

The Times-News

Twin Falls, Idaho/100th year, No. 304

Monday, October 31, 2005

WWW.MAGICVALLEY.COM

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Mostly to partly cloudy.
High 58, low 37.
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LOOKING FOR FUN?

Halloween events take place around Magic Valley.
Page C4



READY TO SERVE
Club makes plan to help community.
Page C3



SEASON OF INDULGENCE
How to get through the holidays without gaining weight.
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PHILLY FOLLY

The Denver Broncos thumped the NFC defending champion Philadelphia Eagles Sunday afternoon.
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INVESTIGATION WARRANTED

Idahoans deserve real answers on gas prices.
today's guest editorial says.
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COMING UP



Gifts of love
Woman helps others to give.
Tuesday in The Times-News

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Haunted homesite?

Reporter delves firsthand into mystery

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

KIMBERLY — Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction, and sometimes that truth sends chills up your spine.

On Thursday afternoon the Stricker Homesite was blanketed in a thick fog that secluded the old home beside Rock Creek. The fog absorbed every sound except the faint ringing of a highest tone line and the lively sounds that once permeated the home when it was the hub of a bustling community.

The Stricker Homesite was built in 1890 by Herman Stricker who operated the Rock Creek Station — the first trading post west of Fort Hall along the Oregon Trail. The station was built in 1865 by James Bascom, who later sold it to Stricker ten years later. A structurally unsound log store and two cellars are all that remains of what was a thriving trading station. A caretaker currently resides on the property, making sure that efforts of preservation remain intact.

The house and station hide a curious history of colorful characters and events behind their dark windows and silent walls, but the cemetery tells it all.

In 1877, a writer named Charles Walcott recorded the death of William Dowdle, who was shot to death after he tried to take vengeance on the operators of the station who were responsible for his conviction as a horse thief. But it wasn't until later that historians learned that it was Walcott who shot Dowdle.

In 1884, a woman died of unknown causes and was buried at Rock Creek. Those who buried her only knew that she was a Gypsy.

Also among the final resting places marked with wooden grave markers, is a murder victim and a man who was crushed under a wagon wheel. It is at this graveyard where some say they have seen apparitions moving around at night, and it is at the house that some say a light flickers in the windows at night.

I was skeptical of the stories I heard about the Stricker Homesite. Either I hadn't seen enough horror movies, or I just wasn't in tune with, well,



Above, branches and vines clutter the path of an unused back entrance to the Stricker Ranch outside of Kimberly, on Thursday.

Top, with the exception of rouge tumbleweed, the wet cellar outside of the old Rock Creek Store was once used to store saloon supplies.

whatever it is that ghosts do. So I decided to find out for myself if the stories were true by staying the night alone in the Stricker mansion, and this is where my story begins.

Watchful eyes

"You sure you really want to do that?" said Rebecca Johnson, a trustee member of the Friends of Stricker family.

Johnson was the last person I wanted telling me that, as he handed me the key to the house Friday night. After he explained some of his family history, he drove away en-

tering the home to me — an entrusting me to the home. I planned to visit the areas "with the most paranormal activity" throughout the night, which included the old log trading station, the cellars and, oh yeah, the house I was sleeping in.

"I get a good feeling in the home," said Rebecca Duke, a member of the Magic Valley Spirit Seekers. "But I have a very bad feeling about the old cabin and the cellar. The only advice that I can give you is to not dare them. It's a very bad thing to do."

Looking back on my experience now, I think that was

some good advice.

There is something uncomfortable about staying in someone's home while they watch you, and there is something even more disturbing about it when they have been dead for more than fifty years. But there I was, alone in the middle of the parlor room inside the Stricker home where Lucy Stricker's body lay for 14 days before they could bury her in the frozen ground. All the while, she was looking down at me from an old black and white photograph as I wrote this story.

Things were quiet from the Please see HOMESITE, Page A2

Rice speaks on bravery of Rosa Parks

The Associated Press

MONTEGOMERY, Ala. — Rosa Parks was remembered Sunday by hundreds of mourners for her defiant act on a city bus that inspired the civil rights movement and helped pave the way for other blacks, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Casades of roses surrounded Parks' casket in a flag-draped hearse at St. Paul A.M.E. Church, where she was once a member. A separate vigil was opened for the overflow crowd and hundreds more stood outside.

"I was here when Rosa Parks started and I just wanted to be here when she departed," said the Rev. Joseph Lowery, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The body of the 92-year-old Parks, who died Monday at her home in Detroit, was to later lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, D.C. No other woman has been granted that honor.

President Bush also issued a proclamation Sunday ordering the U.S. flag to be flown at half-staff over all public buildings on Wednesday, the day of Parks' funeral and burial in Detroit.

Rice said she and others who grew up in Alabama during the height of Parks' activism might not have realized her impact on their lives then, but in a honest way that without Mrs. Parks, I probably would not be standing here today as secretary of state.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley credited Parks with inspiring protests against social injustice around the world.

"I finally believe God put different people in different parts of history so great things can happen," Riley said. "I think Rosa Parks is one of those people."

Parks was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat to a white man. Among those who supported her was King, who led the 381-day boycott of the city's bus system that led to the modern civil rights movement.

"She was a gentle giant," his son, Martin Luther King III, said at the funeral.

"I think she had a defining stand in the civil rights movement," said Estelle Jennings, 28, a student at Troy University, before the service started.

Lowery and the Rev. Jesse Jackson said the best way for blacks to carry on Parks' legacy would be to push Congress to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act, which has been in effect since 1965.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who was a year old at the time of Parks' arrest, said when he arrived in Montgomery for the funeral he thought about how it should just move her seat over his own night of change.

Shannon, a New York City activist said national leaders such as Rice and former Secretary of State Colin Powell would have never reached their positions without Parks' symbolic act.

Outside the U.S. Capitol, several hundred people stood in line awaiting the hearse, motorcycle and symbolic bus that would bring her body to the heart of the nation that honors presidents. Some carried signs that read, "Thank you, Rosa Parks."

Prep quarterback throws like a girl — because she is one

By Beth Harris
Associated Press writer

TORRANCE, Calif. — Spectators would be hard-pressed to pick Bishop Montgomery High's quarterback as the blur of players on the field. Sophomore Miranda McOsler's brunette ponytail blends into her black jersey, and she can throw the ball accurately for 40 yards or more.

The 15-year-old is the starting quarterback for the junior varsity team and the third stringer on the varsity.

The 5-foot-9, 140-pound McOsler got into a varsity game recently after the Knights built a 20-0 halftime lead against Ruben Academy and she hit No. 2 quarterback was injured. She threw for three touchdowns — the longest was 65 yards

— and went 3-for-5 for 175 yards playing the entire second half of the 55-14 win.

But she's no gender-barrier breaker, just a girl who finds football fun.

Football is one of the best sports for the family atmosphere," McOsler said. "These boys are your brothers. You will be with them forever. I love it. They are the nicest group of people."

She went out for the private Catholic school's team last spring, after not even attending a game as a freshman.

"I thought I could do it, so I tried it," she said. "To play for your school is one of the best things you can do."

Playing with boys isn't new. In middle school, she was one of two



Sophomore Miranda McOsler, 15, is shown during a junior varsity game Oct. 20, in Torrance, Calif.

