to the 1947 letter from Lowery as marking his earliest effort for recognition.

Twenty years ago, Jacobs' daughter, Nancy, took up her father's cause and she's made several inquiries over the years.

But she has always been met with resistance. Members of Congress who have written on his behalf have been told that while as many as 10 Marines are pictured near the flagpole, only six have been identified as flag raisers, Jacobs says only that he was at the raising.

After retiring in 1992 from KTUV-TV in Oakland, where he worked 34 years as reporter, anchor and news director, Jacobs began more thorough research. His effort took a leap forward when Leatherneck ran more of Lowery's photos a few years ago, revealing the shadowy face of the radioman who was out of view in the original photo, Jacobs said he recognized himself immediately.

Forensic photographic expert James Ebert compared pictures of Jacobs with the Lowery photos and found his claim convincing. While Ebert couldn't decipher the name on a canteen cover, he concluded: "The radioman shown in the Lowery photos taken on Mount Suribachi is Ray Jacobs."

The Marines officially say the radioman near the flagpole remains unidentified.

Chuck Nelson, chief historian for the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington, says he believes Jacobs but is remaining neutral because some veterans dispute his account and it's nearly impossible to prove.

"His story rings true with us," he says. "But we're not going to bless it because we can't."

until he was hit with shrapnel from a Japanese mortar on March 10 and evacuated with wounds that earned him a Purple Heart.

Jacobs only became aware of the Rosenthal photo after he returned home — and he was puzzled at first because it didn't depict what he witnessed.

It was not until 1947, after the war, that Lowery's picture of the first flag raising was published in Leatherneck. In response to an inquiry from Jacobs, Lowery wrote that his story had been kept secret because Rosenthal's shot provided good publicity for the Marines.

President Franklin Roosevelt ordered three men in the Rosenthal photo to return home.

Over the years, many others claimed they were there.

But Jacobs says he was not a glory seeker. "The flag raising and the patrol became just another event," Jacobs says. "We didn't see it as a defining moment in our lives. It was just something we had done and we were happy about it."

Retired Col. Dave Severance, who was the commander of the company that raised the initial flag, says he's documented about 50 phony claims by men who said they were there that day.

Some weren't even on the island. One man claimed he landed his fighter plane, helped carry the flagpole to the summit, then flew away safely.



William Von Winkle stands on a vacant lot in the Fort Trumbull section of New London, Conn., Feb. 7, near an outdated development sign where construction equipment has cleared away a neighborhood. William is one of seven property owners to go before the U.S. Supreme Court to keep their properties from being seized.

Residents ask high court to block eminent domain

NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — Fifteen houses are all that remain of Fort Trumbull, a once vibrant immigrant neighborhood flattened into expanses of rutted grass and gravel.

The homes stand in defiance of New London's plan to pave the way for a riverfront hotel and convention center, offices and upscale condominiums.

Refusing the city's efforts to get them to leave, seven families are going before the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday, arguing that the city has no right to take their private property solely for economic development.

The rebellious homeowners include an elderly Italian immigrant, a mechanic and a former dell owner.

"It's a case of the rich getting the poor," said Matthew Dery, who lives in one of four houses on a compound his family has owned since 1901. "Sometimes the poor are difficult to digest."

Leading the charge is Susette Kelo, a 47-year-old nurse who bought her home in 1997. "They have over 90 acres now," Kelo said. "It's more than enough room to build on. We never said they can't build. We just said 'We want to stay.'"

But Kelo's apricot-colored house, with a decorative wind chiming made of silverware, doesn't fit in the city's development plans.

"They just would not be compatible with all the other uses," said Edward O'Connell, an attorney representing the New London Development Corp., the quasi-public agency behind the redevelopment effort.

Whether building highways or public offices, laying railroad tracks or eliminating blight, governments have long relied on eminent domain laws to allow them to take private property.

The Fifth Amendment allows governments to take private property for "public use."

New York used eminent domain to improve Times Square, expand the New York Stock Exchange and build the World Trade Center. Baltimore replaced a dust-trodden waterfront with a bustling harbor development.

But Fort Trumbull is not beset by blight, poverty or crime and New London is not building a highway or government building and the residents' appeal asks if "public use" always governments to seize unblighted taxpayer property solely to encourage private development.

The Supreme Court has given governments broad power to take private property through eminent domain, provided the owner is given "just compensation." But in recent years many cities and towns have been accused of abusing their authority.

New London officials say the taxes generated by redeveloping Fort Trumbull ultimately will benefit the public, and the state Supreme Court ruled that was enough to justify the condemnation.

City officials have worked to remake the area since 1996, when the Naval Undersea Warfare Center JEDI, near a \$1.4 billion pharmaceutical giant Pfizer opened a \$350 million research center nearby that year, city officials saw an opportunity to create high-end housing, retail shops, a business park and a hotel.

All that was standing in the way were 15 homes.

Most owners accepted the city's buyout offers. Those who remain fall into two categories — people who simply won't leave and people who feel they're being cheated out of the fair value of their homes.

"The sentimental holdouts are the more difficult to deal with," O'Connell said. "No matter what you offer, they will consider that sufficient or appropriate. They're just not motivated by the logic of the marketplace."

Kelo says it's not about the money for her. She was raised nearby, and when her children moved out she wanted a house by the water. Her small but cozy house has a front porch with a great view of the Thames River.

Dery is upset that the city wants to take his property before putting a developer under contract and deciding exactly who will replace his neighborhood.

More storms batter Southern California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Powerful understorms hammered Southern California on Saturday with soaking rain and hail, flooding roads and homes, knocking out power to thousands of customers and raising the threat of mudslides.

La Conchita, the coastal hamlet where 10 people were killed by a huge landslide last month, was a ghost town after the storm. U.S. Geological Survey warned that none of the roughly 150 remaining homes could be considered safe.

In a year of record rainfall, the latest storms had soaked downtown Los Angeles with about 2 inches of rain since Thursday.

The area has seen nearly three times the average rainfall this season, and periodic showers are expected for several more days throughout the state.

"All of California's going to get a shot of rain in the next couple of days but most of it will be from Santa Barbara south," said National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Anderson. "That's the bull's-eye for the next two days."

The storms knocked out power to thousands of customers in the area, according to Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

USS Carter will be able to tap undersea cables, experts say

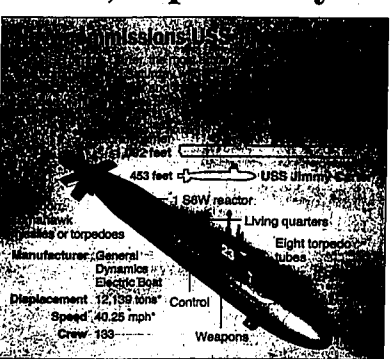
WASHINGTON (AP) — The USS Jimmy Carter, which joined the nation's submarine fleet on Saturday, has some special capabilities, intelligence experts say. It will be able to tap undersea cables and eavesdrop on the communications passing through them.

The Navy does not acknowledge the \$3.2 billion submarine, which is the first of a new class of attack subs, has this capability.

"That's going to be classified in nature," said Kevin Sykes, a Navy spokesman. "You're not going to get anybody to talk to you about that."

But intelligence community watchdogs have little doubt: The previous submarine that performed the mission, the USS Parche, was retired last fall. That would only happen if a new one was on the way.

Like the Parche, the Carter was extensively modified from its basic design, given a 923-meter-long hull extension that allows it to house technicians and gear to perform the cable-tapping and other secret missions, experts say. Carter's hull, at 453 feet, is 100 feet longer than the other two subs in the Seawolf class. "The submarine is basically going to have as its major function 'intelligence gathering,'" said James Bamford, author of two books on the National Security Agency.



Navy public information touts some of the Carter's special abilities: In the extended hull section, the boat can provide berths for up to 50 special operations troops like Navy SEALs. It has an "ocean interior" that serves as a sort of hangar bay for smaller vehicles and drones to launch and return. It has the usual complement of torpedo tubes and Tomahawk cruise missiles, and it will also serve as a platform for researching new technologies useful on submarines.

The Carter, like other submarines, will also have the ability to eavesdrop on communications — what the military calls signals intelligence — passed through the airwaves, experts say. But its ability to tap undersea fiber-optic cables may be unique in the fleet.

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A DECLINE IN ELK

Debate roils over wolves, ecosystem

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — Hunters and outfitters blamed wolves when they began seeing fewer elk in areas near the park in the decade after gray wolves returned. But some researchers say drought and even years of great hunting played an important role, too, and the wolves themselves seem to be paying a price.

"To a degree, people are saying wolf way too soon," said Yellowstone wolf biologist Doug Smith.

Smith and others concede that wolves have contributed to declining elk numbers near Yellowstone, particularly in the northern range that migrates into Montana in winter. But there is intense debate over how great their role has been — and whether it has been necessary had.

To outfitters like James Hubbard, the wolves' effect has been huge, and they point to the case of the northern range herd for years a rich source of winter hunting near Gardiner, Mont. — to make their point. The herd, as recently as 1994, had 19,000 elk. The most recent count last month put the population at only 1,000.

That's not just coincidence, Hubbard said: Wolves, reintroduced to the region in 1995, are "killing the industry."

"Hunters come out and don't see near the elk," the Gardiner-area rancher and outfitter said. "They used to see so many it was unreal."

Christopher Hanny, a senior conservation scientist for Defenders of Wildlife, said wolves are being made a scapegoat. Elk numbers in parts of the West, including the northern range herd, were very high for a number of years, he said, but much of the area has also experienced extended drought, which can further stress range conditions.

"Hunters have had it good for a long time," he said. "When you have these high numbers, it gets in people's heads. This is natural, this is what it should be" when nature is always changing," he said.

The population of the herd grew dramatically after federal officials stopped trying to regulate elk numbers in the park in the 1960s.

Elk leaving the park have been hunted in Montana since the 1970s. But Kurt Alt, a state wildlife manager, said that since 2000, the population has steadily declined. He said there is concern whether the population can sustain itself with the number of calves — among the more vulnerable animals in the



In this March 2003 photo provided by John Winnie Jr., researcher John Winnie Jr. examines the remains of an elk killed by a wolf, inside Yellowstone National Park in Montana.

herd — withstanding predators, including bears and wolves, to survive a year.

Hunting permits in the area have been scaled back to see if that might help stabilize the elk population, he said. But Alt said he believes the weight of evidence has shown adding wolves to the mix has been the "major factor" in the herd's decline. Before the federal wolf reintroduction in and around Yellowstone in 1995, he said the herd was able to maintain relatively high numbers and rebound fairly quickly from natural events, such as major fires or drought.

"One thing that has changed is the addition of wolves to the system," Alt said. "We're seeing a decline in the population with the addition of that extra mouth."

Ed Bangs, a federal wolf manager, said wolves, mountain lions and other predators may speed up declines in game populations caused by other factors, such as hunting, changes in habitat conditions and harsh weather. When elk populations are at such highs, there's "no way to sustain that, and when numbers go down, people are always looking for something to blame," he said.

"You hear, 'Wolves are killing off all the elk,' and none of that's true. Some people say they're not having an effect and that's not true, either," he said, adding, "What wolves do is cut out the highs and lows."

There are places in the three-state region where wolves are present and elk populations are thriving. A key difference between those and Yellowstone is wolf densities, Smith said. "When wolf densities drop sharply at Gardiner, near the park's northern boundary, wolves outside the park that get into trouble, say for killing livestock, can't be killed."

But there's new evidence suggesting wolf numbers inside the park may now be leveling off, or even declining, he said.

Smith, who has been study-

Idaho analyzes wolf effects on big game herds

BOISE (AP) — State Fish and Game biologists are using helicopters to drive elk and deer into nets and attaching radio collars to 600 animals in the largest game monitoring project the department has attempted.

The monitoring targets 16 hunting units across the state to see how predators, including wolves, affect the animals' survival rate. If evidence shows wolves are impacting numbers or herd survival rates, the state could get federal approval to kill wolves and manage their pack numbers.

"We constantly get the question of what effect predators are having on ungulates, and wolves are certainly part of that," F&G director Steve Huffaker said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave Idaho and Montana more authority to manage gray wolves, which includes relaxed rules on killing the animals under a provision of the Endangered Species Act.

"The new rules are very flexible, and I think you haven't seen this flexibility anywhere else under the Endangered Species Act," said Ed Bangs, wolf recovery coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Because wolves tend to pick off prey least likely to put up a big fight, they're having to work harder for a meal — some, like the Mollie's packs are taking on burlly bison in late winter — or go hungry, Smith believes.

In the past five years, he said, wolves in the park have eaten less elk in late winter than before.

"I have seen wolves starve when there's adequate numbers of prey out there," he said.

Some wolves now are in poor condition. Wolves overall are fighting more than they used to be, and fighting has picked up between packs competing for carcasses, leading to far more dead wolves a year now than in the first years after reintroduction, he said.

Last year in Yellowstone, wolf numbers declined for only the second time since reintroduction, to 171 animals. In another decade or so, Smith guesses there could be half the wolves there are now.

The big question is: How will wolves contend with declining elk numbers? Either wolf numbers will fall off, too, or wolves will augment their diets with bison, which is in ample supply in Yellowstone but difficult for wolves to kill, Smith said. He has known wolves to be gone and even killed trying to take down a bison.

"It will be exciting to see what happens," he said. "It will affect not only the wolves but the elk."

Utah city imposes daytime curfew

SYRACUSE, Utah (AP) — After three years of struggling with youth playing hooly, the city has passed a daytime curfew ordinance to make sure students stay in school.

er at Syracuse Junior High. In the 2002-2003 school year, there were 146 cases of truancy, and this school year has already seen 126, officials said.

The new ordinance — modeled after Layton's — lets police take action when they see a youth they suspect is skipping school, said Police Sgt. Phillip Roglich, the school resource officer at Syracuse Junior High.

With the new ordinance in place, police are authorized to issue a citation to a truant minor, and, if necessary, take the student into custody to transport him to school or a receiving center.

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Lawmakers mull safety standards at day-cares

BOISE (AP) — Lawmakers are considering a proposal that would rescind the cap on the number of children a day-care facility must have before safety regulations apply, making all the facilities adhere to basic safety standards.

"This bill is really just minimal. It's going to provide safety, that's the goal," said Rep. George Saylor, D-Coeur d'Alene. "It's tough on parents. There are so many that work. They need to be able to be assured that their children are being well taken care of in a good environment, a safe environment."

The law would require that all facilities perform criminal background checks for those who work in the facility, comply with fire safety standards and limit the number of children an adult can be responsible for at once.

Labor activists organize to repeal 'right to work'

LEWISTON (AP) — A group of labor activists in northern Idaho is continuing an effort to repeal right-to-work legislation adopted 20 years ago.

"To get the measure on the November 2006 ballot, the group must get 47,881 registered Idaho voters to sign a petition. A year ago, enough signatures were gathered by an organization, Citizens to Repeal Right to Work, but many were invalidated because of technical problems, said Ron Teigen, three-state business representative for the International Association of Machinists, Aerospace and Woodworkers.

That group then went to the AFL-CIO, and asked us to continue the fight," Teigen said.

But it's not a union issue, said Jim Kidder, president of PACE Local 712 and District 2 representative for the Idaho AFL-CIO.

Kidder is one of five Lewiston men attempting to organize and train volunteers in north central Idaho to circulate petitions.

The others are Bob Belon, president of the Lewis-Clark

Central Labor Council; Brian Van Leuven, who also represents the labor council on the state AFL-CIO board; and Marvin Hall, longtime union member and AFL-CIO area coordinator who led the petition drive to repeal right-to-work legislation.

"Twenty years ago, supporters of the legislation said right to work would be mutually beneficial for employers and employees and create economic stability. Supporters said the key was to make union memberships voluntary.

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Businesses weigh new write-off rule

By Mark Schwanhauser
Knight Ridder News Service

Entrepreneurs caught a tax break late last year. The question is: Will their businesses survive long enough to see it through? Thanks to the 2004 Jobs Act passed in October, fledgling businesses can now elect to write off \$5,000 each in start-up and organizational costs incurred after Oct. 22.

But there's a big catch: If you spent more than that, you must deduct the rest of your deductions over 15 years — a decade longer than for businesses that pass up this option. And start-ups that spend more than \$50,000 to launch won't be able to write off more than \$10,000.

"You're trying to get a nice cash benefit now, but you'll pay for it later by dragging out the rest of your deductions," warned Paul Gada, a senior small-business tax analyst with GCH of Riverwoods Ill.

Once a business opens its doors, it generally can subtract its bills from revenue on a dollar-for-dollar basis, resulting in a net profit or loss. But many new business owners are shocked to learn that bills incurred before the business opens must be amortized for years.

"That catches people by surprise," said Mary Canning dean of Golden Gate University's School of Taxation in San Francisco. "It's a bitter pill."

Businesses that prefer to play by the old rules must divide their deductions over a 60-month period. But businesses that take advantage of the new rules — and survive long enough — may still be worth the extra deductions of 2004's bills in 2019. Businesses that fail to claim the remainder when they shut down.

One part of the puzzle is to sort out the difference between start-up costs and organizational costs. Start-up costs for a new boutique might include advertising the grand opening and workers' pay before the store opens. Organizational costs might cover legal bills to set up a business.

But note the word "might." New businesses classify expenses as fodder for deductions and Treasury Department rulings. Canning warns, "It's possible, she adds, that you might be able to classify expenses in a way that will give you different rules. Dressing up a rental space might qualify as leasehold improvements, for instance."

"The bottom line is, it's subjective when a business has started," said Sharon Kreider, a Sunnyvale, Calif., certified public accountant. "When things are subjective, that opens you to more IRS scrutiny."

2005 INCOME TAX PREPARATION GUIDE

Families lose millions to complexity

THE LURE OF THE LOAN

By Mark Schwanhauser
Knight Ridder News Service



Matt Bunch, right, of Red's Trading Post in Twin Falls, talks with customer Dennis Manson about a Ruger .45-caliber pistol Friday. Bunch and his wife take out a refund anticipation loan every year when they file their taxes to immediately pay bills.

Consumer advocates warn against refund-anticipation loans

By Megan Hinds
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Bills just seem to pile up faster after Christmas, at least for Matt Bunch and his family. So when tax time rolls around, Bunch likes to get his refund back as soon as possible to pay off those debts.

So the Bunches take advantage of refund-anticipation loans, known as RALs, offered by many tax return preparers. The short-term bank loans allow taxpayers to get back their refund minus a bank fee — a few days sooner than waiting for the refund check to be deposited in their bank account or delivered in the mail.

"Generally, right after Christmas we have a ton of bills to pay," said Bunch, who uses the services of national tax preparer HRB Block. "This way we can get the money the next day and take care of everything all at once."

RALs often work like this: The taxpayer goes to a tax preparer who figures the amount of the refund. Then the taxpayer can take out a loan from a partner bank for the amount of the refund and receive the money — minus fees and interest — within two days. The lender is repaid when the Internal Revenue Service deposits the taxpayer's refund with the bank.

Loan fees typically range between \$30 and \$115, depending on the lender and the size of the loan, according to a recent national survey. That translates

into annual percentage rates of about 60 to 70 percent. Add on possible administrative fees, the standard tax-return preparation fee and the interest on the loan, and RALs can take a sizable chunk of the refund out of a taxpayer's pocket.

In contrast, taxpayers who file electronically and have the refund deposited in their own bank accounts can have their money within two weeks — sometimes sooner — without paying additional fees, said Ruth Pierce of Twin Falls accounting firm Stevens Pierce and Associates.

But the firm also partners with a Kentucky-based bank to offer RALs to its customers because there's a demand for the service, Pierce said.

At Stevens Pierce, obtaining an RAL means a bank fee of \$10 to \$35 on top of the accounting firm's standard preparation fee. The firm's partner bank also charges a separate fee of \$34 to \$97 per loan, depending on the amount of the refund.

"The fee the financial institution charges includes a phenomenal amount of interest," Pierce said. "It annualizes out to more than 100 percent interest."

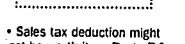
Because of the high added costs, Pierce said she tries to dissuade customers from choosing the RAL option.

"Typically, unless someone insists, I try to talk them into electronic direct deposit," Pierce said. "We offer (RALs) because people want it, not because it's best for them."

Last year, 12 million Americans spent 1.4 billion on RALs,

Tax advice inside

Taxes 2005



- Sales tax deduction might not be worth it . . . Page D4
- List of helpful Web sites and contacts . . . Page D4
- Free sites offer bare-bones assistance . . . Page D4
- Tax code rewards generosity . . . Page D5
- Homeowners get big deductions . . . Page D5
- Understand the education tax breaks . . . Page D5
- Equity loans aren't always deductible . . . Page D5
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- Small business tax rules offer choices . . . Page D6

citizens in 2003 had adjusted gross incomes of \$35,000 or less.

With a number of free and low-cost filing options — like AARP's free Tax Aide service — available to taxpayers, RALs just might be necessary even in some emergency situations, the consumer group says. (For more information on AARP Tax Aide services in Magic Valley, contact Mary Price at 733-7057.)

"RAL fees drain wealth from the families that can least afford it," said Chi Chi Wu, a staff attorney for the National Consumer Law Center.

The number of American taxpayers receiving RALs dropped 4.3 percent from the 2002 tax filing season to the 2003 season, which indicates numbers are leveling off, according to the survey.

Pierce said her firm has seen 50 percent fewer RALs issued this tax season compared with last year, but it's easier just to know I can go down and pick up a check the next day."

"It just depends on how much we have coming back and how much we need it," Bunch said. "The sensible side of me wants to wait the seven to 10 days, but it's easier just to know I can go down and pick up a check the next day."

Knight Ridder News Service contributed to this report.

2004 saw tax code become even more complicated

Knight Ridder News Service

Lawmakers who write the tax code apparently live by the motto, "No pain, no gain." Contentious lawmakers stand to save billions of dollars from two major tax cuts passed in 2004, the fourth and fifth of President Bush's first term.

"Contentious lawmakers with won't come easily. Taxpayers must wend through a torturous tax code, weigh one tax break against another and project how their decisions could play out on tax returns years into the future."

Among the more enticing opportunities to puzzle over this tax-filing season:

• **Consumers in some states are salivating at the chance to write off their sales taxes for the first time since 1986.**

• **Donors have a chance to deduct charitable contributions made in January to help victims of the Asian tsunami. But they must decide whether it's wiser to take the write-off on their 2004 return or wait a year.**

• **A record number of taxpayers can prepare their federal taxes online for free, but sorting through the 19 vendors might be more trouble than finding out the forms by hand.**

The bottom line is that tax breaks often help only slivers of the taxpaying public.

Many of the 2004 rewards, for example, are targeted at consumers, parents, investors, donors, small businesses, college students or military personnel. The key word is "targeted."

How we file our taxes

For the 2003 tax year:

Total tax returns from individuals	128 million
Filed on paper by mail	98 million
Filed electronically by professional tax preparers	43 million
Filed electronically from home	15 million
Filed by people using "TeleFile" phone system	4 million

Source: The IRS group
Graphic: San Jose Mercury News

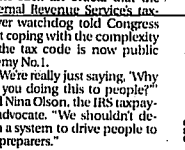
about whether you do it yourself or hire a pro. Sorting out the nine tax breaks for higher-education bills means wading through 83 pages of instructions. The earned-income credit aimed at the poor is so convoluted that nearly three out of four people paid a pro to fill out their forms.

Time for taxes

Estimated time to fill out forms for the 2004 tax year:

Form	Hours:Minutes
Form 1040	13:35
Schedule A	5:27
Schedule B	1:26
Schedule C	1:55
Schedule C-EZ	1:43
Schedule D	0:10
Schedule D-1	0:59
Schedule E	0:14
Schedule EIC	0:35
Schedule H	0:34

Increasing time on 1040



Time for taxes

Estimated time to fill out forms for the 2004 tax year:

Estimated time to fill out forms for the 2004 tax year:

Estimated time to fill out forms for the 2004 tax year:

Estimated time to fill out forms for the 2004 tax year:

YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

Jacque Lambing

TWIN FALLS — Longtime antiques dealer Jacque Lambing completed a certificate course in personal property appraisal conducted by the Certified Appraisers Guild of America in Las Vegas. She received certification along with appraisers from throughout the United States and Canada.

The guild calls itself North America's largest trainer of personal property appraisers. Training included lectures and workshops featuring prominent appraisers from throughout the country. Subjects included the appraisal of antiques, farm, livestock and business properties. The course also included requirements for valuing estates, bankruptcy, insurance, divorce and providing expert testimony in court.

Lambing will also continue to do estate sales and buying and selling of antiques and collectibles. She can be reached at 732-4986 or 731-3569.

Tracy Cook

CASTLEFORD — Tracy Cook, a trustee of Castleford School District, completed Level 1, 12 hours of training as a school district leader, and received a certificate of professional development from the Idaho School Boards Association.

The association instituted an Academy of School Board Leadership wherein participants may earn three levels of accomplishment. Level 2 requires 24 hours of training, and Level 3 requires 36 hours.

The Idaho School Boards Association said it is an association of 560 publicly elected school board trustees whose mission is providing leadership and services to local school boards for the benefit of students.



Tracy Cook

for 2004 Supervisor of the Year. Courtney Shewmaker of Twin Falls for 2004 Wireless Consultant of the Year and Rick Reichel, a field technician in Twin Falls, for 2004 Tech Ops of the Year.

For contributions during the fourth quarter, Burnikel received the Circle of Excellence Award; Justin Sterrett, area manager in Magic Valley, received the Premier Sales Achievement Award in the area manager category; Velda Ibarra, a wireless consultant in Jerome, received the Premier Sales Achievement Award for November and December and the quarterly award in that category; and Troy Gravatt, a Twin Falls account executive, received the Premier Sales Achievement Award for October and November and the quarterly award in that category.

Edge Wireless, a member of the AT&T Wireless Network, is based in Bend, Ore., and offers service in Oregon, California, Idaho and Wyoming.

College instructors

TWIN FALLS — The Community-Education Center at the College of Southern Idaho added Lupa Cisneros-Corbin, Terry McCurdy and Linda Gray as enrichment class instructors for the spring semester.

Cisneros-Corbin will teach courses in conversational Spanish. She attended San Diego State College, where she majored in business administration and finance, and became a certified paralegal in 1985. She has served as an ambassador of goodwill to the city of Chula Vista, Calif., represented the Hispanic community in San Diego, was named Best Community Leader in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, and started Community Action Paralegal Services in Magic Valley.

McCurdy will teach a course for business owners on issues surrounding drug-free workplaces. He was born and raised in southern Idaho and has played an active part in the community over the past 20 years, with experience in banking and business, currently owning Magic Valley Business Services. He was president of the Twin Falls Area Business and Commerce and the Twin Falls Rotary Club.

Gray will teach a course in stained-glass copper foil technique.

She has a bachelor's degree in art education from Montana State University and has pursued art and teaching for the last 29 years. Through her business, Stained Glass Reflections, she specializes in commissioned stained glass windows for churches, homes and businesses. She has taught many beginning and advanced stained glass classes and acted as a consultant on various glass projects.

Karen Wells

JEROME — Karen Wells joined the team at LaLute Veterinary Clinic PC in Filer as the clinic's pet groomer.

Wells previously worked at PETS MART in Twin Falls as the salon manager. She grew up in Wisconsin and now lives in Jerome. Wells graduated from the College of Southern Idaho with an associate's degree in American Sign Language. She received her grooming certificate in southern California and came to Idaho in 1983.

Jerry Melreis

RUPERT — Jerry Melreis received his service award from the board of A&B Irrigation District.

Melreis has served 12 years as a board member of the district.

Christine Knight

TWIN FALLS — Christine Knight completed the requirements to receive the National Association of Insurance Women's Certified Professional designation.

To achieve the designation, Knight earned nationalism through her level of experience in the insurance industry, active membership in NAIW and completion of an industry-approved educational program.

Knight has been employed with Premier Insurance since 1996.

CONTRIBUTIONS



College of Southern Idaho diesel technology students Josh Sayre, left, and Cory Williams, both of Twin Falls, get acquainted with what's under the hood of the new Freightliner truck recently donated to the college's diesel technology program.

■ Twin Falls Truck and Equipment owner Orlan Stearns and the Freightliner Training Center in Portland, Ore., recently donated one of Freightliner's newest models, an \$80,000 "business class" truck, to the College of Southern Idaho diesel technology program. Several other models have been donated to the program over the past decade.

Freightliner said the truck is considered important to future transportation needs since it is smaller and lighter than most long-haul rigs. It utilizes more computerized components than previous models.

"Whenever we get a new truck like this, it puts our students right on the cutting edge of their technology," said Jim Sehnund, diesel technology professor at CSI. "We are one of very few schools in the nation that can offer such a broad range of hands-on diesel education. These trucks are much more computerized than any previous models, which will give excellent training to the students."

Todd Schwarz, chairman of CSI's Trade and Industry Department, said CSI is given favorable consideration in this kind of donation because it has five of the nation's 22 Freightliner contract service trainers. These are specialists who teach and upgrade technician skills at schools and trucking agencies around North America as well as at CSI.

For information about CSI's program, call Schlund at 732-6371.



SOCCER SUSTENANCE



The First Federal Charitable Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to the Twin Falls Soccer Association to help build soccer fields and parking and landscaping for the new soccer complex. Pictured from left are Theresa McCoy of the soccer association; Jim Thompson, First Federal Charitable Foundation board member; and Mark Goodman of the soccer association.

■ Idaho CattleWomen donated \$2,000 in beef gift certificates to military families. The certificates will be divided between restaurants or retailers in Idaho to help the families of troops that have been deployed, and will be distributed based on need.

The certificates can be used at restaurants or retailers around the state to buy beef.

Idaho CattleWomen members are members of the Idaho Cattle Association, a nonprofit trade association representing cow/calf producers, feeders and related businesses.

TELL US YOUR BUSINESS

Your business is a weekly feature that highlights commercial activity in the Magic Valley, if you have information about any of the following:

- Promotions and staff changes.
- New certifications.
- Seminars and workshops.
- Awards and achievements.
- Charitable business activities.
- Other business news.

Please e-mail items to Business Editor Virginia S. Hutchins at virginia.hutchins@tee.net

Or contact her at: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303, 733-0931, Ext. 242, Fax 731-4543 or 734-5538

Professionals offer home-buyer workshop

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Jeane Wilson at Prudential Idaho Homes & Properties and D.L. Evans Bank will co-sponsor a workshop on becoming a first-time home buyer.

"Get the Scoop" will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at 1411 Falls Ave., Suite 215. Admission is free. For information, call 539-4061.

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that few banks deliver these e-mail messages, but Zions Bank's MyAlerts program allows customers to receive e-mail notification when their checking account dips below or above any amount they stipulate. In addition, clients can request to receive daily e-mail reports of their account balances.

Nimbus360 merges with Electronic Home Systems

SUN VALLEY — Boise-based Nimbus360, a privately held company founded in 2001 to provide audio and visual systems to the commercial market, completed its merger with Electronic Home Systems.

Nimbus360, the 6-year-old EHS offers residential electronics systems, such as home theater, remote connectivity, sound and lighting control, surveillance/monitoring and home automation.

The new Nimbus360 will be based in Boise, with an office in the Ketchum-Sun Valley area, and will combine the commercial and residential technologies. "We saw a great opportunity for synergy between the two companies," said Joel Ranua, former president of EHS and new residential specialist in the Ketchum-Sun Valley office of Nimbus360. "We use much of the same technology in our residential projects as Nimbus360 does in their commercial installations."

EHS has over 50 installations that range from custom home theater systems to smart home automation.

Nimbus360 has a growing customer base that includes Gold's Gym, Tamarack Resort, the University of Idaho and government agencies such as Idaho

State Police, Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Space Command.

Nimbus360 hired all EHS employees and will maintain operations from the Ketchum/Sun Valley office. Both the Boise and Ketchum offices will offer services for both commercial and residential customers.