Please see FOOTBALL, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy with a light rain in the evening.
Tonight: Partly cloudy with a light rain in the evening.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and partly sunny. High in the afternoon.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy with a light rain in the evening.
Tonight: Partly cloudy with a light rain in the evening.
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and partly sunny. High in the afternoon.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

IDAHO'S FORECAST
SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS.
Today: Highs 29 to 35. Lows 23 to 32.
BOISE
Today: Highs 29 to 35. Lows 23 to 32.
PORTLAND
Today: Highs 47 to 62. Lows 38 to 43.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS -

Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, Moon Phases, Moonrise and Moonset.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with columns: City, Hi, Lo, Prep. Lists weather for various cities like Coeur d'Alene, Boise, etc.

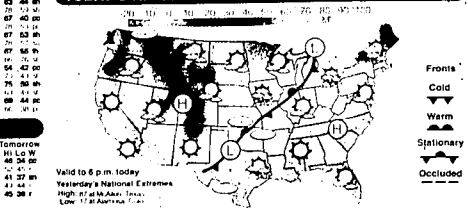
REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Wednesday. Lists forecasts for cities like Boise, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for cities like Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



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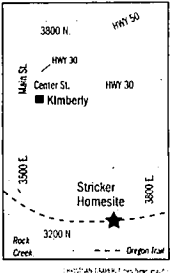
Homesite

Continued from A1
time I arrived until midnight, but then the ill combination of sleep deprivation and my overactive imagination began to take hold of me.
It was about this time when I heard a loud scraping noise like somebody dragging something on the floor above me.



After a fire destroyed the original slat-roof log cabin in 1900, the Strickers built the existing home near the original site at the edge of Rock Creek. The above view is of a window located on the top floor that served as a hotel for the various travelers and workers that came through the area.

How to find the Stricker Homesite



I imagined that was how the pioneers saw it when they were passing through on their way west.
Further down the trail I could see the silhouettes of the old log trading station and the two tool cellars, which was the place that gave Duke the "very bad feeling."

Local haunts

- Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite — Kimberly
Some say they have seen some thing running through the cemetery lights flickering in an abandoned cabin and an uncomfortable presence in the cellar.
• Schubert Theater — Gooding
Employees and performers say their instruments will be moved when they leave their unattended doors will open and close on their own and strange sounds can be heard when no one is inside.

My greatest fear

But at 1 a.m. when I was creeping up the stairs to investigate a strange scraping sound. I was really wishing he had said whatever it was he didn't want to say. I consider myself well-versed in horror movies, so I knew there were a few things I shouldn't do, like drop the flashlight and divide up into teams. And I wouldn't even have a team to split up.

The Friends of Stricker tries

struggle to finance desperately needed repairs.
The more I thought about it, the more I could understand why the Strickers would haunt their old home. Who would roll up their grave when the state you're helping pioneer was letting your only lasting mark on history crumble to the ground? Unfortunately, this didn't give me any solace, so I darted back down the stairs into the parlor.

Football

Continued from A1
girls on the flag football team.
"I admit he's a lot because she's doing what she wants to do," said L.K. Carter, the mother of receiver Kevin Carter III. "He said he really admires her because she knows the plays."
Girls playing prep football are still a novelty, with 253 girls among 100,000 high school students who play in California.

Making the date

I had visited the cemetery earlier that night, but other than a small flock of birds that nearly stopped my beating heart when they flew out of the prairie grass, there were no other signs of life.
Now I figured I would try the cemetery because the night was coming to an end, and I still didn't have any interviews.
The dry goods cellar was used for storage, protection from aggressors and a jail. It cut deep into the ground, and has a thatched roof — which made me wonder why anyone would use it for protection. "I'd like everything else, at that time of night, it was dark."

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Reid says Bush, Cheney should apologize for leak

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Democratic leader said Sunday that presidential adviser Karl Rove should resign because of his role in the exposing of a CIA officer's identity and a veteran Republican senator said President Bush needs "new blood" in his White House.

Rove has not been charged, but the investigation continues in the case that brought the indictment and resignation Friday of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney.



Reid

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said Sunday he was disappointed that Bush and Cheney responded to the indictment by lauding Libby. He suggested they should apologize for the leak that revealed the identity of covert CIA officer Valerie Plame, whose husband, former ambassador Joseph Wilson, has been critical of the Bush administration.

"First of all, the vice president

issued this very terse statement praising Libby for all the great things he's done," Reid said. "Then we have the president come on camera a few minutes later calling him 'Scooter' and what a great patriot he is." "There has not been an apology to the American people for this obvious leak in the White House," Reid said.

Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., said on "Fox News Sunday" that Cheney should "come forward about his involvement and why he discussed Plame with Libby before Libby spoke to reporters about her."

"When did the vice president know? What were his intentions?" Dodd said. "Now, there's

no suggestion the vice president is guilty of any crime here whatsoever, but if our standard is just criminality, then we've never gotten to get to the bottom of this."

Democrats appearing on Sunday talk shows portrayed Libby's indictment as one of many serious problems surrounding the White House and there has been a spate of probing questions about Republican ethics.

Republicans repeatedly said the charges have been made against only one individual and that Libby should be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

When it comes to public opinion, 46 percent of people surveyed by an ABC News/Washington Post poll said the level of ethics and honesty in the federal government had fallen with Bush as president. Three times the number who said ethics and honesty had risen during that time.

A history of White House scandals

Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — The arrogance, hubris and temptation of the two often accompany high office have made presidential administration scandals a part of American history since the country very incipiently was.

Ever since George Washington was vexed by the behavior of a close and trusted associate who was himself one of our greatest Founding Fathers — Alexander

Hamilton proved to be a man of great vision and attainment, but he resigned his powerful public office to go back to law to make money in the private sector, with endeavors that included managing the American investments of his brother-in-law, a British parliamentarian. Hamilton continued, however, as one of President Washington's closest advisers.

Opponents claimed Hamilton leaked information about American securities that made his wife's family a fortune, but his biggest denunciation came when he raised a congressional investigating committee that the money came from his \$3,000 annual salary as a Cabinet officer, not the U.S. Treasury, and so he resigned his position. His political reputation was ruined.

There were incidents of corruption throughout the 19th Century — notably the "Gilded Age" when robber barons held sway — but few compared with the administration of the brilliant Civil War general and business president, Ulysses S. Grant.

As a congressional investigation uncovered near the end of Grant's first term, millions of dollars in government subsidies to the Union Pacific Railroad were being funneled directly into the pockets of stockholders of a privately held company called Credit Mobilier.

The stockholders included a number of congressmen, several high-ranking Republican officials and even the vice president, Schuyler Colfax, who was dumped at the end of the term.

Among several other Grant disgraces was the Whiskey Ring scandal, in which the president's personal secretary, Orville Babcock, and other political appointees were found to have been involved in a scheme in which whiskey distillers cheated the government out of millions by falsifying tax documents.

Another of several other Grant scandals saw Secretary of War William Belknap resign in the face of impeachment proceedings for his allegedly taking bribes involving Indian Agency contracts.

History repeated itself in the 1920s with the incredibly corrupt administration of Warren Harding and his "Ohio gang" of crooked cronies. One of them, Interior Secretary Albert Fall, was convicted of taking hun-

dreds of thousands of dollars in kickbacks and bribes from two oilmen friends in return for securing them leases to sell from the Navy's (Iraq) 10 million acre reserve. Fall was convicted and sentenced to prison.

Harry Truman made his mark on the Oval Office with his atomic bomb, desegregating the military and confronting Soviet dictator Josef Stalin in the Cold War.