Bank initiates 'fees paid' loan for small business

TWIN FALLS — U.S. Bank introduced a "fees paid" SBA loan for small business customers utilizing the 7(a) guaranteed loan program by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

U.S. Bank will pay the required SBA Guaranty fee for owners or users purchasing business property with a loan up to \$50,000 on a typical 75 percent SBA Guaranty, according to David H. Burtram, president of the bank's SBA Division.

The mandated SBA Guaranty fees passed on to borrowers increased significantly beginning in 2005, when the program was re-authorized by Congress. Burtram said.

"The feedback we've gotten recently from our new small business customers is that the increased SBA Guaranty fee is very hard to accept. So, U.S. Bank is now going to pay the fee as a means for us to remove this financial burden, help our customers retain more of their working capital, and grow their business at the same time," Burtram said.

The bank's "fees paid" program does not have an expiration date and includes the key features of the SBA 7(a) loans: up to 90 percent financing, up to 25-year term and funding in 30 to 45 days with a completed

United Co-op approves Valley Wide unification

RUPERT — At a special stockholder meeting Feb. 11, members of United Co-op Inc. of Rupert approved a unification plan with Valley Wide Cooperative of Redburg. At the meeting, 96 percent of the Rupert co-op's members who cast ballots voted in favor of the unification, which will take effect April 1.

"Our cooperative's customer base and business environment is changing rapidly," Timm Adams, board president for United Co-op, told stockholders Jan. 27. "In order to keep pace with these changes, the board of directors has been looking at ways to best position our cooperative for the future."

"Our primary goals in representing our patrons have been to continue to provide the best service possible to our patrons, maintain a financially strong cooperative, and to protect the equities of our stockholders. After looking long and hard at the alternatives, we have determined that we can best accomplish these goals by a unification with Valley Wide Cooperative," he said.

United Co-op general manager Steve Sanders said: "We see the opportunity for improved efficiencies in many areas of our business that will benefit our member owners."

Projected sales of the combined cooperatives are expected to exceed \$50 million annually. Primary products and services include agronomy, feed, petroleum products and farm-and-ranch retail stores. The resulting company, called Valley Wide Cooperative, will have facilities in Rupert, Paul, Idaho Falls, Menan, Redburg and Ashton.

Special event center schedules ribbon cutting

BURLEY — Cameo Special Event Center, at 485 E. Fifth St. N. in Burley, will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event will include a tour of the facility, information on special services, including sales and rental items, and refreshments, including the company's new chocolate fountain.

Zions Bank scores high for identity theft protection

TWIN FALLS — A recent study by financial services consulting firm Javelin Strategy & Research ranked Salt Lake City-based Zions Bank No. 3 for its identity fraud prevention, detection and resolution capabilities.

The survey, titled "Identity Fraud Safety Scorecard," examined dozens of services designed to protect consumers from identity fraud. The report aimed to "highlight industry-wide and bank-specific areas for improvement that would help contain the estimated \$47 billion per year costs associated with identity theft and fraud, according to Javelin."

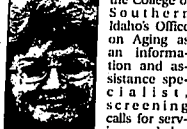
The consulting firm used a mystery-shopper approach to survey 40 financial services companies across the country.

Zions Bank said it tried for three years to get an "A" grade, but surpassed national banks such as Citibank and US Bank, which ranked No. 5 and 6, respectively.

Seventy-three percent of consumers surveyed highly value e-mail alerts relating to unusual bank transactions, the report said. The study noted

Judy Gonzalski

TWIN FALLS — Judy Gonzalski of Jerome joined the staff at the College of Southern Idaho's Office on Aging as an information and assistance specialist, screening information on social services needed. The information and assistance office gives information regarding agency services and community resources to



Judy Gonzalski

Wireless sales people

TWIN FALLS — Edge Wireless LLC honored local employees for their contributions to the wireless provider's sales, technical and customer-service efforts.

At the Edge Wireless quarterly all-employee meeting for the Idaho/Wyoming region, individuals were recognized for quarterly and annual achievement.

Annual awards were presented to Cheryl Burnikel of Burley



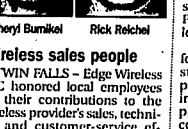
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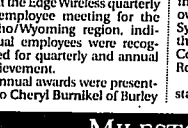
Justin Sterrett



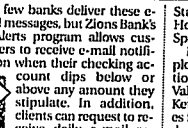
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Troy Gravatt

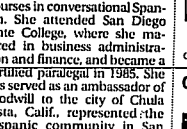


Cheryl Burnikel

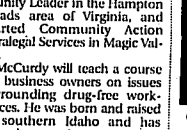


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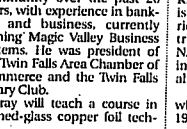
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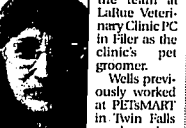
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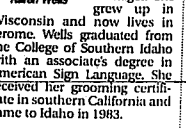
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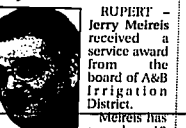
Linda Gray



Karen Wells



Jerry Melreis



Christine Knight

MONEY

Sales tax deduction isn't worth your time

By Mark Schwanhauser
Knight Ridder News Service

Uncle Sam has devised a tempting tax break for American consumers who patrol the nation's malls, stockpile frequent-flyer miles or spend beyond their means. They can deduct the sales taxes they rang up last year instead of their state income taxes.

The choice — which is available only for 2004 and 2005 unless lawmakers extend it — is a no-brainer for residents who live in Nevada, Florida and five other states that don't charge income tax. For the first time since 1986, they get to deduct one of their biggest forms of state tax.

But it could also be a boon for some taxpayers in states like Illinois where the income and sales tax rates are roughly comparable. Even in states with high income taxes like California and New York, many people will be asking the same question: Am I one of the chosen few?

That possibility is likely to be the talk of the tax season — and that has tax preparers sweating. They fear they'll waste hours answering questions and crunching numbers for clients who won't benefit.

"That's going to be one of the most time-consuming problems of the tax season," said Robert Dultz, chief executive of Tax & Financial Strategies in Campbell, Calif. "It's not a deduction we want to miss ... but we have to go through the pain and suffering to see whether it makes sense or not."

At first, tax experts figured residents in high-income-tax states generally would save only if they had bought big-ticket items such as cars, sport-utility vehicles, RVs, boats and airplanes. But as tax experts studied the rules, other potential candidates emerged, including:

- Retirees who owe little or no income tax on Social Security payments, interest from Treasury bills and municipal bonds and certain types of annuities and pensions.
- Do-it-yourself home remodelers who spent thousands fixing up their houses. Homeowners who hired contractors might miss out if the contractor paid the sales tax, however.

- Self-employed people who owed little income tax because they had a bad year.
- Large families who stack up, tax-saving exemptions for their kids.
- Layoff victims who saw their incomes plunge.
- Disabled workers who survived on nontaxable state disability and workers' compensation checks.

"I think this will apply to a lot more people than they think," said Claudia Hill, who owns a Cupertino, Calif., tax-preparation firm and is editor in chief of the Journal of Tax Practice & Procedures.

It can be difficult to divine whether you'll come out ahead without crunching the numbers. That's especially complicated this year because

Taxes 2005



nobody knew to save receipts before the Jobs Act was signed into law Oct. 22.

As a result, most taxpayers must turn to the Internal Revenue Service's optional sales tax tables in Publication 600. That will lead to the start of ferry-rigged calculations that could make even Hube Goldberg snap his pencil in frustration.

The tables offer state-by-state breakdowns of how much state sales tax taxpayers presumably paid, adjusting for income and the number of exemptions the taxpayer claims. Beware: You're likely to short-change yourself if you rely solely on the IRS tables.

The tables don't include local taxes that can substantially boost the amount you can deduct. After accounting for local sales taxes, then you can lump in sales tax on other big-ticket items you bought, like a car. If you moved between counties or moved into the state during the year, prorate the taxes based on the number of days you lived in each locality.

"It's incredibly painful for something you would have thought would be truly simple," said Kathy Burlington, director of tax implementation for H&R Block Tax Services.

Once you calculate the sales tax total you can start making the big decision: Should you deduct your sales tax instead of your income tax? Rules of thumb tables don't include a framework:

- If your sales tax is higher, take it.
- If your sales tax is a lot lower, skip it.
- If your sales tax total is close, give it more scrutiny if you're expecting a state refund on your 2004 taxes. When you claim a deduction for state income tax, state refunds generally are taxed the following year. Part of that refund may escape tax, though. If your itemized deductions were only slightly higher than the standard deduction.

If you deduct the sales tax instead, you don't have to report your state income tax refund on your 2005 return. Avoiding the tax on the refund might save you more next year than you'd save this year by deducting the income tax.

Before you work your pencil to a nub, keep in mind one fact: The vast majority of people will get no reward for puzzling over this.

"In reality, that's good academic cannon fodder," said Daniel D. Morris, a partner with Morris & D'Angelo, a CPA firm in San Jose, Calif. "To the average traditional taxpayer, the mental anguish associated with those kinds of calculations far exceed the benefit. It's not worth the effort. Go out and play with your kids or walk the dog."

Free sites provide bare-bones assistance

Knight Ridder News Service

It's now possible for just about everyone to prepare a federal tax return online and get it securely zapped to the Internal Revenue Service — completely free.

But whether you want to use the free Web sites this year is another question altogether. Nineteen companies offer free federal tax filing and several of them — including H&R Block, TurboTax and TaxAct.com — offer it to all filers, not just those with low incomes or other qualifying criteria.

Most of those companies put their most bare-bones offerings on the free site and reserve the more helpful products for paying customers.

Thus, generally speaking free online tax filing is best suited for the people it was originally intended to serve: those with modest incomes and fairly simple tax returns — and, of course, a computer with Internet access.

Those taxpayers must be comfortable trusting the tax preparation company to maintain their tax data on their computer servers, and they should check out the company's privacy policy.

Free online filing also can be a good choice for people who make lump-sum payments — provided they either have a very-simple tax file or are so knowledgeable about the tax laws that apply to them that they require no guidance to avoid potential pitfalls.

Those using a free filing site for complicated returns should remember that they may not be able to import their data into next year's return — as they

Free tax services online

Some of the Web sites that allow you to file a federal or state tax return for free if you access them through the IRS Web site:

Site	Who qualifies	Comments
H&R Block www.hrblock.com	Everyone	Good array of free tips and Q-and-As; currently permits importing certain data into the free product
TurboTax/Intuit www.taxform.com	Everyone	Limited assistance compared with paid options; unavailability to Schedule D or E filers
2nd Story Software www.taxact.com	Everyone	Offers questions to ask but requires payment for answers
C&S Technologies www.esmarttax.com	Everyone	Form based; no Q-and-A format
TaxEngine www.taxengine.com	Everyone	Bare-bones user interface
Online Taxes www.onlinetaxes.com	Income \$45,000 or less	Not available to Schedule C, E and F filers
1040 Now www.1040now.net	Certain low-income filers	Unless you opt out, Web site or its "affiliates" may send product pitches using your contact information
MaxBack Software www.1040taxreturn.com	Income of \$100,000 or less	Must use form 1040EZ only

Low-income filers have additional free-filing options through www.irs.gov/ep/irrefile.asp/index.jsp

Source: San Jose Mercury News research
Graphic: San Jose Mercury News

could be paying for packaged software of premium online filing sites. Many sites let you download or print out your data for your records in a PDF format — not in a manipulable spreadsheet format.

Whether you pay or use the free products, online filing has several advantages.

It's faster and more error-proof than the old paper

method because there's no IRS worker typing in your data. Get-it-instant-notification that your return has been filed, and your income tax refund can arrive in as little as a week (using direct deposit), compared with as much as two months for paper returns.

If it were up to the IRS, everyone would file online. It costs the IRS about \$2.59 to process

paper returns and 62 cents to process an electronically filed one.

To meet its goal of 80 percent of the population filing electronically by 2007, the IRS a few years ago toyed with the idea of offering its own free filing service to low-income taxpayers.

But that set off a frenzy of objections from companies that make their living selling tax preparation software and services.

Those companies created the Free Filing Alliance, a group of tax prep companies that offer free filing to some taxpayers available only through www.irs.gov. Each approved company must go through a background check and promise to follow data privacy and other rules.

Some free sites, such as H&R Block, offer a smattering of advice along with their free service. But most are like TurboTax, which doesn't offer any assistance filling out documents such as a small-business Schedule C or the Schedule E you must fill out for rental properties.

TaxACT offers provocative questions for taxpayers to ask but then requires them to pay to get the answers.

Most free sites also generally provide only skeletal guidance — if any — on the tax pitfalls of complex transactions like selling stock acquired through stock options or an employee stock purchase plan.

For the most part, each of the sites that offer free federal tax filing requires taxpayers to pay \$10 to \$35 to have their state tax return filled out and filed electronically.

Tax help from the government

■ **Contacts for tax help:** Can you claim the earned-income credit? About one out of four eligible taxpayers fails to claim the earned-income tax credit, which is worth up to \$4,300 for low-income workers. Here are two ways to get help:

- **"ETIC Assistant":** A new tool on the IRS's Web site helps sort out whether you're eligible. Also available in Spanish.
- **Corporate Voices for Working Families:** The Washington-based group has developed a "tool kit" aimed at employers who want to help workers claim the credit. The kit is available in English and Spanish at www.cwvorkingfamilies.org.

- **New, improved tax forms:** More taxpayers can qualify to use simpler federal and state tax forms. Form 1040A, 1040EZ and Use It Form: You can now use them if your

income is less than \$100,000. That's double the income allowed last year.

- **Schedule C-EZ:** Self-employed taxpayers may use this streamlined form if their business write-offs are less than \$5,000 — double last year's limit. The changes could affect 2 million taxpayers.
- **IRS tax tables:** If your taxable income tops \$100,000, use the new "Tax Computation Worksheet" rather than the standard tax rate schedules that have flummoxed many high-income taxpayers over the years.

- **Internal Revenue Service Web site at www.irs.gov:** Key features include:
 - All tax forms, instructional pamphlets
 - Frequently asked questions

- **Determine whether you qualify for free online tax preparation from the 15 private vendors in the IRS's "e-file" program.**
 - Apply for a payment plan
 - Check the status of your refund
 - A new calculator

to determine whether you're eligible for the earned-income credit

- **Finding assistance by phone:**
 - Recorded: (800) 829-4477. Tele-Tax covers topics of common confusion, with many recorded in Spanish.
 - Live person: (800) 829-1040. IRS assistants can help you handle questions that are too technical or specific for Tele-Tax and that pertain to your own account.
 - Tax forms and publications: (800) 829-3676

- **Forms by fax:** (800) 338-0505
- **Check status of your refund (recorded):** (800) 829-1954
- **Taxpayer advocate:** (877) 777-4778

- **Help with small-business returns (live person):** (800) 829-4933
- **Help for hearing-impaired taxpayers:** (800) 822-6268
- **Recorded information for homeowners and renters:** (800) 868-1174

- **Volunteer tax counseling:** Federal and state tax officials train volunteers to provide free help preparing returns for low-income, disabled, elderly or non-English-speaking taxpayers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.
 - Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040
 - AARP's Tax Aide: (888) 227-7669

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U.S. tax code rewards charitable giving

By Margaret Steen
Knight Ridder News Service

The tsunami in South Asia at the end of 2004 put charitable giving in the spotlight. Donors who itemize tax deductions are rewarded for their generosity with a tax break.

Like the rest of the tax code, though, the section on charitable giving is complex. Some questions will require a professional to answer. But

here's a primer on what's changing and what you need to know:

The basics

Donations are deductible only if they're made to a charity recognized by the IRS. Donations made to individuals do not count. Donations to most overseas groups aren't deductible either.

If you give \$250 or more in a single donation, you must have a receipt received before you file your tax

return—that says no goods or services were received in exchange for the gift.

If you donate old clothes, furniture or other goods, make sure you keep an itemized list of what you gave away. Additional documentation is required for contributions worth more than \$500.