But his reputation was dented down to what remains the lowest approval rating in the history of public opinion polls — brought about by rampant corruption. Himself the product of Tom Pendergast's Kansas City political machine, Truman came under fire for issuing presidential pardons to numerous Pendergast minions guilty of election fraud and worse.

About 250 Truman-era Internal Revenue Service bureaucrats were fired for misconduct and nine senior appointees were sent to prison.

Lyndon Johnson's longtime protégé, Senate aide and secretary Bobby Baker, became embroiled in scandals that among the most sordid of modern times.

Amassing more than \$2 million on a government salary of \$160,000 a year, Baker engaged in influence-peddling and kick-back schemes that involved favorable government deals for mob boss Sam Giancana and other crime figures as well as huge military contracts for well-connected businessmen.

Baker was ultimately found guilty of seven counts of fraud, theft and income tax evasion and went to prison.

In the magnitude of its reach and consequence, Nixon's Watergate stands as the most egregious abuse of power and worst presidential scandal in American history.

In its vast and complicated effort to spy on, suppress and sabotage its real and imagined political enemies, the administration engaged in acts ranging from common burglary (the break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Office Building) to misuse of the FBI and CIA to a complex cover-up conspiracy that reached all the way to the Oval Office.

More than 300 Nixon administration officials and political associates — including Attorney General John Mitchell and top aides like H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman — were convicted of crimes. Nixon resigned before he could be impeached.

Jimmy Carter completed himself as one of the nation's most pious presidents, his administration was marred several times by scandal — most seriously when electronic surveillance by the National Security Agency discovered that the then-hostile Libyan government had been spying on the Carter's near-to-well brother Billy.

Ronald Reagan preached solid American values and dreamed of a shining city on a hill, but his administration was marred by a much-tarnished administration.

A profiteering scandal in Reagan's Department of Housing and Urban Development resulted in 16 convictions. Presidential aides Michael Deaver and Lyn Nofziger were convicted in connection with their lobbying activities after they left the White House, though Nofziger's conviction was overturned on appeal.

Investigations into Bill and Hillary Clinton's White House real estate deals and their mass dismissal of White House travel office personnel by means of allegedly attempting to create a stand-up FBI case against them came to nothing.

But Clinton's lying about his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky led to his impeachment in 1998. Though not conviction — proving that most presidents can get into trouble on their own without the help of aides and assistants.



Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's Sixth Division are followed by their un-armored, open back truck as they patrol Sunday in Baghdad, Iraq.

Iraqi vice president's brother assassinated

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Gunmen killed the brother of Iraq's Shiite vice president Sunday and a top trade ministry official escaped assassination in another part of the capital, while the death toll in a major truck bombing the day before rose to 30. A U.S. Marine was fatally injured in another bombing.

Ghaleb Abdul-Malek, brother of Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi, died along with his driver when a vehicle pulled alongside them on an bustling Palestine Street about 7:45 a.m. and gunmen inside opened fire. Ghaleb Abdul-Malek was an fourth-rank minister Ibrahim al-Jalali's office, where he served as an adviser, two aides to the vice president said.

Elsewhere, an Iraqi border guard was killed and seven other Iraqi security personnel were wounded when a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle at a checkpoint in Sinjar near the border with Syria. Dr. Fadhil Abdul-Kareem said.

A roadside bomb destroyed one of several oil tanker trucks Sunday on a main road south of Baghdad, sending a fire ball up over the area and killing the two men inside, police Capt. Ibrahim Abdul-Ridha said. A roadside bomb killed a farmer on his tractor and seriously wounded two other civilians in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, police Capt. Laith Mohammed said. Another driver by shooting in the capital killed two construction workers and wounded three.

in a village near Baghdad where Sunnis and Shiites clashed three days ago.

Secular hater appeared to be behind Saturday's brutal truck bombing against Shiite civilians in the farming village of Hawder about 45 miles northeast of Baghdad. The blast occurred about sundown when a bomb hidden in a truck packed with dates exploded in the center of the village. The death toll from the attack rose Sunday to 30, according to Dr. Ahmad Fouad.

Shiite civilians are frequent targets of Sunni extremists who consider members of the majority religious community to be heretics and American collaborators. Iraq's security services are staffed mainly by Shiites and Kurds — the two groups that were suppressed under ousted leader Saddam Hussein but dominate the current government.

A statement posted on an Islamic Web site claimed responsibility for the slaying of the vice president's brother in the name of al-Qaida in Iraq. The claim could not be verified. There was no claim for the attack on the trade ministry official.

Ghaleb Abdul-Malek's brother is one of Iraq's two vice presidents — one a Sunni and the other a Shiite — and the killing appears part of an escalating campaign of violence between members of the rival religious communities.

Later Sunday, police found the bodies of 11 unidentified men — blindfolded, hands bound

and with guns in the head — in a village near Baghdad where Sunnis and Shiites clashed three days ago.

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in a statement Sunday, the Iraqi Islamic Party, a mostly Sunni Arab group, condemned the Hawder bombing, saying such, bloodshed could trigger sectarian civil war. But the statement also alleged that a radical Shiite militia had been staging attacks against Sunnis in the same area.

The Iraqi Islamic Party condemns these acts and calls for national dialogue to thwart the attempts to cause sedition," the statement said.

Iraqis flee country due to violence

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — First, gunshots burst into Baghdad Tamim's home, but his grand, terrified his wife and three daughters and stole appliances. Later, kidnappers held his brother until the family paid \$20,000. When gunfire blew out Tamim's windows, that was the last straw.



Iraqi people line up at a checkpoint Sunday in Mosul, Iraq. Government officials say they have no figures on the number of Iraqis who have fled since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. But the former minister of migration, Pascale Warda, said she hears of people streaming out of the country almost daily.

The 40-year-old businessman made up his family and fled the southern city of Basra to the United Arab Emirates, joining an exodus of educated and affluent Iraqis driven out by instability and violence as the war rebuilding home-land desperately needs their skills.

Essential for career advancement — or as part of a campaign by the predominantly Sunni Arab insurgency to weaken Iraq's intellectual power.

"Even if I'm a doctor on earth, I still have my country," he said by phone during a business trip to Mosul in northern Iraq. "But what are we supposed to do? There is no strong government here. How can I come back and work if no one is capable of defending me?"

Many Iraqis scientists and university professors who stay have become targets, either because they belonged to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party — once

"There are almost no more qualified people in Basra," said Tamim, who returned to Baghdad last August, only to be forced to flee without his family for a short business trip. "Any successful engineer, doctor or business man is now abroad. All this is because of the negative impact on Iraq."

Successful Iraqis want to invest their money where there is peace and stability, he said.

Government officials say they have no figures on the number of Iraqis who have fled since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. But the former minister of migration, Pascale Warda, said she hears of people leaving almost daily.

Up to 800,000 Iraqis are believed to be living in Jordan — many of them since the conflict began. Thousands more have moved to Syria, the United Arab Emirates and other Arab countries. For the super-rich London sector, the United States is an option, but it just destroys the country. It has a very negative effect on the situation in Iraq and on the country's ability to improve," said Warda, who served in the interim government of Ayad Allawi, which left office in April.

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NATION

Wilma swamps hospitals

PLANTATION, Fla. (AP) — A week after Hurricane Wilma, more than 1 million Florida homes are still without power and many doctors' offices remain closed, leaving hospitals crisscrossed as the only source of medical care in some communities.