Tsunami extension

To encourage donations for tsunami relief, Congress extended the deadline for making 2004 tax-deductible contributions until Jan. 31, 2005. If you made a donation last month, you can deduct it in either 2004 or 2005 (but not both). The do-

nation must be designated for tsunami relief.

If you're able to itemize your deductions one year but not the other, you need to take the deduction in the year you itemize. If you're likely to be in a different tax bracket in 2005 than in 2004, you probably want to take the deduction in the year you're in the higher one.

Car donations

Changes to the rules about car donations have been in the news recently. But when you're doing your 2004 tax return, the old rules still apply. For a car worth less than \$5,000, you can estimate the fair market value

and deduct it. For a car worth \$5,000 or more, you need an appraisal.

If you're thinking about donating a car this year, however, things get complicated. Starting in 2005, if the charity you donate your car to resells it (instead of using it for its own program), you may deduct only the amount the charity gets for it. Because a lot of charities auction off donated cars, your donation may be much less than what you thought the fair market value was. And you won't know for sure how much your deduction is until after the charity has sold the car and told you how much it received.

TAX CHECKLIST

Put first things first

This checklist can help you determine what can delay your refund or cost you money.

- 1. Bone up:** Skim this guide to get a sense of what's new—and where pot-holes lie ahead.
- 2. Get organized:** Avoid a last-minute search for W-2s, 1099s, receipts, mortgage reports, medical expenses and investment records. Review last year's returns, noting items such as carry-over losses and deductions you might forget.
- 3. Check your federal and state tax account balances:** Make sure estimated payments were credited correctly. Double-check whether you applied last year's tax refund to this year's tax bill.
- 4. Verify your W-2s:** Errors are not uncommon if you exercised stock options or sold reports, made changes to an employee stock purchase plan. Verify an audit if the numbers on your return don't jibe with computerized records sent to the Internal Revenue Service.
- 5. Get your ID numbers straight:** If you changed your name, notify the Social Security Administration. If you're a nonresident or a resident alien, allow up to eight weeks to obtain an individual taxpayer identification number. Write names exactly as they appear on the Social Security card—and ignore the birth certificate. If you're filing a joint return, enter both names and SSNs in the same order as in previous years. **Join down the SSN of your dependent,** not just for kids. List the SSNs for ex-spouses to whom you pay alimony, too.
- 6. Exempt yourself from boxes and do the math:** at the top but forget to copy the total in the appropriate box lower in the form. And remember: You can't claim a personal exemption on your return if you can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return—even if the other taxpayer doesn't actually claim you.
- 7. Identify where federal and state rules vary:** Losing track of these differences could cost you, for example, you contributed to an IRA, Keogh or SEP-IRA during the '80s and '90s, if you're depreciating business assets, or if you have a federal mortgage interest credit.
- 8. Download the software update:** Tax software developers often patch bugs as the filing season unfolds.
- 9. Check your math:** The most common error is incorrect addition or subtraction.
- 10. Sweat the details:** Use the correct column in the tax-rate tables when you look up how much you owe. Sign and date your return. If you file jointly, make sure your spouse signs, too. If you owe money, sign the check. And be sure to sign enough postage on the envelope.

Source: Knight Ridder News Service

Taxes 2005



Education tax breaks can baffle parents

By Mark Schwanhauser
Knight Ridder News Service

For parents of college students, nothing is academic about April 15.

There are three primary tax breaks that can ease the pain of tuition bills: the Hope and Lifetime credits, as well as a tuition deduction boosted to as much as \$4,000 this year.

The trouble is you can't claim more than one per student—and how much you can save depends on variables such as your income, your expenses—and whether your student is a junior yet.

Coping with rules for educational tax breaks ranks as the third-worst problem taxpayers face, the Internal Revenue Service's taxpayer advocate Nina Olson told Congress in January.

To sort out the three primary tax breaks, taxpayers face 40 pages of instructions in Publication 970, three long flow charts, three worksheets and an 18-line tax form.

"That's nuts," Olson said in an interview. "We should encourage people, we shouldn't say they have to have a Ph.D. to figure out what kind of education program is right for them."

Here is the CliffNotes summary:

Fading college tax breaks

Income levels when federal tax breaks for higher education begin to phase out—and then vanish.

Break	Joint filers	Single filers
Hope credit	\$85,000-\$105,000	\$42,000-\$52,000
Lifetime learning credit	\$85,000-\$105,000	\$42,000-\$52,000
Tuition and fees deduction	\$130,000-\$160,000	\$85,000-\$80,000
Student-loan interest deduction	\$100,000-\$130,000	\$50,000-\$88,000
Coverdell savings	\$190,000-\$200,000	\$95,000-\$110,000
Savings-bond interest exclusion	\$89,750-\$119,750	\$59,850-\$74,850

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service
Graphic: Sam Jones Mercury News

• The Hope Credit is worth up to \$1,500 per student in their first two years of higher education. It's 100 percent of the first \$1,000 you spend on tuition and certain fees and 50 percent of the next \$1,000.

• The Lifetime Learning Credit kicks back up to \$2,000. It's 20 percent of up to \$10,000 in tuition and fees. Unlike the Hope credit, you can claim it for an unlimited number of years, even if you're just brushing up your job skills.

• The deduction for higher education expenses allows parents to write off up to \$4,000, up to \$1,000 from 2003.

Credits generally are more powerful than deductions because they reduce your tax bill dollar for dollar. But this write-off is advantageous because it's an "above-the-line" deduction that reduces your adjusted gross income on the front side of your 1040 form.

That not only saves you from itemizing on Schedule A, but it also means your deductions

will be sheltered if your income hits the point where your miscellaneous deductions take a haircut.

The complications come in deciding which of the three tax breaks will save the most money.

For example, if you have \$2,000 in qualifying bills, you can save \$1,500 with the Hope credit but only \$400 with the Lifetime credit.

If you have more than one student on your dime, you can take one Hope credit for each student but only one Lifetime credit overall.

How much you save with the deduction will vary with your tax bracket.

The most important factor often is your adjusted gross income. For example, joint filers will gradually lose some or all of the Hope and Lifetime credits

when their income hits \$85,000. Then there's the write-off for higher education. It has "ramp" phase-outs. As a result, joint filers with incomes not more than \$130,000 can deduct \$4,000, while those with incomes from \$130,001 to \$160,000 will get only \$2,000.

Those with incomes even \$1 higher than \$160,000 will save nothing.

Interest on equity loans isn't always deductible

By Mark Schwanhauser
Knight Ridder News Service

Low mortgage interest rates mean 2004 is a big year for refinancing and home equity borrowing in the United States reached a record-high level last year, according to a recent study.

Americans took out \$43.3 billion of home equity loans and lines of credit, according to SMR Research, a market research firm in New Jersey.

Yet many borrowers don't realize they might not be able to deduct all the interest they pay on home equity loans. That would depend on how much they borrowed and what they used the money for. Taxpayers subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax face stricter limitations on what they can deduct.

First, it's important to know that in "tax-speak" there are two kinds of mortgage debt: home acquisition debt and home equity debt.

Acquisition debt is a mortgage or mortgages you take out "to buy, build or substantially improve" your main or second home.

In general, you may deduct the interest you pay on up to \$1 million in home acquisition debt. The limit applies even if you own a second home.

So let's say you took out a home equity loan and you used it to remodel your kitchen for \$40,000. For tax purposes, that amount is considered part of your "acquisition" debt because it was used to improve the home. You can deduct the interest on that new debt, as long as your total acquisition debt is \$1 million or less.

From the Internal Revenue Service's standpoint, home equity debt is different.

If it's money you borrowed from your equity and used for purposes other than buying, building or improving your home, only interest paid on \$100,000 of equity debt is deductible as mortgage interest. Again, the limit applies even if you own a second home.

If you used a home equity loan to pay your child's college tuition, for example, you can deduct only the interest you paid on the first \$100,000. (Unless you're subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax more than that in a moment.)

Taxes 2005



Exceptions are the rule for lowered dividend tax rate

By Mark Schwanhauser
Knight Ridder News Service

Here's the tax-time puzzle facing investors who pocketed Microsoft's special \$3-a-share dividend late last year: Do you qualify for the lower tax rate on dividends?

Maybe. Maybe not. Uncertainty has existed since President Bush successfully pushed to cut the tax rate on dividends—but not all—to 15 percent for most investors.

Investors have good reason to bone up on the rules. U.S. companies paid a record sum of dividends in 2004, with Microsoft alone mailing out checks for nearly \$33 billion. All told, nearly 1,300 public companies raised their dividends last year.

That doesn't mean you'll get a break just because you're staring at a stack of year-end 1099-DIV statements. Here are two reasons you won't.

THEY'RE THE WRONG

BREED: The lower tax is based on a state rules vary: Losing track of these differences could cost you, for example, you contributed to an IRA, Keogh or SEP-IRA during the '80s and '90s, if you're depreciating business assets, or if you have a federal mortgage interest credit.

Dividends from money-market funds and bond mutual funds don't qualify because they're really a form of interest payment. Ditto for most preferred stocks, which are debt offerings that pay interest, not dividends.

YOU DIDN'T HOLD THE STOCK LONG ENOUGH: Before the tax cut, it didn't matter how long you held a dividend-paying stock. Now it's critical, because the savings are denied to short-term investors who just want to grab the dividends and run.

Alas, investors must tangle with a timing window straddling the "ex-dividend," the first day you can buy the stock and not pocket the dividend.

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MONEY

Rules for small businesses offer choices Schedule D loses weight

By Mark Schwahnhauser
Knight Ridder News Service

Greater depreciation rules give small-business owners who invested in equipment last year an opportunity to slash their taxes. Some could even wipe out their entire tax bill.

"As tempting as that is, think twice. Making out these depreciation write-offs could leave you owing higher tax bills for years to come, either from personal itemized deductions and limit how much you can save for retirement.

"Depreciation is a timing game," said Dan D. Morris, a partner with Morris + D'Angelo, a CPA firm in San Jose, Calif. "You need to think it through."

That's especially true in light of the changing tax rules. Not only is this the last year to take advantage of temporary "bonus" depreciation, but in October lawmakers also tightened up how much you can write off for a sport-utility vehicle.

Normally, businesses must deduct the cost of equipment incrementally over a number of years, sometimes as long as 39 years. But one exception — known as Section 179 expensing — permits businesses to claim big write-offs right away for software, computers, work trucks, and other assets used at least 50 percent of the time for business.

Reacting to the sputtering economy after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Congress quadrupled the size of this potent write-off to spur business investment.

Indexed for inflation, the rules allow businesses to deduct up to \$102,000 in 2004. On top of that, this is the last chance to tack on "bonus" depreciation worth 50 percent of the leftover cost of certain types of new equipment.

When combined with standard depreciation rules, the tax breaks make it possible for a business to deduct all but \$3,200 of a \$110,000 purchase in the first year — and reduce the business's taxable profits by



\$106,800.

One problem: Congress decided, is that these rules were too generous to drive a Hummer through.

Sport-utility vehicles long had been popular with business owners because they qualified for Section 179 expensing like delivery trucks if they tipped the scales with a gross vehicle weight of more than 6,000 pounds.

That meant businesses could purchase thousands of dollars in tax subsidies that they couldn't get on "luxury" cars, defined in the tax code as anything with a sticker price higher than \$14,800 in 2004.

Alarmed that the rules were being abused, Congress tightened the tax code in the American Jobs Creation Act passed in the fall.

As of Oct. 23, vehicles that weigh more than 6,000 pounds but less than 14,000 pounds can qualify for only \$25,000 of Section 179 expensing.

That means the timing of the purchase of a \$110,000 Hummer used exclusively for business can matter greatly, said Wayne Otchis, a certified public accountant in Del Mar, Calif.

If the Hummer were put in use:

- Before Oct. 23: The write-off is \$106,800.
- After Oct. 23: It's \$76,000.
- Starting in 2005: Because bonus depreciation no longer is available, the write-off will fall to \$42,000.

Buying the equipment is the easy part. Then comes figuring out the most advantageous way to deduct the costs.

Needless to say, there are too many restrictions to detail here. For instance, Section 179 expensing applies to both new

and used equipment, while bonus depreciation is limited to brand-new equipment.

A business can pick and choose which assets to deduct under Section 179. But there's less flexibility with bonus depreciation. And Section 179 can reduce a company's income to zero, while bonus depreciation can generate a loss.

Another issue is that many states have not imitated Uncle Sam's largess. That means you must play by two sets of rules and keep two sets of books.

Then there's the big-picture question: Will you be better off taking all these deductions in 2004?

All things being equal, the rule of thumb is to accelerate deductions whenever possible. But there are many exceptions. "Taking whopping write-offs today will deprive you of depreciation that could be spread over years. That could mean you'll pay more tax over the long run if

your income or your tax bracket rises as your business grows."

There can be other consequences on and off the tax return. For example, you could owe big tax bills on hunks of the original write-off if you sell the asset before its normal depreciable life ends.

Wiping out your taxable income could deprive you of deductions for mortgage interest, charitable deductions and other nonbusiness expenses on your 1040 form.

Lowering your business income also could lower the amount you're allowed to shelter in retirement accounts, make it harder to qualify for Social Security and Medicare and cause banks to think twice before lending your less-profitable business money.

As ominous as this sounds, take heart. You still have unusual flexibility to take all, some or none of these enticing write-offs this year.

By Mark Schwahnhauser
Knight Ridder News Service

Here's something for investors to ponder this tax season: What will you do with nearly two extra hours of free time?

Last year, the Internal Revenue Service estimated that investors would need a record-eight hours to complete Schedule D, the form used to top up your winners and losers. This year investors presumably will need just six hours and 10 minutes to do the deed.

Here are three ways to save:

- Don't pay tax on gains you didn't pocket: Investors often pay too much tax because they mistakenly overstate their gains, experts say. The solution is to properly calculate the taxable "basis" of each investment.

Many investors jolt down the price of originally paid for the investment. Stopping there, however, overlooks commis-

sions and other costs that can boost the basis higher — and lower the amount taxed.

• Take advantage of your losses: Investors often lament that Uncle Sam wants a share of their capital gains. But he's also willing to eat some of your losses by letting you use your capital losses to offset your capital gains dollar for dollar.

• Say that you rang up \$1,000 of gains and \$1,000 in losses — or some multiple of that example. It's a wash. You owe no taxes on your winners.

• Bury the zombies: Most investments might as well trade with the ticker symbol "ZIB." There's good reason to write off such losers, but you don't necessarily have the right to sign the death decree yourself.

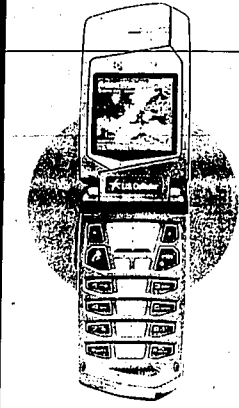
Ask your broker for a letter declaring that the stock became worthless in 2004.

The timing is crucial because you may write off a worthless investment only in the year it dies.

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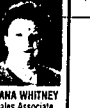
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50 LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
The Wendell Highway District will be holding a public open house on February 23, 2005 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Wendell Highway District Building at 132 South Shoshone Street, Wendell, Idaho. The purpose of the open house is to gather public input regarding safety improvements needed for the R. L. Oland Highway between 3000 South and 3400 South roads. Improvements currently being planned include:

widening of a portion of the road, replacement of two irrigation canal crossings, and reconstruction of a section of roadway to improve vertical site distance. For more information, contact Aaron Wert, Project Manager at 208-733-2445.

PUBLISH: February 9 and 20, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As a citizen, you have the right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As a citizen, you have the right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As a citizen, you have the right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing.

50 LEGALS

FOUND Pit Bull cross, female, white chest and brindle on the back. Found in Paul Spur. Call 208-733-3070.

50 LEGALS

FOUND Black Lab, male, not neutered, very friendly. Possibly 5-8 yrs old. Found vicinity of Twin Stop on Washington. Call Wed 216/731-9143.

50 LEGALS

FOUND Pit Bull/Lab 10 weeks old, male, red collar. Lost Feb 13th on 200 N. East of Blue Lakes. 736-7260 or 731-1496.

50 LEGALS

FOUND Lab, with white chest, on Fri. eve. at 500 E 100 N, Rupert. Please call 208-436-5670.

50 LEGALS

FOUND Maltese/Poodle cross, white, female, 5 lbs. Taken to 16th near E. Hoyburn or Maunco. 736-7622.

50 LEGALS

FOUND Pit Bull/Lab 10 weeks old, male, white paws, white belly, white streak down nose, tanish brown on back. Taken to 16th near E. Hoyburn or Maunco. Name is Sassy had black collar. Call 208-212-5500.

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1. 3 mo. old male Rottweiler pup
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5. Heeler X, female, about 3 years old
6. Male red Heeler
7. Numerous puppies of all types.

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Closed Sun. & holidays.
This is a public announcement of The Times-News.

6011 LOST AND FOUND

6115 W. Lanes Behind Paul Elementary
208-436-2200 Paul, Idaho

ADOPTION:

1. Adult yellow Lab.
2. Male chocolate Lab
3. Extra large male X
4. 3 Pyrenees X puppies.
5. Bassett Hound/Border Collie X
6. Male red Heeler
7. Numerous puppies of all types.

Many cats/kittens for adoption!

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
Closed Sun. & holidays.
This is a public announcement of The Times-News.

Jerome Recreation District
Request for Proposals/Build Project
Recreation Center Expansion/Renovation
February 10, 2005

The Jerome Recreation District is herewith requesting Design/Build proposals from firms for the design and construction of the Recreation Center Expansion/Renovation Project located in Jerome, Idaho.

The Design/Build firm will be responsible to design and build the project. The Design/Build firm must submit the facility with an architect license in the State of Idaho, have a current Public Works Contractor license in the State of Idaho, have the ability to provide payment and performance bonds in the amount of the proposal price.

Firms interested in submitting proposals shall refer to the RFP package, which is available by contacting the Jerome Recreation District at PO Box 289, Jerome, ID 83338 or delivered to Jerome Recreation District which is located at 2032 S Lincoln, Jerome, ID. All responses shall be marked Jerome Recreation District - Recreation Center Expansion/Renovation - Design/Build. Responses received after the specified date and time will be returned.

Jerome Recreation District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive informality. Selection will be awarded based on selection criteria and not necessarily on the lowest proposal amount.

For additional information, contact Tom Kuntz at 208-324-3389.

PUBLISH: February 13 and 20, 2005

Jerome Recreation District
Request for Proposals/Build Project
Recreation Center Expansion/Renovation
February 10, 2005

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For additional information, contact Tom Kuntz at 208-324-3389.

PUBLISH: February 13 and 20, 2005

IN THE DISTRICT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV 2005-229
CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT SUMMONS
In the interest of
STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ,
d.o.b. 04-20-89
A Child under the age of eighteen.
THE STATE OF IDAHO SENDS GREETINGS TO:
GRISelda ENCISO
303 47th Street, Space B-13
San Diego, CA 92112

JINACIO RODRIGUEZ
Calle Juan Alvarez 10728
Colonia Los Maestros
Tijuana Baja California, Mexico 22290

YOU ARE NOTICED THAT:
A Petition, a copy of which is attached, has been filed in the above-entitled matter in the Magistrate's Division of the District Court of Twin Falls County, Idaho, by the Prosecuting Attorney, alleging the above-named child comes within the Court's jurisdiction under the Child Protective Act. You are hereby directed to appear personally for an Adjudicatory Hearing at the Twin Falls County Courthouse, 425 Shoshone Street, Twin Falls, Idaho, on April 23, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.

You are notified that the parent(s), guardian, or custodian may be financially liable for the support and/or treatment of the child.

You are further notified that the child and parent(s), guardian, or custodian have the right to be represented by an attorney of your choosing, or if financially unable to pay, have the right to have an attorney appointed by the Court to represent the child or the parent(s), guardian, or custodian at county expense. If you request to have an attorney appointed at county expense, you must appear before the date of the hearing given above, at which time the Court shall consider appointment of an attorney for the child. You may inquire whether the parent(s), guardian, or custodian require the separate appointment of an attorney.

You are further notified that there shall be a rebuttable presumption that if a child is placed in the custody of the IDHW and was also placed in care out of the home of a parent not less than fifteen (15) out of the last twenty-two (22) months from the date of Adjudication, the IDHW shall initiate a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights. This presumption may be rebutted by a finding by the Court that the filing of a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights would not be in the best interest of the child and their family, or that the children are placed permanently with a relative.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of said Magistrate Court this 8th day of February, 2005.
Clark of the District Court
by Deputy Clerk

PUBLISH: February 13 and 20, 2005

STAND OUT
from the crowd!

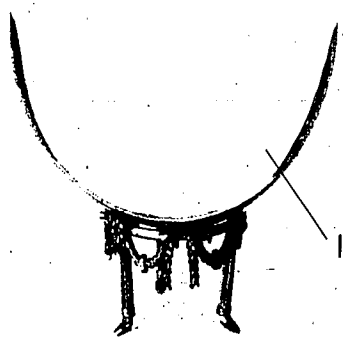


You'll find it in the Classifieds

The Times-News Classifieds

733-0931 ext. 2 or 800-658-3883
132 Fairfield Street W. • Twin Falls, ID

I'll qualify




I won't

Don't guess whether you qualify for the EITC. Know.

We'll do all we can to help you find out whether you're eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Call us, visit us at irs.gov/eitc or talk to your tax preparer.

1-800-TAX-1040

 Internal Revenue Service
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106 SPECIAL NOTICES

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The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or properly classify any ad. Receipt of copy via remote entry (fax, e-mail, etc.) does not constitute final acceptance by this newspaper. The advertiser, not the newspaper, assumes full responsibility for the truthful content of their advertiser message.

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Have you forgotten to pick up your birthday photos? We have some photos we are sure you would want. Call us to pick up at The Times-News Classified Dept.

Place your ad Online...
Now you can log on to maglevalley.com and place your classified line ad! Click in the Classified section.

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PREGNANCY TESTS
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 Free information Center
 Chapters 7 & 13
COMPARE OUR SERVICE
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 Competitive rates on
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 Inexpensive
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BANKRUPTCY
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BANKRUPTCY
 Affordable
 plans.
 Accidents, divorce &
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 ne at 208-735-0248

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 massage.
 Gift certificates available.
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LOSE WEIGHT NOW
 Lose up to 30 pounds
 in the next 30 days!
GUARANTEED
 FREE SAMPLES!
 Call (888)505-5541

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ICCP/CPA Certified
 Openings, days & evens.
 Meals & snacks
 included. 734-4070.
 Aly's Child Care
 0-5 years ICCP
 5-12 years CPR,
 Mon.-Fri. 6am-6pm
 735-1877 or 731-1807

CHILD CARE loving in
 home care close to
 CSI. Flexible hours.
 Call 208-734-3178.

CHILD CARE Family
 setting, 4 full-time
 openings. Low cost
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 nifer 208-734-4996.

Child Care openings
 Call. All areas accept
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Christene's Home Away From Home
 Preschool & Daycare
 Across from Harrison
 Elementary School
 3 1/2 days/week 7 yrs
 - CPR/1st Aid
 - Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:30
 Call 736-0767.

DAYCARE
 Stay at home mom.
 Sawtooth School Dist.
 208-309-7485.

DAYCARE, licensed,
 open 7 days and
 swing shifts, meals
 and snacks, ICCP &
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In-home child care. Lots
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 5am-6pm. All ages.
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 Flexible hrs. 733-5085

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 polls over the telephone.
NO SALES!
 Strictly research,
 \$7.00 per 30 sec per hour.
 Casual wear, convenient
 Flexible evening, day,
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 15-30 minutes
 Great part-time
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 Close to home!
 For more information
 Call 208-736-2853

CONSTRUCTION
 Heavy equipment
 Operators needed
 Backhoes, Scrapers,
 & Loaders
 CD Licenses
 Call 934-4510

CONSTRUCTION
 Drywall/Painter
 for exp. person. Peo
 ple with driver's licen
 se, valid ID, no vers
 ions. Benefits, salary
 735-8100 734-5311

CONSTRUCTION
 Insulation installer
 wanted. Experience
 preferred, must have
 valid drivers license
 and pass drug test.
 Contact Leo at 734-
 5311 or 736-7640

CONSTRUCTION
 KD Excavation needs a
 full-time Construction
 Superintendent.
 Must have 5+ years of
 experience with heavy
 highway and/or excava
 tion work. Must be ab
 le to run a multiple
 crews. Located near
 Sun Valley, Idaho.
 Wage is negotiable
 based on experience.
 If interested, fax
 resume and references
 Chad at 208-728-1526,
 or email resume to
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COSMETOLOGY
 Cosmetology Instructor.
 Full or Parttime, must
 be licensed. Pleasant
 work environment.
 Send resume to:
 P.O. Box 171
 Twin Falls, ID 83303
 or 208-734-1897

COUNSELOR
 Full-time C.A.C.C.
 with adolescent experi
 ence. Alcohol & Drug
 Counseling. Gooding
 office. Send resume to:
 Walker Center
 605 11th Ave. E.
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CUSTOMER SERVICE
 Full-time, 25-35 hrs/week
 Relaxed, CSR
 atmosphere. Property
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 experience required.
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DAIRY
 Experienced outside
 worker. Duties inclu
 de: tractor, feeding,
 milking. Bilingual a
 must. Call 543-2158.

DAIRY
 Highly experienced
 herdman, large dairy.
 Call 208-339-3798.

DANCERS
 \$400-\$600 a week part
 time. 14-18 hrs/week
 only. Call 733-8555

DENTAL
 Dental Hygienist
 needed one day a week
 Monday or Friday.
 Jerome office.
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 or call 324-7007

DRIVER
K NIGHT TRANSPORTATION
 Best Job in the
 Industry
 Just Got Better!
 2nd Pay Increase
 this year
 *Stay in the 11
 Western States
 *Get home Weekly
 40/40/4
 Call Tina 800-701-8689
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 6 mos. OTR/hazmat!

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 Created around
 your needs
 07/07/07
 Call Tina 800-701-8689
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DRIVER
 Experienced Driver
 with Class A CDL, with
 doubles endorsement
 to haul hay and farm
 commodities locally.
 Call 202-324-7148

DRIVER
 Needed full-time 2 yrs
 experience in potato
 industry. Will travel in
 Idaho & surrounding
 states. MCM Trucking
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DRIVER
 Wanted for weekly
 delivered refrigerated
 loads to California. We
 offer:
 • Health/line insurance
 • Company paid
 retraining
 • Field vacation
 • Late model equipment
 • Home on average
 2-3 days weekly.
 Apply at
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 Trucking & Bldg. Svc.
 Buhl, ID 83316

DRIVERS
BONNEVILLE TRANSLADERS
 Only one in Idaho has
 been awarded a
 major haul contract
 for Northern Nevada
 & California. We are
 looking for experienced
 drivers as well as
 heavy truck mechanics
 to relocate to the
 Elko/Wells area.
 Very good pay and
 benefits.
 The equipment is
 excellent!
 Call 775-752-2052

DRIVERS
 Needed-Regional flatbed
 company is looking
 for drivers w/ at
 least 2 years OTR
 experience. Must be
 at least 23 years old.
 Home on average
 2-3 days weekly.
 Great pay & benefits.
 Please Call
 800-453-2227

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 Professional Truck
 Driving School
 • Buy a new car
 with your job offer.
 Call 208-734-1898

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 Ready mix Drivers
 wanted. CDL
 Ready mix Dry DOE.
 Full benefits. EOE.
 Idaho Concrete Co.
 1294 Addison Ave W.
 Drum Free workplace

DRIVERS
 Truck Drivers Class A
 or Operator
 Flatbed Fleet 100's
 owner-operator fleet
 \$500 sign on Bonus.
 Paragon
 Employment Program
 Minimum 1 year
 experience
 Call Mitchell Bros.
 800-883-4557, ext 245

EDUCATION
IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
 Office of Student
 Emergency
 Management
 1500 Idaho
 Blvd. (ISU State
 Outreach Center)
 Grant Coordinator
 Phone 208-685-6757
 ext. 2100
 Fax 208-685-6744
 Idaho State
 Address questions to
 moore@isu.edu;
 Phone 208-685-6757
 Fax 208-685-6744
 Idaho State
 See announcement on
 AA/EEO to apply.
 Veterans are
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 See announcement on
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 Veterans are
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EDUCATION
 Full-time Elementary
 Certified Teacher
 and Part-time
 Pre-school Teacher.
 Start date immediately.
 Salary according to
 the district salary
 schedule. For more in
 formation contact:
 Michelle Faulkner, Clerk,
 Bliss School District,
 Phone 208-685-6757,
 Bliss ID 83314
 Call 208-352-4447

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 Advance Field Services
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 and real estate prop
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 Sanitation, Packaging,
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 Position (High School
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 No application fee.
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 Twin Falls County is
 accepting applications
 for a full-time County
 Compliance Officer.
 Qualified applicants will
 hold a high school
 diploma or equivalent
 and min. 3 years
 education or
 experience in
 Justice System.
 Knowledge of Adult
 Court is an essential.
 Must have ability to
 maintain confidentially,
 handle stress
 situations, and excellent
 communication
 skills.
 Applications available at
 Twin Falls County
 Courthouse, 425
 Shoshone St. N or
 online at:
 www.twinfallscounty.org
 Application deadline
 2-28-05.
 EOE/DFW/Fee
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GENERAL

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Classified Line Ads
5 LINES
10 DAYS

\$15

For items under or adding up to \$1000 (Maximum of 4 items)

\$2 each additional line. Private Party only. Pets and merchandise only.

The Times-News Call 733-0931 Ext.2 or 800-658-3883 ext. 2
 magivalley.com

802 APPLIANCES

REFRIGERATOR Kenmore, side by side, 5550. Wash-dryer set, Kenmore, \$200. Call 208-737-9433.

REFRIGERATOR side by side, 1 year old with warranty, \$575. Wash-dryer set \$175 or will sell separate. Freezer upright \$125. Built in dishwasher \$100. Call 421-0341.

WASHER machine Crosley, white, \$200. Call 208-676-7261 after 5:30pm.

WASHER/DRYER \$100 for both, not a matching set. Call 948-0884.

WASHER/DRYER only 2 months old, originally cost \$600. Sell for \$200. 208-734-6704.

WASHER/DRYER set for more. Excellent condition, \$250. Single washer \$125. warranty. Call 208-738-4805.

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THE TIMES-NEWS Classified Department Classified Service Representatives are available from 8:00am - 5:30 pm Monday - Friday
 Call our offices in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2 or Burley 677-4042.

808 COMPUTERS

COMPUTERS Excellent refurbished computers from \$185.00. Call 208-732-0512.

809 FIREWOOD

COAL Stoker & Lump Delivered/you haul. Moore's Inc. 423-5333.

FIREWOOD \$115 per cord. Call 208-423-5691 or 208-423-6307.

910 FURNITURE & CARPETS

BED, mattress and box spring, queen size, mission style, like new condition, \$250. Offer. Call 208-731-3955.

BEDROOM SET, 7 PC. Includes bed, night stand, dresser with mirror, chest. Still boxed. Worth \$4,000. Sacrifice \$1,499. Can deliver. 208-429-8397.

BEDROOM SET, Bed, rails, dresser, mirror, nightstand. New, never opened. List \$899, sacrifice \$399. Can deliver. Call 208-429-8397.

COFFEE TABLE Oak, 3 sections, glass top, 2 matching end tables, excellent cond. \$150. Call 208-733-3540.

COUCH large corner multi-color very good condition. \$309 offer. Call 208-734-9725.

COUCH sectional, green, excellent cond. \$350. Entertainment center, \$75. Computer desk, \$35. 208-324-6505 or 320-1088.