"I was out getting regular doctors on the phone. You can't get anything filled," said Jim Swett, 70, the owner of five hours at one emergency room and finally left a hospital for a back problem he had aggravated while cleaning his mother's yard.

Swett said he tried another hospital, where disaster teams set up tents to handle emergency patients, but he saw a sign that said "no admittance." To help ease the medical crisis, the Federal Emergency Management Agency set up disaster medical assistance teams of four people to help people in emergency rooms, processing forms for those who are left out of an routine medical care.

The state's Regional Medical Center in Plantation, a 400-bed hospital, is still open, but only for emergency patients, including those who arrived on Sunday morning after spending Thursday in the hospital. It had twice its normal number of staff, including 1,000 nurses and 1,500 other staff.



Registered Nurse Valerie Cottingham, right, of Orange County, Calif., listens to Bernard Rosen, 87, of Sunlife, Fla., as she cleans his wound at a Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) tent Sunday, outside the Westside Regional Medical Center in Plantation, Fla.

"They were being overrun," said Bill Wallace, who is commanding a team of 35 doctors, nurses and others working out of tents set up in the hospital's parking lot.

Wilma was the eighth hurricane to strike on state's Florida in 2005. The storm killed 21 people in the state after battering Louisiana, Haiti and Mexico with strong winds and rain, and then tearing across the Gulf and Florida's southern peninsula. In all, 38 deaths were blamed on the hurricane.

Sunday afternoon, state officials said about 2,000 people remained in Florida's emergency shelters, most in Palm Beach and Broward counties. Public schools in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties remained closed.

Florida Power & Light, the state's largest electric utility, said some areas might not get their power back until Nov. 22, two days before Thanksgiving.

CUTTING BACK

Greyhound eliminates stops in struggle to restructure

Chicago Tribune

HOWELL, Mich. — The bus won't stop here anymore. Nor will it stop at 41 other towns and small cities, mostly in the Midwest, among the more than 850 where bus stops have already been closed by Greyhound Lines Inc. in the past 15 months.

Almost lost in the national transportation upheaval — historically high gasoline prices, four major airlines in bankruptcy, the future of Amtrak rail service again in doubt and a growing debate about transportation alternatives — is the restructuring of the nation's dominant long-haul bus carrier.

By the time Greyhound completes redefining its bus network, probably by the beginning of the new year, the elimination of what is expected to be more than 1,000 bus stops will substantially reduce a public transportation alternative and reaffirm the American reality that the car is king.

In many isolated areas of the country, if you are elderly or disabled or if you don't have a car, you could be in trouble, economists and transportation experts say.

"The United States is a very difficult place not to have a car," said Stephen Weller, an economist at the Center for the Study

of Rural America, a division of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, Mo. "This is not a liberal or conservative argument. This is the economics of geography." said Weller, and there is a presumption that someone out there will have a car for you. For those who don't have a car, they're going to have to quickly find out who does.

The presumption that someone will be there to help is being put to the test in ways that are not always apparent to the majority of working Americans.

For Greyhound, which began its service in 1914 transporting miners in northern Minnesota, serving small isolated communities is an unworkable business model. Greyhound buses carried about 21 million people in 2004, according to company figures, but passenger traffic continues to fall and small stops are impractical.

Now the company is concentrating on trips of 450 miles or less, with fewer stops along the way. The last stop in cutbacks is to be made in the midwest states.

"The next step in improving our passenger network and service to the majority of our customers," reads Greyhound's budgeted memo taped to the front door of the Howell bus stop, "was location has been selected for elimination."

Anna Polmston, a spokeswoman for Dallas-based Greyhound, said it is "not very easy to look people in the eye and say 'I'm sorry, we're no longer serving this location,' but we've got to do what is best."

What happens to the minority of former Greyhound customers in places like Howell and other isolated communities spread across 41 affected states so far is the challenge for local transportation officials like David Linkz, the director of the Livingston Essential Transportation Service in Howell. The bus stop, located next to a small airport, is little more than the green bench and a black mailbox with a metal Greyhound sign attached to it.

The location of the stop, though, was deliberate, marrying air and bus transportation.

"This is disheartening because we're 25 miles to East Lansing and 50 miles to Southfield," Linkz said, referring to the next closest bus stops.

"There are county residents who have no access. ... The bus service gap is being filled in some states, such as Wyoming, by some regional and private bus lines. But there is no logical or quickly available transportation alternative for many isolated communities because the demand is comprised of a relatively thin slice of society — non-drivers."

Race to secure nation's transportation network

After a series of terrorist attacks on transportation networks around the world, the U.S. has set deadlines to make the U.S. system less vulnerable to threats. A sampling of some projects that have been completed on schedule.

DEADLINE MET	PROJECT COMPLETED	DEADLINE MET	PROJECT COMPLETED
Jan. 18: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports	Nov. 19: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports
Dec. 31: All major airports	All major airports	April 9: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports
July 1: Ships and ports	Ships and ports	April 1: National Transportation Security plan	National Transportation Security plan
Feb. 15: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports	March 17: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports
Aug. 1: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports	Aug. 1: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports

TERMINAL ATTACKS ON TRANSPORTATION

Sept. 11: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports	Oct. 6: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports
Dec. 22: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports	March 11: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports
July 7: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports	Aug. 24: 100% of major airports	100% of major airports

Government misses dozens of security deadlines since Sept. 11

WASHINGTON, AP — The Bush administration has missed dozens of deadlines set by Congress after the Sept. 11 attacks for developing ways to protect airplanes, ships and railways from terrorists.

A plan to defend ships and ports from attacks six months overdue. Rules to protect air cargo from terrorists two months late. A study on the cost of giving anti-terrorism training to federal law enforcement officers who fly commercially was supposed to be done three years ago.

"The incompetence that we normally saw with FEMA leadership appears to exist throughout the Homeland Security Department," said Mississippi Rep. Bonnie G. Thompson, top Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee. "Our nation is still vulnerable."

Congress must share the blame for the department's sluggishness in protecting commerce and travel from terrorists, according to other observers. Lawmakers piled on deadlines for reports, plans and regulations while the department, created after the 2001 attacks, had to integrate 22 agencies with 170,000 workers and cope with terrorist threats and hurricanes.

Those deadlines, sometimes for minor projects, distract the department from putting in place the most important security measures, experts say. The Transportation Security Administration, for example, struggled to try to meet a Feb. 15 deadline to ban luggage from airplanes, a precaution that does little to protect airlines, they say.

"You have to ability to prioritize and get something like that, and it's going to take up all your time," said Dan Prieto, homeland security expert with Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "The urgent becomes the enemy of the important."

Thompson said the government has yet to develop a comprehensive plan to protect roads, bridges, tunnels, power plants, pipelines and dams. He said a broad plan to protect levees and dams might have helped prevent the New Orleans levees from being breached.

Bill would make handwashing mandatory

The Washington Post

Many kids grow up learning they cannot come to the dinner table until they've washed their hands.

But in the rush of a school day, not only is hand-washing not mandated, it often is not even possible.

A bill introduced this month by Illinois state Rep. Mary Flowers (D) would change that. Her legislation, to be voted on next session, would mandate that every student washes or otherwise sanitizes their hands before eating lunch at school.

"When you think about all the things your hands touch — before you even enter a room, you touch a doorknob that's been touched by hundreds of thousands of people before and who knows when it's been washed," said Flowers, who represents the southwest side of Chicago.

Students are playing volleyball, football and basketball between classes without washing their hands either.

Flowers said she is being filled in some states, such as Wyoming, by some regional and private bus lines. But there is no logical or quickly available transportation alternative for many isolated communities because the demand is comprised of a relatively thin slice of society — non-drivers.

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Halloween gives New Orleans a chance to reclaim its mojo

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The margarita Diane Spicler slips during her nocturnal masquerade on Bourbon Street perfectly matches the glow-in-the-dark green of her hideous face, air-brushed back the French Quarter's reptilian scales and skeletal hollows.

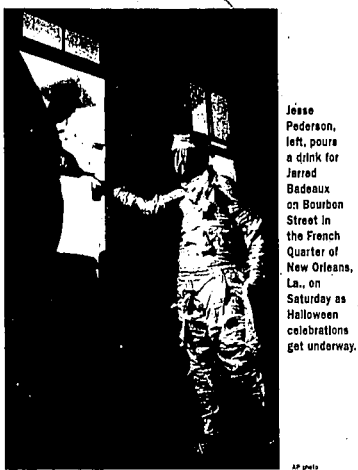
Is she a radioactive ghoul? An alien sea serpent?
"It somebody asks me, I just tell 'em I'm Katrina," the 57-year-old New Orleans accountant says, glancing through ghostly pale contact lenses beneath hair molded into spikes. "Doesn't it look mean and freaky?"

Two months after the monster hurricane's horrifying rampage, Halloween has brought back the French Quarter's thirst for theatrical horror and debauchery, its Mardi Gouh mojo in the heart of a city long known for its reverence for voodoo and Anne Rice's gloriously gothic vampire novels.

"Halloween is the best kept local secret. It's shoulder-to-shoulder, just like Mardi Gras, but everybody's in costume," Spicler said late Saturday, the spooky celebration in full swing two days early. "It's the first big, fun drinking night since the hurricane."

Much of New Orleans remains a ghost town, but the French Quarter teems with wicked witches and punks in purple velvet. Elvis struts the sidewalks, flanked by Sonny and Marilyn. Maura, an Antiochian blonde's skimpy cup outfit flirts with indecent exposure. Others share the Katrina theme, dressing as discarded refrigerator doors and blue-tipped wigs, a plaid skirt that is too

"Enough clean-up — time for a drink!" says Bobby Hughes, 23, a Loyola University graduate student sporting a blue-pig-tailed wig, a plaid skirt that is too



Jesse Pederson, left, pours a drink for Jarrod Badeaux on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans, La., on Saturday as Halloween celebrations got underway.

short on his 6-foot-6 frame, and a blouse knotted above his waist that bares traces of a red bra.

"Herlga's my name tonight," says Hughes, joined by girlfriend Kot McKibben, a "love bug" with floppy antenna, leather boots, butterfly wings and luzzy slippers. "You're hot!" a passing man tells Hughes.

Spurred the hunt of Katrina's wrath and the flooding that followed when levees ruptured, the French Quarter has steadily revived since reopening a month ago. Its bars, restaurants and T-shirt shops have been kept afloat by a transient stream of volunteers and journalists.

Flash cans overflow with discarded beer cups. Shins stick to sidewalks lacquered in spilled liquor. Outside the Bourbon Street Blues Company, a woman lifts her shirt in return for a shower of beads tossed from the balcony.

"Different parts of the city, the Garden District and everything, are not the same at all," said Dawn Carroll, 33, dressed as a "lost time" character from the sitcom "Home Improvement," only with a naughtily hot belt. "This makes you think that it's going to come back. It'll be back full force."

The Big Easy embraces death, ghosts, struggles with magnitude of Katrina

By Mark Washburn
Knight Ridder News Service

NEW ORLEANS — This is a ghost town. Always has been. Always will be. New Orleans is bewitched of being the most haunted town in America. It obsesses on death. It venerates voodoo, serenades caskets with jazz on the way to vast necropolises and sings about its prehistoric ruins, the Octonian Mistress and Sultan of Dauphine Street among them, on tours of the city's real-life haunted houses.

Now, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and a flood that killed more than 1,000, the question arises: How will a city with a passion for the macabre incorporate the tragedy in the collective culture?

"New Orleans has always had this intense spiritual life," said Martha Ward, a research professor of anthropology and urban studies at the University of New Orleans.

It's not uncommon for people in New Orleans to casually acknowledge a ghostly presence in their homes, Ward said. Even the signs, the city's long-suffering football team, has an after-worldly theme.

Spiritualism, Ward said, is deeply ingrained in the soul of New Orleans, rooted in the suffering tied to the swampy climate and slavery.

Even voodoo, which would be taken as an eccentric oddity in most places, has a large margin of mainstream respect, reflecting the city's Afro-Caribbean origins.

"Voodoo took care of poor people in all areas of love, luck and health," said Ward, the author of the definitive biography of Marie Laveau, the 19th-century voodoo queen.

Complicating the suffering now is the city's process the sorrow, its famed cemeteries — in which people are buried above-ground, often in ornate generational crypts, because of the high water table — are closed while hurricane damage is repaired. And identifying and processing hurricane victims remains a going slowly.

"It's been chronic for 300 years that the city couldn't bury its dead," said Ward, citing mass graves associated with earlier tragedies.

Despite its image as a party town, New Orleans' heritage is one of calamity. For mass casualties, Katrina will be lucky to crack the city's Top 10 of disasters.

The Yellow Fever epidemic of 1853 killed more than 8,000

people. Another outbreak in 1878 claimed at least 4,000. Fires, mosquitoes and storms have all proved catastrophic through the centuries.

Forests of death from Katrina now permeate the city. Symbols from search-and-rescue teams are painted on doors or crushed houses. "There are tons of hurricane-associated deaths," Ward said. "And now marks on houses: 'two dead.'"

Ghost reports aren't necessarily a local phenomenon. A group of California National Guardsmen went in after the hurricane reported that their makeshift quarters at Sophie B. Wright Middle School in the Garden District.

"I was in my sleeping bag and I opened my eyes and in the doorway was a little girl," Sgt. Robin Hairston told KPX-TV of San Francisco. "It wasn't my imagination."

The ghosts of the French Quarter seem to have survived. Their haunts, on the city's highest ground, sustained little damage.

"They're celebrities here, one of the attractions of Louisiana's \$5 billion tourism industry, and their legends are tended by guides."

What we perceive as ghosts may be a collection of energy imposed on a physical space at the time of death, said Phillip Landry, a spiritualist who conducts ghost tours of the French Quarter.

Among his stops is the house at 732 Royal, where on cold nights the apparition of the Octonian Mistress is said to

materialize on the roof. It's the very spot where a Creole woman was said to have frozen to death in 1834, trying to prove her love to her master by spending the night outside naked.

Landry also shows visitors the Wyndham Bourbon Orleans Hotel, rated the most-haunted lodge in town, with 17 ghosts, most of whom are playful children.

Closed for two months because of flood damage to utilities, the hotel should reopen by Nov. 1, said Dennis Pearce, the general manager.

Pearce has been with the hotel only a month and said he hadn't met any ghosts.

Nearly is one of the city's most notorious sites, a mansion where authorities discovered a torture chamber in 1834 used by socialite Delphine Mcarty Lalaurie to sadistically abuse slaves. Lalaurie fled the city; the house is the source of many a strange story.