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Sale Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2005 at 10:30am
 Sale Location:
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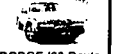


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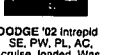


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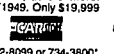
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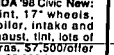
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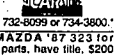


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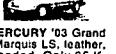
MAZDA '87 323 10T parts, have tile, \$100 or best offer. Call 208-735-1071 or 420-4062.



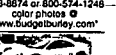
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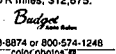
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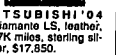
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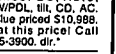


MITSUBISHI '04 Galant, AT, loaded, 15K miles, \$14,750.



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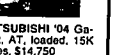
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Other side of the moon: How much of the orb can you see? Page E2

FAMILY LIFE

INSIDE

CrosswordE3
CommunityE4
CentennialEB

Features Editor: Steve Crump - 733-0931, Ext. 223

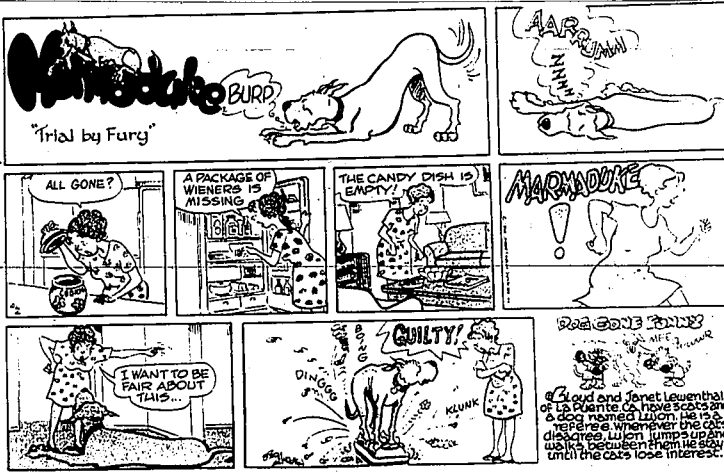
The Times-News

Sunday, February 20, 2005

Section E

Show us the funny

What do you think of these prospective T-N comic strips?



Last week, *The Times-News* previewed for readers a dozen comic strips that could potentially find their way on to the newspaper's daily comics page.

While we digest those results, we'd like your opinion of 14 more strips currently not published in the T-N — but which might be in the future.

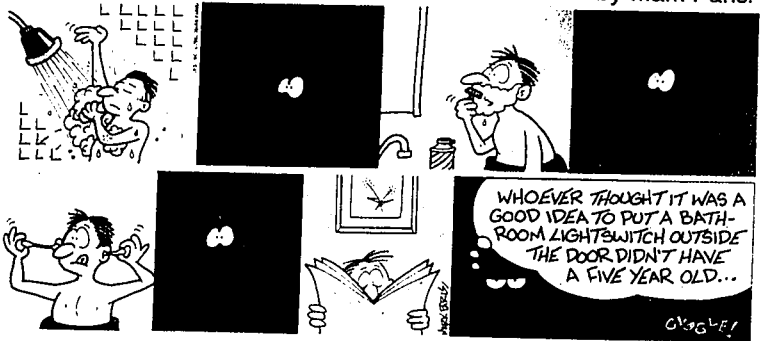
Take a look at these samples and give us your impressions on the ballot below. We'll run a third round of samples on the Family Life pages next week.

Please understand there's no assurance that any of the accompanying strips will make it into the T-N on a regular basis — or replace comics that you love or hate. We're just looking for your reaction.

Take a few minutes to fill out the ballot on this page and return it by March 4.

OFF THE MARK

by Mark Parisi



RUDY PARK

BY DARRIN BELL & THERON HEIR



Times-News comic-strip tryouts, Round 2

Take a look at the sample comic strips in the Family Life section in today's *Times-News* and let us know what you think about them.

Comic	Love it!	It's so-so	No way
Baby Blues	_____	_____	_____
Committed	_____	_____	_____
Drabble	_____	_____	_____
Frazz	_____	_____	_____
Go Fish	_____	_____	_____
Grand Avenue	_____	_____	_____
Jumpstart	_____	_____	_____
Agnes	_____	_____	_____
Marmaduke	_____	_____	_____
Nancy	_____	_____	_____
9 Chickweed Lane	_____	_____	_____
Off the Mark	_____	_____	_____
Rudy Park	_____	_____	_____
Silo Roberts	_____	_____	_____

Clip out and mail to Steve Crump, P.O. Box 48, Twin Falls Idaho 83303, fax it to 734-5538 or e-mail to s.crump@mag.tcovalley.com

Your name _____
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How often do you read the *Times-News*?
Daily _____ Sundays _____ Occasionally _____

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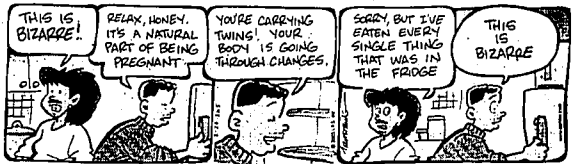
Grand Avenue



Baby Blues



Jumpstart



Drabble



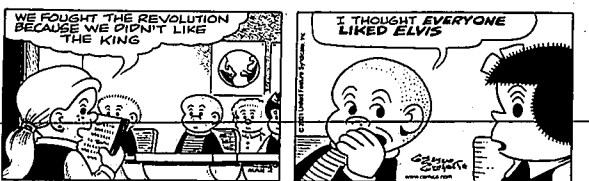
Agnes



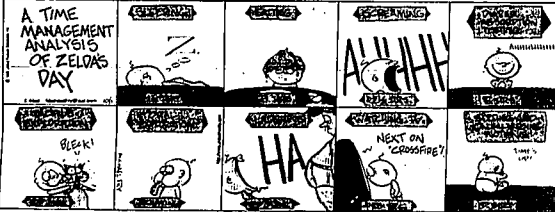
Frazz



Nancy



COMMITTED



BY MICHAEL FRY

Silo-Roberts



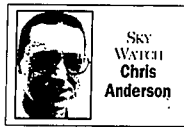
Go Fish



Peeking around the moon's edges

Because the moon always keeps one side facing the earth, the lunar far side was a mystery before the space age. But contrary to what you might think, the hidden part comprises less than half of the moon's surface. The reason is something called libration, and it comes in four varieties.

The first type of libration is due to perspective. Just as a tall person sees more of the tops of people's heads than a short person, and the short person sees more under their chin, so more of the moon's north pole region, and southerly observers see more of the south. A similar effect happens when we observe the moon low on the horizon. At moonrise we're on the earth's far right side as seen from above the North Pole and we get to see slightly more of the moon's right edge. At moonset we get to see slightly more of the left edge.



Sky calendar

- Planets:
 - One hour before sunrise: Mars: SE, very low
 - Jupiter: SW, low
 - One hour after sunset: Saturn: ESE, high
- Moon: Full moon Wednesday, 9:54 p.m. Near Jupiter late Saturday night.

A third type of libration stems from the moon's non-circular orbit, in which the earth sits off center. It's like watching an auto race from one end of the infield; sometimes you only see the cars' sides, but at other times you see slightly more of the front or rear ends.

The fourth type of libration is not geometric, but physical. As it orbits and rotates, the moon tips its poles toward and away from us, and it shimmies slightly back and forth. It's like a wishy-washy friend who can't decide whether to nod yes or shake their head no, trying to do both at once.

When you add it all up, libration lets us see about 59 percent of our nearest celestial neighbor's surface over time.

Next week: Ice in the solar system

Romantic connections unthaw for Aries

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, 2005 promises to bring you to prominence as the apple of someone's eye in both career and romance. Amorous dreams could come true in March, April and June, so put relationships at the top of your list or plan to "take a long-awaited vacation. Your pride and happiness could be put to a serious test in August when others may turn a cold shoulder your way and the demands of the business world teach you a lesson. In October, however, expect a boost to your confidence when hard work pays off and you are back in the spotlight as someone's love interest.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Chilly romantic connections are thawing, so don't be afraid to apologize or make the effort to put things right. Seek contact with those who will cooperate to make your dreams come true.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Gifts and free samples can make business contacts smile broadly and the wheels of commerce turn smoothly. Social affairs can put you in touch with the needed helping hand.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Others close are bubbling with enthusiasm and willing to over the look intense probing and

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

questioning. Strike an accord with an old enemy or tighten the bonds of affection with a partner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Inviting others into your home may mean extra work, but also means shared pleasures. Promote generosity and remain openhearted while a spirit of cooperation and trust is in the air.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There is an abundance of good cheer available for those who bravely venture into the social scene. You can win at the game of love — but only if you to put all your cards on the table.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Intense sarcasm will only serve to turn off the people you value the most, so avoid unkind remarks at home. You have a flair for decorating and whatever you buy is likely to serve you well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A generous spirit of fair play is in the air whether you are playing a game of chance or pursuing your latest conquest of the heart. Now is the time to choose

a flattering addition for your wardrobe.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Join forces with others who can help make pensive grow into gain. A tolerant atmosphere will improve any relationship and settle old scores.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can meet others who will help you reach your goals or share a similar vision of the future. Unite with others for a good cause. Indulge your passion for the finer things in life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rise above petty squabbles and make amends for past wrongs. Your halo is shining a bit more brightly today, so you can profit from helpful contacts who view you as a saintly figure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your thinking cap on and ferret out the secrets to business success or dream up a money-making idea. Take advantage of a prime opportunity to gain someone's confidence or shop for good values.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't take a few offhand barbed comments personally or back away and brood. Overcome minor differences by understanding underlying motives and sharing your experiences with others.

SINUSITIS or COLD?

Idaho's First and Only
Sinus Specialist

A physician who only treats sinus patients.

John A. Boyajian, M.D.

SYMPTOM	SINUSITIS	COLD
Facial pressure/pain	Yes	Sometimes
Duration of illness	Over 10-14 days	Under 10 days
Nasal Discharge	Thick, yellow or green	Thin, whitish or clear
Fever	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes
Pain in upper teeth	Sometimes	No
Bad Breath	Sometimes	No
Coughing	Sometimes	Yes
Nasal Congestion	Yes	Yes
Sneezing	No	Yes

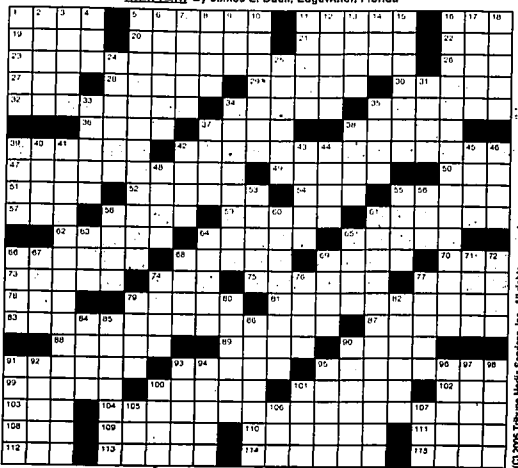
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Sinus Center
Idaho

Idaho's first sinus care clinic

Sunday Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

MAKE BY James E. Buell, Edgewater, Florida



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| 18 Tail-gunner's position | 68 Fila completely | DOWN | 46 Unit cost | 84 Phrasal's brood |
| 19 Hicc's | 70 Amateur radio | Supper city | 53 Picking loafs? | 85 Environmental concern |
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| 28 Begins moving | 79 Drivy up | 9 Slice of gadget | 65 Any minute | 98 Big dopper |
| 29 Fract | 80 1938 Errol Flynn | film (with "The") | 66 Pouchon | 99 Golf course |
| 30 Vivan of | 81 Stry. alliance | 9 Slice of gadget | 67 "Animal House" | 97 Heap of Dickens |
| 32 "Live Lucy" | 82 1938 Errol Flynn | film (with "The") | 68 George Takei role | 98 On the |
| 34 Liquor purchase | 83 MAKE intrusions | 82 1938 Errol Flynn | 69 Solemn | 100 "we forgot..." |
| 35 Caring | 87 Entrenched | 111 West impact sound | 70 Prowl's state | 101 |
| 36 | 88 Showtop notations | 100 Showtop notations | 71 HEBB 300000 | 102 teachers' corp. |
| 37 | 89 Evaluative | 15 Sreak peak | 72 Founy item | 103 Doctor's g.p. |
| 38 Vocally | 89 Game show | 16 MAKE Pfl | 74 Clinical wear | 107 Line below a reception |
| 39 Filigree | 90 Game show | 17 Strong-arm | 76 Halloween wear | |
| 40 Litter | 91 Formulated | 18 Boss of | | |
| 41 Slands by | 91 Formulated | 18 Tammany Hall | | |
| 42 Bred hungry | 92 belittles | 24 Shred | | |
| 47 Bred hungry | 92 belittles | 24 Shred | | |
| 48 | 93 Chastistic | 31 The Mill sep | | |
| 49 | 95 Your attention | 32 1991 Wisconsin | | |
| 50 | 96 | 33 | | |
| 51 | 96 | 33 | | |
| 52 | 100 | 34 | | |
| 53 | 100 | 34 | | |
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| 57 | 100 | 34 | | |
| 58 | 100 | 34 | | |
| 59 | 100 | 34 | | |
| 60 | 100 | 34 | | |
| 61 | 100 | 34 | | |

Twin Falls Senior Center
530 Shoshone St. W.
Dinner served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3.50 for seniors. The cost is \$5 for non-seniors under 60 and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Pool room open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lounge room available for television, puzzles and reading. Bargain Center will be open Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Menus: Monday: Creamed chicken over noodles, peas, mixed salad, rice pudding.
Tuesday: Hots salad, fruit.
Wednesday: Roast, beef, potatoes and gravy, vegetable salad, ice cream and cake.
Thursday: Chicken fried steak, potatoes and gravy, fruit salad, bread, pudding.
Friday: Sweet and sour beef, Chinese vegetables, Chinese salad, bread, dessert.

Activities:
Tuesday: Dance, 2 to 5 p.m.
Monday: Quilting Exercise
Tuesday: Blood pressure
Taxi ride
Wednesday: Ells Card Club
Quilting Exercise
Thursday: Birthday dinner
Friday: Center pinocchio Taxi ride
Friday: Blood pressure
Quilting
Lunch bingo
Exercise
Saturday: Super bingo, 1 to 3:30 p.m.
Democratic party, 5 p.m.

Gooding County Senior Citizens
388 Senior Ave.
All dinners are at noon. Suggested donation \$3 for seniors.

Menus: Monday: No Swedish meatballs, noodles, broccoli with cheese sauce, coleslaw, bread, Mandarin oranges.
Tuesday: Chicken noodle soup, Jell-O with peas, corn bread, brownie.
Wednesday: Swiss steak, potatoes and gravy, cauliflower, pasta salad, rice cake with pineapple sauce.

Activities:
Monday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Pinocle, 12:30 p.m.
Wild one, 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Pool, 1 p.m.
Bridge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Meadows, 10 a.m.
Shuffleboard, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Quilt social, 9 a.m.
Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Horticulture visitors, 11:55 a.m.
Birthday dinner, noon
TOS, 4 p.m.
Pinocle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Lefcove lunch, noon
Bridge, 1 p.m.
Hand and foot, 1 p.m.
Bowling, 1:30 p.m.
Bingo, 6 p.m.

Three Island Senior Center
492 E. Cleveland Ave., Glenns Ferry
Meals served at noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, beverages with meals. Aides are available by phoning the center at 346-2051. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors, \$5 for non-seniors under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Menus: Monday: Potluck
Tuesday: Pepper steak with rice, broccoli Normandy, carrots, pudding, roll.
Thursday: Baked chicken, cheese potatoes, dilled green beans, carrot/pineapple salad, bread.

Activities:
Monday: Potluck, 6 p.m.
Taxi ride, 1 to 4 p.m.
Tuesday: Quilting, 1 p.m.
Friday: TOS, 9 a.m.
1 p.m.
Saturday: Breakfast, 8 to 11 a.m.
Taxi ride, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Camas County Senior Center
127 E. Willow Fairfield
Meals served Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The center is open from 9 to 2 on meal days. The cost of the meal for seniors is \$3.50; children under 10 are \$2.00. The suggested donation for those 60 years of age and older is \$2.50.