At 716 Dauphine St., Landry tells about a wealthy sultan who was murdered with his harem and servants in the mid-19th century, possibly by a relative who was reluctant to share an inheritance. Residents since have reported a tormented ghost.

Lisa Huber owns the New Orleans Ghost Tour, one of about four companies that cater to tourists' curiosity about cemeteries, spirits and vampires.

"I'm proud of our ghosts and mysticism," said Huber, who served about 150 tourists a day before Katrina but sees only about five a day now.

Boy trumpeter from New Orleans is star of biggest Halloween event

NEW YORK (AP) — The leader of New York's annual Halloween parade will not be a drag queen on roller skates. It will not be a giant caricature of President Bush. It will not be a naked man covered in glitter.

The star will be a little trumpeter from New Orleans — 10-year-old Glenn Hall III, whose house and horn were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In New York, he got a new trumpet that he will play Monday in what is billed as the country's biggest public Halloween event.

Glenn's role as grand marshal is part of a New Orleans theme at Monday's parade, which takes place in New York's Greenwich Village. The parade's Sept. 11 — as it was in 2001 after the Sept. 11 — is a phoenix rising from its ashes.

The phoenix will rise from a traditional New Orleans jazz funeral, with displaced Katrina survivors dancing behind a coffin in both grief and joy de vivre.

"The dancing is to raise the spirits, to bring them back. And the music is a cry for the people who died," said New Orleans rapper Allen Poyche, 22, who will be dancing in the parade. On his right arm, he has a tattoo that reads "Ninth Ward" — the neighborhood where his family's home was submerged under 27 feet of water.

Glenn flew to New York last week with his 6-year-old sister, Jazz, their parents, grandmother and cousin. All of them had been living in Memphis after the hurricane destroyed their home. Glenn, a son of a handyman, was given the new trumpet last week at the Manhattan-based Jazz Foundation.

"I love it. It's got more sound, smoother pistons, a softer mouthpiece than my old one," said Glenn, fingering the silver Paris-made trumpet donated by the Jazz Foundation.

He'll be joined by the Hot 10 Jazz Band — 10 of the edgiest street musicians in New Orleans, whose instruments also were donated through the Jazz



Ten-year-old Glenn Hall III, center, from New Orleans, is hugged by his father Glenn Hall Jr., left, sister Jazz, background center, and mother Patrice as they walk down 48th Street in Manhattan, while taking a break from his trumpet practice at The Jazz Foundation in New York City on Friday. Glenn will be the grand marshal of New York's Village Halloween Parade today.

foundation. "Members of the Hot 10 band were dispersed all over the country, but the Halloween parade reunited them. When this band comes down the street and they're playing their music, it's going to move energy and spirit. People are going to feel the mourning that needs to be done for New Orleans."

pieces, they'll spread all over the parade, director Lesame Fleming said. "But on the night of Halloween, we'll all come together. When this band comes down the street and they're playing their music, it's going to move energy and spirit. People are going to feel the mourning that needs to be done for New Orleans."



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OTHER VIEWS

Idahoans deserve real answers on gas prices

In a rural state with long stretches of highway and scant public transportation, paying extra for a gallon of gas is a big deal.

It's fun to ask why Idahoans pay 10 cents more per gallon than consumers nationwide. It keeps up, it's reasonable to expect the attorney general to demand answers.

Walden joined 42 other attorneys general, demanding information from oil companies about price increases in the wake of Katrina, said David High, who heads Walden's Consumer Protection Unit. Walden's office has seen no evidence of price fixing or price gouging, but it still reviews the industry's data.

Their view: This guest editorial from the Idaho Statesman says Idaho's slow decline in gas prices warrants state investigations.

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

Gas prices, which soared to record highs in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, have dropped by about 40 cents nationally in the past three weeks. Idaho's average price has fallen by only 14 cents.

AAA Idaho said Wednesday national average gas prices are \$2.97 per gallon, tumbling two cents overnight, while the Idaho average remained at \$2.77, said Dave Carlson, AAA Idaho director of public and government affairs.

Idaho tanks No. 1 on an annual list of only five states. New York and California have higher gas prices.

Idahoans deserve to know why.

Wholesalers are charging Idaho retailers more for the gas, they sell. Idaho retailers get gasoline from Utah and Wyoming, and since retail prices in both of those states also exceed the national average, that suggests a link to wholesalers, Carlson said.

Higher wholesale costs do not automatically equate to rising prices. Operating costs at retailers, or at the Chevron Oil owned pipeline running from Salt Lake City to Idaho, could drive up wholesale prices, Carlson said. "We're asking a lot more questions obviously than we

can deliver answers on," Carlson said Wednesday.

That's where Attorney General Lawrence Wasden may have to step in — on behalf of everyone who drives a car or buys products shipped across Idaho highways.

Walden shouldn't be bashful about asking follow-up questions. If Idaho prices remain well above the national average come Thanksgiving, nearly three months after Katrina, and two months after prices started plummeling nationwide — it's time to investigate.

Paying 10 cents a gallon adds up. When you're putting 15 gallons in the tank, you're paying an additional \$2.70.

It's little comfort that Idaho prices are historically a few cents above the national average because one pipeline serves much of the state. That may explain the usual seven- to 10-cent gap, but not 10 cents.

The attorney general is, after all, the people's lawyer. Nowhere is this more true than on an issue that affects every consumer.

Rove: Still master of escape

Dick Cheney may have been a nontraditional vice presidential pick. But the indictment of Lewis Laby reflects the fact that he has not been a traditional vice presidential role: attacking political rivals.

And though Karl Rove has at least temporarily escaped charges in a probe stemming from the leak of a CIA agent's name, the entire matter has long sounded like an operation from the playbook of the White House strategists used in past campaigns, including those he ran for President Bush.

CARL P. LEIBSDORF

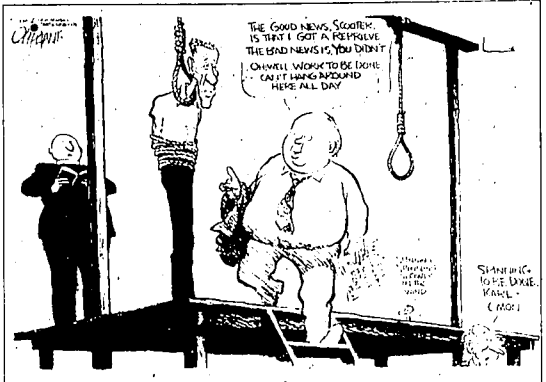
The Rove formula: Win at all costs. It's prompted sharp attacks against Bush foes like Sens. John McCain and John Kerry, former Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Moshbacher and John Weaver, later an adviser to McCain.

But the man who holds the somewhat misleading title of deputy chief of staff has often avoided direct responsibility and now may have avoided something even worse — a criminal charge.

In this case, the target was former Ambassador Joseph Wilson. The treason: his role as a critic of a key rationale for Bush's decision to attack Iraq, the suggestion that Saddam Hussein was seeking nuclear weapons.

Cheney, of course, was one of the main advocates of the attack that overthrew Saddam. His questions about reports that the Iraq despite had such nuclear material from Niger apparently played a role in triggering Wilson's mission to the African nation.

What apparently set off the White House's attack on Wilson is his teasingly public role, culminating with a 2003 article in The New York Times that directly challenged the claim about Saddam and nuclear



weapons.

In the days after his publication, both Laby and Rove played an active role in seeking to underwrite Wilson's credibility by suggesting to reporters that, because of his wife's role in the CIA, his criticism was part of an ongoing effort by the intelligence agency against the White House.

The formal charges against Laby stem from his efforts to spread word of Wilson's conversion, via his wife, to the CIA.

When asked about this, the indictment said, he falsely testified that he got the information from reporters in what may have been an effort to shield the vice president from direct involvement in the effort to discredit Wilson.

Still, it's been evident that Cheney, whom Bush picked primarily for his vast governmental experience, is no slouch in making pointed charges against political rivals. It's a role many past vice presidents and vice presidential candidates have played.

Last year, he cut off the star by suggesting that, if Kerry beat Bush, the nation would face an increased risk of terrorist attacks.

As for Rove, he has long been known for the hard-nosed politics he learned as an ally of the late Lee Atwater in Young Republican politics three decades ago.

As he worked his way up the political ladder, controversy has accompanied the man whose mastery of political strategy helped him become one of the most powerful White House aides in history.

An early incident was the hugging of his office during Bill Clements' 1986 gubernatorial campaign, which some foes alleged he did himself. Another was his ouster from the 1992 campaign of Bush's father, when he was blamed for a leak aimed at Moshbacher.

In the late 1980s, Rove had ties to an FBI probe of top Democrats that led to the conviction of three aides to Agriculture Commissioner Hightower. Rove, who was advising his Republican rival, Rick Perry, now the state's governor, denied any direct role in the incident, which contributed to Hightower's 1990 defeat.

In 2000 and 2004, it was widely believed Rove had ties to "independent" efforts aimed at Bush rivals, but he

denied it and nothing was proved.

In 2000, Weaver accused Rove of involvement in the anonymous phone calls during the crisis at South Carolina primary that falsely accused McCain, who adopted a child from Bangladesh, of having fathered an illegitimate black child. Later, some close Rove allies were involved in misleading ads against the senator's environmental record.

In 2004, the issue was the so-called "Swift Boat" ads, sponsored by longtime GOP contributors, which accused Kerry of exaggerating his claims of heroism during the Vietnam War.

But Rove has always managed to deflect criticism and avoid legal difficulty. The fact that he has so far escaped indictment after a lengthy and intensive probe suggests he may do so again.

Carl P. Leibsdorf is the Dallas Morning News' Texas columnist, syndicated by Longform. GOP contributors, which accused Kerry of exaggerating his claims of heroism during the Vietnam War.

Iraq 'realism' a cold-blooded sham

Now that Cindy Sheehan turns out to be a disaster for the anti-war movement — most Americans not about to follow her — a left-wing radical who insists that we are in Iraq for reasons of theft, oppression and empire — a new spokesman is needed. I'll serve in the opposition camp. I would want a deeply patriotic, highly intelligent, distinguished establishment figure. I would want Brent Scowcroft.



trademark of this nation's most doctrinaire foreign policy "realists." Realism is the billboard theory of foreign policy. It's not a real word. It's a running a foreign country. Whether it is Mother Teresa or the Assad family gangsters in Syria, you care only about their external actions, not how they treat their own people.

Realists prize stability above all, and there is nothing more stable than a ruthlessly efficient dictatorship, which is why Scowcroft is the man who six months after Tiananmen Square toasted those who ordered the massacre: who, as the world celebrates the Beirut Spring that ended the Syrian occupation from Lebanon, sees not liberation but possible instability; who can barely conceal a preference for Syria's stabilizing rule.

Even today Scowcroft says, "I didn't think that calling the Soviet Union the 'evil empire' got anybody anywhere." Tell that to NATO, Sharanovsky and other Soviet dissidents for whom that declaration of moral — beyond geopolitical — purpose was electrifying, and helped galvanize the dissident movements that

ultimately brought down the Soviet empire.

It was not brought down by diplomacy and arms control, the preferred real means for dealing with the Soviet Union. It was brought down by indigenous revolutionaries, encouraged and supported by the United States, and unashamedly dedicated not to detente with evil, but its destruction — i.e., regime change.

For realists such as Scowcroft, regime change is the ultimate taboo. Too risky, too dangerous, too unpredictable. "I'm a realist in the sense that I'm a cynic about human nature," he admits. Hence, writes Jeffrey Goldberg, his New York Times chronicler, Scowcroft remains "unmoved by the stirrings of democracy movements in the Middle East."

It is not surprising that Scowcroft, who helped give in Iraq. It's the political shadow of a terrible insurgency, but a society is finding its way to constitutional politics.

Scowcroft is no fool, no naïf, no reckless idealist, as Scowcroft likes to caricature the neo-conservatives he reviles. A renowned scholar on the Middle East, Ajami is a Shiite, fluent in Arabic, who has, incidentally, educated the world about the Arab predicament and Arab dream palaces. Yet having returned from two visits to Iraq in his year, he sports none of Scowcroft's spurs, ostentatious cynicism about human nature, and Iraqi human nature in particular. Instead, Ajami celebrates the carnage of democracy in a place where democracy was outlawed 30 years ago.

has little use for liberty and prefers other things. The insurgency is, on the contrary, determined (Sunnite) minority desperate to maintain not only its own freedom but its previous dominion over the other 80 percent of the population struggling for theirs.

These others — the overwhelming majority of Iraqis — people — may repeatedly give every indication of wanting their newfound freedom, voting in two elections at the risk of their lives, preparing for a third, writing, and ratifying a constitution granting more freedoms than exist in any country in the entire Arab Middle East. The secret is out," says Fouad Ajami. "There is something deep unfolding in Iraq. It's the political shadow of a terrible insurgency, but a society is finding its way to constitutional politics."

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LETTER

Individual can make a difference in city hall

Since I learned of my intention to run for the Twin Falls City Council last year, I have been asked why I would want to do that. There's a perception in the public's mind that our person can't make a difference. I thought that was so, I wouldn't be running for City Council.

Throughout my time being involved in many community boards and activities, I have seen how positive change can happen. We were able to build a skate park, and a playground, and a new animal shelter. We were able to secure ownership of Auger Falls for the benefit of today's families, and the generations of the future.

Change can happen, and it happens with our small step after another through the cooperation of citizens throughout our community. I am proud to be a part of those citizen coalitions and partnerships that work behind the scenes for the benefit of us all. I want to continue those partnerships and build new ones as your Twin Falls City Council member for Seat 5.

From my conversations with our fellow citizens in Twin Falls, I sincerely believe that there is a momentum building in our community as people are coming to expect more out of our elected leaders. Many citizens feel they are disenfranchised from the community, that their voices and concerns are not

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being listened to, that you can't change the system. I want to challenge those beliefs by using my seat on the council as a sounding board for those people who feel that no one listens, and to look at every aspect of city government to see if it is up to meeting our city's needs today and tomorrow.

The city of Twin Falls needs to grow, but we need to find ways to keep the sense of community that has brought and keeps most of us here. Growth does not need to be a dirty word. Without growth, our community will surely die — perhaps slowly, perhaps quickly. Growth, like a teenager, needs to be dealt with and not ignored. By using guides from the past, including "The Center and Edge" study and through our comprehensive plan, through a review and potential update of our current city code book, and by listening to all of our citizens, we can find the balance between growth and a community of which we can be proud.