Menus: Tuesday: Tuna sandwich, tomato soup, salad, fruit, dessert.
Wednesday: Cheeseburgers, fries, salad, fruit, dessert.
Friday: Barbecue ribs, sugarcorn potatoes, beans, salad, fruit, dessert.

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 7:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Exercise, 7:30 a.m.
Pool
Quilting, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jigsaw puzzles
Bridge class
Wednesday: Exercise, 7:30 a.m.
Pool
Quilting, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jigsaw puzzles
Thursday: Exercise, 7:30 a.m.
Art class, 9 a.m.
Quilting, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Friday: Exercise, 7:30 a.m.
Pool
Quilting, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Jigsaw puzzles

West End Senior Citizens Inc.
1010 Main St., Buhl
Menus: Tuesday: Roast beef dinner, 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Beef stew, biscuits, salad, fruit, dessert
Friday: Spaghetti, green salad, vegetable sticks, garlic bread, dessert

Activities:
Tuesday: Buffet, 1 p.m. Seniors, \$4, under age 60, \$4.50.
Monday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Card, 6 to 9 p.m.
Tuesday: Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Silver and Gold Senior Center
Eden
Suggested donations for seniors is \$3. All meals include salad, fruit, and coffee.

Menus: Tuesday: Chicken fried steak, mince potatoes and gravy, salad, fruit, cake and ice cream.
Wednesday: Ham and beans, tater tots, cottage cheese, coleslaw, fruit, cornbread

Activities:
Wednesday: Bake Day Bingo, 7 p.m.

Filter Senior Haven
222 Main St.
Dinners served at noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Suggested donation: \$3 for seniors. Home to delivered meals are available each mealtime.

Menus: Tuesday: Hot beef sandwich, potatoes, carrots, coleslaw salad, fruit.
Thursday: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered peas, carrot and raisin salad, hot rolls, cake and ice cream

Jerome Senior Center
212 First Ave. E.
All dinners served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3.

Menus: Monday: Meat loaf, potatoes and gravy, broccoli, fruit, cookies
Tuesday: Liver and onions, scalloped potatoes, cauliflower, apple salad, peanut butter bars
Wednesday: Chicken enchiladas, augratin potatoes, carrots, Jell-O, fruit, zucchini bars
Thursday: Mallard chicken, potatoes and gravy, corn, green pea salad, strawberry shortcake
Friday: Roast beef, potatoes and gravy, peas, fruit salad, cake and ice cream

Activities:
Monday: Aerobics, 11 a.m.
Tuesday: Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Snack bar, 6 p.m.
Early bird, 6:45 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Aerobics, 11 a.m.
Pinocle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Birthday dinner
Pinocle, 1 p.m.

Golden Years Senior Citizen, Inc.
218 N. Fall St. W., Shoshone
Orange juice, milk and coffee served daily.

Menus: Tuesday: Enchiladas, refried beans, Spanish rice, corn bread, zucchini cake
Wednesday: B.T.'s, cucumber and carrot slices, fries, banana cream pie
Friday: Roast pork, squash casserole, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, gravy, dinner rolls, birthday cake, ice cream

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 9 a.m.
Coffee, 9:30 a.m.
Quilting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday: Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Snack bar, 6 p.m.
Early to bird bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Thursday: Exercise, 9 a.m.
Coffee, 9:30 a.m.
Friday: Pinocle, 1 p.m.

Richfield Senior Center
Orange juice, milk and coffee served daily.

Menus: Monday: Beef stew, green salad, corn bread
Thursday: Bologna sandwich, chicken noodle soup, peach pie

Blaine County Senior Center
721 Third Ave. S., Halley
Menus: Tuesday: Sweet and sour pork, rice, hot rolls, oriental vegetables, summer salad, chocolate pecan cookies
Wednesday: Baked potato bar with chili, salad bar with fruit, cheese bread sticks, cheeseecake bars
Friday: Honey glazed ham or fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans, carrot raisin salad, wheat roll, pineapple upside down cake

Activities:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Exercise, 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Tuas 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Nutrition, 12:45 p.m.
Thursday: Exercise in Sun Valley, 1:30 p.m.

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center
702 11th St., Rupert
Meals are served at noon and home delivered upon request. Juice and assorted beverages are served every day with meals. Gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Menus: Monday: Salad, pork chops, potato casserole, carrots, rolls, chocolate cake
Tuesday: Salad, baked potato bar, rolls, ice cream
Wednesday: Birthday and anniversary party
Thursday: Chef salad, Texas toast, pudding
Friday: Smorgasbord

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Pinocle, 1 to 4 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Friday: 1 to 4 p.m.
Thursday: SIIHA, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Call George, 436 to 9107.
Potluck, 6:30 p.m. Bring in main dish, side dish, salad or dessert.
Friday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Pinocle, 1 to 4 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.

Golden Heritage Senior Center
2421 Overland Ave., Burley
Menus: Monday: Closed
Tuesday: Chili burgers, fries, coleslaw, salad, apple cake
Wednesday: Oven fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, sugar snap peas, roll, Clarin salad, berry crisp
Thursday: Meat loaf, baked potato, corn, fruit cup, carrot cake
Friday: Lemon trout, scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, coleslaw, roll, ginger pear pie

Monday: Closed
Tuesday: All play pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Dances, 1 a.m.
Computer class, 1 p.m.
Woodcarving class, 8:30 a.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: All play pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Thursday: All play pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Organ lessons
Night pinocle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Lesson pool, 10 a.m.
Exercise, 11:15 a.m.
Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.

Stop fueling narcissism

I'd rather talk to grandparents than parents. (I'm sure the fact that I'm a grandfather myself has a lot to do with that.) Today's grandparents — mostly the grandmothers — represent the last generation to rear children according to tradition as opposed to psychobabble. They tell me stories, these venerable elders of ours, stories of the way it used to be and still can be — if we'd heed their wisdom, that is. One of the more consistent things grandparents tell me is that whereas a certain level of our, today's grandmothers, is now inflected. This makes grandparents sad, because the siblings in question are their grandchildren.



PARENTING John Rosemond

"What's going on?" they ask. "How could things have changed so much in so short a period of time?" I have a theory. Ironically, it's one most grandparents aren't going to like because it'm right. One of the grandmothers is part of the problem. My theory is the force driving most sibling rivalry is greed. Today's parents, with more than a little assistance from grandparents, turn their children into greedy little

materialists by buying them toy after toy after gadget after game after vehicle after gizmo beginning before they're born and lasting forever and ever, amen. Because today's parents feel the narcissistic spark that resides in the heart of every newborn, it grows into a flame, then a fire, and then a raging inferno. By age four or five, today's all-too-typical child is inflected with "King Midas Syndrome," which is to say, he's a greedy little hoarder who can't share unless forced to do so, which is to say, he can't really share at all.

When I was five, I had five toys I could call my own. Most people my age report between none and ten, inclusive. According to our parents — today's grandparents — we didn't have any toys at all. I'm thinking of the line in Bob Dylan's like a rolling stone: "When you ain't got nothin', you got nothin' to lose." Ironically, when you have very little to share, sharing is not a problem.

but when you've "got a lot," you've got a lot to lose, which means you're probably going to have difficulty when it comes to sharing. The more material things you acquire, the more likely you are to resent it when someone else acquires something you don't have. The more likely you are to feel the other person's good fortune isn't "fair." The more likely you are to be jealous, envious and covetous, and those, I need tell no one with eyes that see and ears that hear, are the themes around which today's high levels of sibling conflict spin.

Take note, parents! Stop buying your children so many things! Stop throwing fuel on the fires of narcissism and materialism. At a certain (relatively low) level, "things" become a drug that anesthetizes the spirit. Make strong your children's spirits by making, and keeping, them "poor."

Now, need I repeat myself for the benefit of the grandparents in the audience? John Rosemond is a family psychologist. Questions of general interest may be sent to him at Affirmative Parenting, 1020 East 96th Street, Suite 26B, Indianapolis, Ind. 46240 and at his Web site: <http://huphrosrosemond.com>

Take the right steps toward physical fitness

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Cheryl Poynter, health advocate for the Garden of Eden Project through the St. Louis University School of Public Health, says finding a place to work out often seems to be an impediment. But depending on the size of the group, meeting places can range from basements of homes to church-

churches — don't worry about this, because so many church-based health programs are led by nurses who attend the church. Other groups may not have that luxury.

"Start slow, don't do more than you and your friends are capable of doing. You'll scare people away if you try to run a boot camp for participants who have trouble walking around the block. Starting a group usually means you're involving people who haven't been heavily involved in exercise groups," said Cheryl Kelly, physical activity specialist with the Garden of Eden project. That means keep it simple.

you can meet up at a mall and walk." Kelly said, "It's easy, and if you know someone is meeting you at 8:30 at the park, you're going to go. You've got that group feel; the social support is huge."

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COMMUNITY

Community Editor: Pat Marzantonia • 735-3288



Mindokoa Memorial Hospital treated volunteers to a luncheon as they held their annual election of officers. From left, front: Barbara Rodgers, president; Irene Maxson, secretary; Louise Docker, recording secretary; Ruth Hodges and Jenna Bagley, orientation; back: Mae Bubel, Lois Reulcke, treasurer; Barbara Wilke; and Frances Dal Soglio, historian. Not pictured are Betty Stepp, vice president; and Joel Rogers, public relations.

STORK REPORT

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center
 Payton Olivia Davis, daughter of Joanna Elizabeth and Bret Collyer Davis of Twin Falls, was born Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005.
 Garrett Dean Rushton, son of Brandy Lynn and Chad Dean Rushton of Shoshone, was born Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005.
 Alexy Edna Miller, daughter of Margarita and Larry Ray Miller of Gooding, was born Friday, Feb. 11, 2005.
 Cynthia Pacheco-Murillo, daughter of Irma and Humberto Pacheco of Murtaugh, was born Friday, Feb. 11, 2005.
 Brooklin Avery Rucker,

To announce a birth Send a copy of the birth certificate to: **Jami White**, The Community Page The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303 Or fax to: 734-5538. **Deadline: noon Tuesday** for Sunday's paper and **noon Friday** for Tuesday's paper. **More information?** Call Jami at: 735-3278

Brayden Ty Salors, son of Daysha Adell Salors of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Feb. 11, 2005.
 Isabella Paige Wilkin, son of Kathleen Marie Schroeder of Declo, was born Friday, Feb. 11, 2005.
 Carson Sean Perkes, son of Heather Jo and Sean Asa Perkes of Shoshone, was born Saturday, Feb. 12, 2005.
 Isabella Paige Eldredge, daughter of Amber Stazzano, Watis and Gary Burl Eldredge of Buhl, was born Sunday, Feb. 13, 2005.
 Mascha Vaughn Micalc Morsch, son of Rawson Love and Terry Duane Morsch of Twin Falls, was born Monday, Feb. 14, 2005.

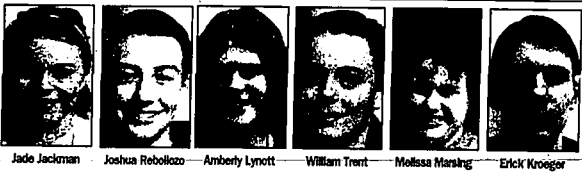
Hospital honors volunteers

RUPERT—Mindokoa Memorial Hospital Volunteers honored fellow volunteers. Volunteer of the Year was Mae Bubel. She was selected by her fellow volunteers for her strength of character, integrity, honesty, great attitude, thoughtfulness and

compassion, the hospital reported. Bubel served as vice president this past year and is a past president and works on several committees and activities, including extended care, scholarships, Caring and Sharing Christmas and the information desk. Mindokoa Memorial Hospital volunteers honored Louise Docker as their volunteer of the Month for November. Docker has logged more than 16,000 hours of service to the hospital

East Minico releases semester honor roll

- RUPERT**—East Minico Middle School announced the honor roll for this first semester.
- Third grade**
 High honors Casey Christiansen, Jennifer Freilinger, Nathan Hader, Jessica Jackson, Dakota Goff, Makenzie Holmes, Ramsey Vaughn, Brandon Goff, Cheeli Phillips, Kristin Turpen, Sierra McLean, Craig Daniel Sanderson, Dakota Hupard.
- Fourth grade**
 High honors Lacey M. Anderson, Janelle Redington, Samantha Halverson, Jacob Nave, Weston Navarone, Braden Lee Hartman.
- Fifth grade**
 High honors Lacey M. Anderson, Janelle Redington, Samantha Halverson, Jacob Nave, Weston Navarone, Braden Lee Hartman.
- Sixth grade**
 High honors Lacey M. Anderson, Janelle Redington, Samantha Halverson, Jacob Nave, Weston Navarone, Braden Lee Hartman.
- Seventh grade**
 High honors Lacey M. Anderson, Janelle Redington, Samantha Halverson, Jacob Nave, Weston Navarone, Braden Lee Hartman.
- Eighth grade**
 High honors Lacey M. Anderson, Janelle Redington, Samantha Halverson, Jacob Nave, Weston Navarone, Braden Lee Hartman.



Jade Jackson, Joshua Rebolazzo, Amberly Lyttott, William Trent, Melissa Marsing, Erick Kroeger

Fund-raiser helps area students experience culture, history abroad

JEROME—Six students from the Magic Valley have been nominated as Student Ambassadors with the National People to People Student Ambassador Program. The program was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 so that young people of different cultures could be brought together in friendship and peace. Student Ambassadors selected are Jade Jackson of Jerome, William Trent Jr. of Gooding, Eric Kroeger of Wendell, Joshua Rebolazzo of Kimberly, Melissa Marsing of Jerome and Amberly Lyttott of Hagerman. An all-you-can-eat taco and burrito bar will be held from 9 p.m. Tuesday at the El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant in Jerome to help the students meet the cost of this trip. The cost will be \$11 for adults and \$5 for children age 6 and under. Walk-ins are welcomed. Advance tickets can be purchased from the students. To qualify for this program, students are nominated by their teachers. All nominees are interviewed, evaluated and must earn good grades, and be well rounded, independent and able to travel on their own. The students will travel with a group of up to 40 students and their chaperones from across Idaho in a 22-day journey to either Europe or Australia this coming summer. The students will visit the foreign countries to learn and share in the culture and stay with a host family. All Student Ambassadors must attend 12 hours of training to learn historical and cultural facts about the countries they will visit, in addition to the day-to-day information, such as money exchange rates and time zone changes. Students must also raise their own funds to pay for the \$4,500 to \$5,500 tuition. The tuition covers the costs of meals, transportation, accommodations and educational activities. It does not pay for any souvenirs, laundry costs, film, or phone calls home. The students are also accepting donations. For additional information, to donate or tickets call the fund raiser, Jade Jackson at 324-9619, William Trent Jr. at 934-9724, Eric Kroeger at 536-5769, Joshua Rebolazzo at 423-6104 or Melissa Marsing at 324-5781.

Business Professionals of America students compete in regionals

- SHOSHONE**—Students from the Business Professionals of America (BPA) region 7 competed Jan. 17.
- The results are as follows by place, name and school:
- Fundamental Accounting**
 1. Jessica Bice, Burley
 2. Nancy Pyle, Burley
 3. Dawn Nalder, Wood River
 4. Kristin Adams, Murtaugh
 5. Kristen Minard, Wood River
 6. Hallie Rowborough, Murtaugh
- Advanced Accounting**
 1. Meghan Sorenson, Shoshone
 2. Brian Baggett, Burley
 3. Amber Pope, Burley
 4. Sean Hutchins, Minico
 5. Justin Bice, Minico
 6. Austin Bailey, Minico
 7. Rae Ingle, Burley
 8. Payson Accounting
 1. Jessica Bice, Burley
 2. Justin Bice, Minico
 3. Jessica Bice, Minico
 4. Griselba Zavala, Shoshone
 5. Brenda Bice, Shoshone
- Spreadsheet Applications and**
- Analysis**
 1. Megan Gifford, Minico
 2. Priscilla Prutzelle, Burley
 3. Austin Sanchez, Minico
 4. Austin Greer, Burley
 5. Justin Bice, Minico
 6. Reagan Cochran, Burley
 7. Tanya Borshoff, Murtaugh
 8. Amanda Goff, Shoshone
 9. Kaitlyn Bice, Minico
 10. Jeffrey Dean, Nintan
 11. Kelsey Garding, Wood River
 12. Amberly Lyttott, Burley
 13. Trevor Matthews, Burley
 14. Meghan Sorenson, Shoshone
 15. Jessica Carr, Burley
 16. Priscilla Prutzelle, Minico
 17. Rae Ingle, Burley
 18. Leslie Molyneux, Shoshone
 19. Amanda Goff, Shoshone
 20. Amberly Lyttott, Burley
 21. Amberly Lyttott, Burley
 22. Trevor Matthews, Burley
 23. Integrated Office Applications
 1. Austin Greer, Burley
 2. Megan Gifford, Burley
 3. Debbie Publishing, Burley
 4. Kaitlyn Bice, Wood River
 5. Amanda Goff, Shoshone
 6. Justin Bice, Wood River
 7. Justin Bice, Minico
 8. Jessica Bice, Minico
 9. Justin Bice, Minico
 10. Justin Bice, Minico
 11. Justin Bice, Minico
 12. Justin Bice, Minico
 13. Justin Bice, Minico
 14. Justin Bice, Minico
 15. Justin Bice, Minico
 16. Justin Bice, Minico
 17. Justin Bice, Minico
 18. Justin Bice, Minico
 19. Justin Bice, Minico
 20. Justin Bice, Minico
- 7. Jellen Corbin, Minico**
8. Hallie Rowborough, Murtaugh
9. Samantha Martin, Burley
10. Lanya Ransholf, Murtaugh
11. Tony Reed, Minico
12. Ewan Gaff, Murtaugh
- Basic Office Systems and Procedures**
 1. Joey Micham, Wood River
 2. Kaitlyn Bice, Burley
 3. Preston Sarge, Minico
 4. Ashley Johnson, Burley
 5. Justin Martinez, Burley
 6. Adam Gifford, Minico
 7. Kaitlyn Bice, Burley
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 18. Kaitlyn Bice, Burley
 19. Kaitlyn Bice, Burley
 20. Kaitlyn Bice, Burley
- Global Marketing Team**
 1. Minnie Clark Harper, Kathleen Hietzel and Brigitte Hietzel
 2. Minnie, Shalom Frank, IP Dells and Ashley Robinson
 3. Dana Christensen, Wood River
 4. Dana Christensen, Wood River
 5. Dana Christensen, Wood River
 6. Dana Christensen, Wood River
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 18. Dana Christensen, Wood River
 19. Dana Christensen, Wood River
 20. Dana Christensen, Wood River
- Graphic Design Promotion**
 1. Danie Russell, Shoshone
 2. Andrew Astor, Minico
 3. Amanda Goff, Murtaugh
 4. Danie Russell, Shoshone
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- Human Resource Management**
 1. Danie Russell, Shoshone
 2. Danie Russell, Shoshone
 3. Danie Russell, Shoshone
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 19. Danie Russell, Shoshone
 20. Danie Russell, Shoshone
- Parliamentary Procedure**
 1. Shoshone, Jill Aste, Danie Russell, Kaitlyn Bice, Cheryl Bice, Teressa Bice and Tina Wright
 2. Burley Team 2, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 3. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 4. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 5. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 6. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 7. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
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 15. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 16. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 17. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 18. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 19. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston
 20. Burley Team 1, Mabel Baker, Sue Hinkley and John Preston

Dietrich teen receives Eagle Scout Award

DIETRICH—Tyrell Porter, son of Janet and Shanna Porter of Dietrich, will receive his Eagle Scout Award at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Dietrich Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 181 S. 650 E.

The 15-year-old has completed 24 merit badges in Troop 102. For his project, he created a playground area at Dietrich City Park, assembling and installing three pieces of equipment, including a border around the area and filling it with gravel.

The project took 140 hours with the help of 20 Scouts, friends and family members. Tyrell is a freshman at Dietrich High School, his class president,

Gooding Elks Lodge holds crab feed

GOODING—Gooding Elks Lodge 1745 is having an all-you-can-eat crab and spaghetti feed fund-raiser beginning with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Municipal Building at the Gooding County Fairgrounds.

Tickets are available at Steve's Quick Service, 601 Main. The cost is \$25 per person.

Proceeds will support youth scholarships, activities and the Elks Rehabilitation Hospital.

Rupert senior center holds potluck dinner
RUPERT—A potluck dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thurs-

Central Idaho Dental Society will clean, seal and provide fluoride treatments and sealants for children under age 14 for free by appointment on Saturday in the Aspen Building, Room 102, at the College of Southern Idaho, 513 Falls Ave. E.

The Society says the event is to show appreciation for community's support and for those in need of dental care.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 733-0695.

Center holds learning disabilities presentation
TWIN FALLS—The Southern Idaho Learning Center is offering the free presentation, "What the Heck Are Learning Disabilities Anyway?" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Education Building in the Sage Room at 598 Addison Ave. W.

Melody Allen Lenker, the center director, will share what a learning disability is and how it can be diagnosed.

For more information, call 324-4085.

CSU center makes computers simple
JEROME—The College of Southern Idaho North Side Center is offering two new courses.

"Computers Made Simple" will cover basic computer operations, simple word-processing, Windows e-mail and the Internet. The class will be a presentation at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 28.

Blood drive takes place at War Memorial Hall
GOODING—A blood drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday at the War Memorial Hall on Third and Idaho Streets in Gooding.

Donors must be 17-years-old, in good health and display their photo identification.

For more information, call Carolyn DeWitt at 934-5409.

ENGAGEMENTS

WEDDINGS

Parents' cold shoulder chills wedding plans

TRAVELLER-MAY

TWIN FALLS — Mr. and Mrs. Del Traveller of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Jodi Traveller, to Jeffrey Scott May, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ron May of Hansen.

Traveller is a graduate of Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. She is employed at Lezarm's Real Estate Co. in Twin Falls.

May is attending Idaho State University. The wedding is planned for Friday, Feb. 25, in the Logan Temple. A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Kimberly Stake Center.



Jeffrey May and Jodi Traveller

ANDERSON-HADLEY

DECLO — Sarah Sue Hadley and Malcolm B. Anderson were married Feb. 17 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The bride is the daughter of Scott and Cindy Hadley of South Jordan, Utah. She is a graduate from Bingham High School and served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She is studying social work at Brigham Young University.

The bridegroom is the son of Kelly and Leslie Anderson of Declo. He is a graduate of Declo High School and served an LDS mission. He is preparing for medical school at BYU.



Malcolm and Sarah Anderson

The couple will reside in Provo, Utah, while completing their university studies.

A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Declo Stake Center, 213 W. Main St.

PAYNE-KNUTSON

OAKLEY — Wendy VonWeller of Oakley announces the engagement of her daughter, Codi Lee Payne, to Joshua Curtis Knutson, son of Curtis and Deanna Knutson of Rigby and Teresa Valdez of Hoyburn.

Payne is attending Oakley High School and Knutson is attending Minico High School. They are employed at McDonald's in Burley.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Pella LDS Church, 160 W. 400 S. A reception to honor the couple will be held following the ceremony at 2:30 p.m. at the church.



Joshua Knutson and Codi Payne

JOHNSON-MAXWELL

HAZELTON — Jim and Glenys Johnson of Hazelton announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Johnson, to Kenneth Maxwell, son of Gordon Maxwell and the late Kathleen Nelson Maxwell of Kuna.

Johnson is a graduate of Valley High School, College of Southern Idaho Dental Program and Masters Commission of Phoenix, Ariz. She is employed at Ustick Dental in Boise.

Maxwell received his GED at Boise State University and is employed at Penske Truck Leasing in Boise.



Kenneth Maxwell and Rachel Johnson

The wedding is planned for 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at the Kuna Life Center. A reception to honor the couple will be held immediately following the ceremony.

WEST-KOYLE

TWIN FALLS — Dennis and Cynthia West of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Sierra Ann West, to Shane Otis Koyle, son of Kathy and Jerry Uker of Twin Falls and Richard Koyle and Donna Hawkins of Rupert.

West is a 2003 graduate of Twin Falls High School. She is attending the College of Southern Idaho.

Koyle is a 2002 graduate of Minico High School. He is employed at the Amalgamated Sugar factory in Twin Falls. The wedding is planned for Saturday, April 16, at the First



Sierra West and Shane Koyle

Church of the Nazarene in Twin Falls. A reception will be held following the ceremony at the Nazarene Community Life Center.

ANNIVERSARY



Ray and Ellen Kincaid

THE KINCAIDS

HAZELTON — Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kincaid of Hazelton will be honored at an open house for their 50th wedding anniversary. Friends and relatives are invited to attend from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Valley Presbyterian Church, 310 Park Hazelton.

Kincaid and Ellen Cox were married Feb. 27, 1955, in Filer. They have lived in Hazelton all their married life. He was self-employed as a farmer and she worked at home.

'Pantry shower' helps newlyweds

Knigt Rider News Service

If you're hosting a wedding shower for a couple just getting started, consider this idea from the Dollar Stretcher Newsletter: "Have a 'pantry shower' and instruct guests to bring staples that are useful to their in-laws."

For example, if your in-laws are JCP, you could bring jelly, Campbell's soup and paprika. If your in-laws are HW, the items could be Hershey's chocolate, mustard and vinegar. Guests could bring sponges, household cleaners,

even a broom or mop. The hostess gift could be a cookie jar with several recipes, along with flour, sugar, salt and baking soda.

The couple will end up with a good supply of staples, which can be expensive to purchase all at once, and guests won't have to spend a lot of money.

Planning a wedding?

The Times-News welcomes wedding and engagement announcements and photos.

To submit an announcement, stop by the office at 132 Fairfield St. W. in Twin Falls and fill out a form. If you have any questions, call Ramona Jones at 735-3262.

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DEAR
ABBY
Jeannie Phillips

Write to Abby

Send letters to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069, or via her Web site at <http://www.DearAbby.com>

the fact that girls are maturing at younger and younger ages and need to know what to expect as their bodies develop. Rather than "confronting" them, make it clear to Bianca that if she has any questions, she can always safely address them to you. It would be better for your daughter than causing a fight.

DEAR ABBY: Even as a young girl, I have always loved horses. I have recently taken on the joyful responsibility of leasing a friend's horse, to help out with expenses, and also to learn what it would be like to actually own my own horse.

It has been only three months, and I have spent three times the amount of money that my "friend" has, and have done all of the labor to boot. By "labor," I mean cleaning horses, mucking out the stalls, cleaning water buckets and feed bins, cleaning the office, and even picking up her daughter and bringing her to and from the barn.

My question, is, how do people like my "friend" continue to look themselves in the eye after taking advantage of an honest, sincere sucker?

— TAKEN FOR A RIDE

DEAR "TAKEN FOR A RIDE": Three months is a pretty long ride. A more pertinent question would be, Why have you allowed it to continue? My advice is to look at all the things you have learned from this experience, and in the future, resist the urge to be so "helpful." Tally-ho!

Dear Abby is written by Jeannie Phillips.



Centennial

Centennial Editor: Virginia S. Hutchins - 735-3242

Page E-6

Sunday, February 20, 2005

The Times-News

Magic Valley scrapbooks

Ben O'Harrow — who followed his brother west from Wisconsin in 1914 to farm near Jerome — was not a farmer at heart.

But he loved the livestock, particularly the horses.

O'Harrow enjoyed helping sick animals and created an ointment to treat their wounds and rub on sore spots. He often attempted to persuade his family members to use the concoction, too, apparently with little success.

"It was pale orange and I thought it smelled awful," said Colleen Thiebert of Twin Falls, O'Harrow's granddaughter.

O'Harrow appears in a couple of the old photographs on this page, along with other early Magic Valley residents tending livestock, enjoying animals' company or — in the case of the Steinmetz family — cleaning up after them. Sheep, cattle, horses and pigs like these claimed spots in the hearts of some farmers.

O'Harrow, for instance, loved demonstrating his draft horses' strength in pulling contests at county fairs.

"He watched men who claimed no horse could pull them out of a hole, but Ben said, 'My horses can!' The horses were put into position, strained at the rope and up and out they came," Thiebert said.

Her grandfather "took good care of his horses and was proud of the way he could sell and trade."

O'Harrow never did take to tractors.

— Virginia S. Hutchins



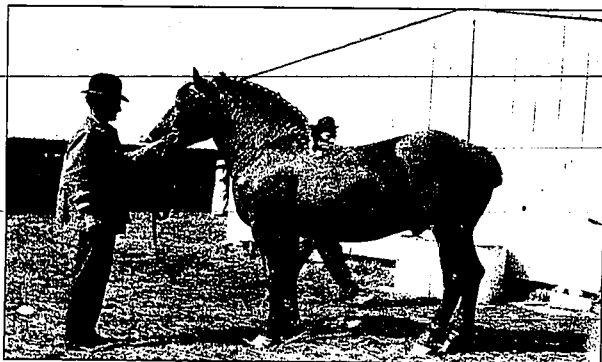
Photo courtesy of COLLEEN THIEBERT of Twin Falls

Ben O'Harrow and granddaughter Colleen O'Harrow (Thiebert) tend pigs in 1935 or '36 on a farm south of Twin Falls. "I remember being afraid of the pigs, so I am surprised they could get me in that pen," says Colleen, still a Twin Falls resident. "There was a year or two that we had pigs," she says. "Grandpa would pick up garbage from leftovers at restaurants to supplement corn, etc., for pig food. Sometimes dishes and silverware came with the load of garbage. I remember Grandpa gave me the little butter dishes used in those days."



Photo courtesy of NEAL HOOT, GIBSON of Jerome

In May 1954, Twin Falls County Rangos riding club member Neal "Hoot" Gibson rides in a downtown parade celebrating Twin Falls' 50th birthday. "We was proud that Twin Falls was 50 years old," says Gibson, who rode with the Twin Falls County Rangos for six or seven years. The 28-member riding club practiced at least once or twice a month — or once a week if preparing for a jamboree — and rode in parades and jamborees in Twin Falls, Boise, Shoshone, Burley, Carey, Jerome and Rupert, Gibson says.



Ben O'Harrow shows one of his draft horses in about 1915 in Jerome. "He loved trading horses," says granddaughter Colleen Thiebert of Twin Falls. "He also proudly took his horses to county fairs to enter pulling contests."

Photo courtesy of COLLEEN THIEBERT of Twin Falls



Basque sheep herders work at the Shoe Sole Ranch four miles south of Kimberly in the 1930s. "My dad, John Dean, ran part of the ranch when his boss was in jail for bootlegging," says Don Dean of Kimberly.

Photo courtesy of DON and JEANNE DEAN of Kimberly



Branding cattle in about 1920 in the Shoshone Basin are the Haynes family, Birch Brown and Griff Erickson.

Photo courtesy of DON and JEANNE DEAN of Kimberly



Photo courtesy of CHUCK STEINMETZ of Eden

Chuck Steinmetz, the little boy pictured here, hauls and loads manure by hand from the cattle corral at the family farm at Eden. In the early 1930s, with his brother Harold Steinmetz and his uncles Henry and Reuben Steinmetz. "The whole family take part in these kind of ventures," Chuck says. "After we do our corral, we move to Granddad's and do his also."

Committee offers float workshop in Burley

The Times-News

BURLEY — The Burley Centennial Float Committee will offer a float workshop at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Burley High School library, at 2100 Burke Ave. Potential float makers of all ages are welcome.

The general theme for the 2005 Cassia County Parade, set for mid-August, is "City of Burley's Centennial."

So floats with a historical flair are likely to go over well with the parade judges. The workshop will include a compact disc of other parades to offer suggestions and ideas for entries.

There will be information on float materials, lettering, music and props. Organizers said they will also discuss ways to extend the life of a float while cutting expenses.

For information on the workshop, call Marilyn at 678-2913 or Jolene at 678-3813.