SHIRLEY OLSEN-FRANK
Twin Falls

Hagel leads a new charge for the GOP

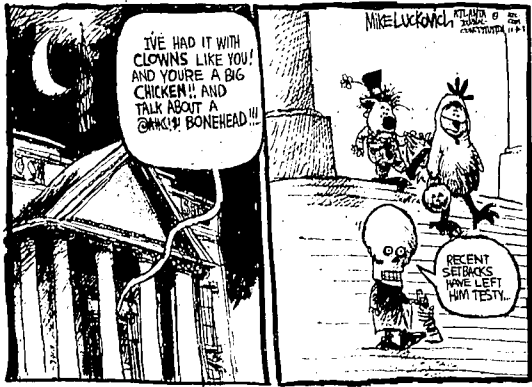
Last week, as a federal grand jury neared the end of its investigation of senior officials in the Bush White House, Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska quietly introduced two far-reaching pieces of legislation dealing with such serious national problems as immigration, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.



DAVID BRODER

It may have been just a coincidence that the Nebraska Republican moved to raise his profile on these topics just as special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald was winding up his two-year examination of leaks from the president's and vice president's staff of the identity of a covert CIA operative. But if you are looking for signs of the changing political environment in Washington and the Republican Party, Hagel's Halloween-festooned effort is the right place to begin.

A reflective student of political trends, here and abroad, as well as a skilled politician who has won two Senate terms without breaking a sweat, Hagel, 59, is one of many Republicans weighing the odds for the 2008 presi-



dential contest. Like such colleagues as George Allen of Virginia and Sam Brownback of Kansas, or such governors as Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, Hagel barely registers in the national polls because he is largely unknown outside his home state.

As he readily acknowledged in an interview, his friend John McCain, the man he supported for the nomination in 2000, is far out front in popular support, thanks to the enduring

legency of that earlier campaign. But McCain carries the scars of that bruising primary battle against Bush in 2000, and his reputation as a maverick makes him perhaps more appealing to independents and Democrats than to Republicans. McCain will also be 71 when 2008 rolls around.

As Hagel said, "No one knows what the country — or the party — will be looking for when we get ready to choose a new president."

What is clear is that the Bush White House would be

unlikely to view Hagel as its preferred successor. His loyalty to the president is measured by his 94 percent support score on roll-call votes in 2004, two points higher than that of Majority Leader Bill Frist in the Congressional Quarterly ratings.

But he has dissented publicly on major issues. While he voted to authorize the use of force in Iraq, he has been strongly critical of the prewar intelligence, the military planning and the management of the war. On the president's

landmark initiative to add prescription drugs to Medicare, Hagel voted no, arguing that the cost of the new entitlement had not been accurately estimated or adequately financed.

A classic business-oriented conservative, with limited liking for the social issues of the religious right, Hagel argues that the preoccupation with "satisfying the base" has meant, "no question, the Republican Party has become captive to extreme right-wingers."

Were Bush still riding high, were the Karl Rove strategy of making every possible vote on the right the accepted wisdom for 2008, Hagel's views might well be regarded as heresy.

But he thinks — and he has lots of company among independent pollsters and operatives — that the public mood is shifting and there is a growing demand for what he calls "responsible government."

That's not easily defined, but one characteristic, he says, is clearly the search for consensus that commands more than a partisan 51 percent majority.

It also means stepping up to the largest challenges, rather than postponing or finessing them.

In the area of entitlements, Hagel wants to drum home the message that the three big ones — Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid

— represent a \$42 trillion unfunded commitment over the next 75 years — something that threatens the well-being of more than two generations.

Rather than offering patchwork remedies, Hagel and Rep. John Tanner, a Tennessee Democrat, are sponsoring legislation to create a small, bipartisan commission to look at the challenge in its entirety. The makeup of such a group will be a topic when Hagel meets this week for one of his periodic sessions with retiring Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

On immigration, where Hagel teamed in the last Congress with former Democratic leader Tom Daschle, he has a package of proposals addressing border security, employment rights and the integration of undocumented workers and their families into local communities. His bills will likely be on the Senate agenda next year.

Hagel's concepts can sometimes be murky, as when he describes his hopes for a U.N.-sanctioned peace and security conference on Iraq.

But as the post-Bush period of Republican history begins to come into focus, there will be more room for independent thinking of the kind Hagel loves to offer.

David Broder's e-mail address is davidbroder@washpost.com

Senator should take in the aroma near Dnepropetrovsk

After reading Michelle Drompp's article about Larry Craig's latest, it made me wonder: Has he ever driven down the freeway from Jerome to the Highway 93 turn-off to Twin Falls?

I know he does not live here, but maybe he should take a drive around the Magic Valley, especially in the morning.

LINDA MORREY
Jerome

Administration prefers secrecy over disclosure

Can a government be a democratic government if it ignores or conceals wartime information vital to measuring the progress of the war? All wartime information must be available to a democracy of free people, except information that would, in some way, degrade the war effort and/or imperil those who are trying to defeat the enemy.

Surely, disclosing wartime information, such as the number of deaths of those acting against the insurgents on behalf of our forces in Iraq, especially military objectives or imperial lies, our government counts or estimates the number of insurgents and others killed after each incident; therefore, it surely counts the dead that opposed the enemy — not just the American military dead. These include Iraqi military and security personnel, Coalition military and nonmilitary, NGO and contractor personnel, American and Coalition support organizations, members and employees of the Iraqi government, etc.

Yet, the government has not been forthcoming about the accumulative number of deaths of these groups that presumably are as dedicated to defeating the enemy in Iraq as is the government. Government has only disclosed the death count of U.S. soldiers. It ignores or conceals the death count of all others helping our soldiers.

In reply to a request for the number of deaths among these supporters, plus our own military dead, Congressman Simpson provided only the number of our military dead. This number was already known by Americans. He ignored the requested number of other dead. Sen. Crapo replied but only offered a "thank you" for the request, ignoring the subject of the request. Sen. Craig did not respond. Is this representative government? Can an unresponsive government be called a democratic government? A dictatorship tells the masses only what it wants them to know. In an open society, aren't we entitled to know the number of deaths suffered by our friends and supporters who face the same dangers as our military? Aren't our supporters in Iraq as human as us?

Getting in touch

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

Sen. Mike Crapo
In Twin Falls, call or write: Heather Tiel, regional director 202 Falls Ave., Suite 2 202 Falls Ave., Suite 2 Twin Falls, ID 83301 734-2515; Fax 734-30414 In Washington: 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6142 e-mail messages can be sent via [Sen. Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/~crapo](mailto:Sen_Crapo's_home_page_at_www.senate.gov/~crapo)

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathews, regional director 660 Fir Ave., Suite A Twin Falls, ID 83301

Our government claims it wants to bring "freedom and democracy" to Iraq. One of many seriously being wrong is its aggression. But apparently, it does not want the Iraqis, or us, to know how many of their own are dying while helping us acquire and fix our supplies in a democracy. Does this silence promote freedom and democracy? Does it offend these folks who are also opposing the insurgents?

JACK HARTLEY
Twin Falls

Republican leaders take home falling grades

It is time for grading some of the elected officials on their performance during the past year.

George W. Bush: F minus

The war goes on in Iraq with nearly 2,000 U.S. military dead and God knows how many civilians. Response to the hurricanes was dismal and unorganized. It could have been better had the National Guard and their supplies not been in the Middle East. Deficit spending is unbelievably out of control. Perhaps stopping all foreign aid and the war would put funds where they belong on the home front. The inability to keep staff and cabinet indicates that those people could not stand another four years of "Bushism." The rest of his platform has been a dismal failure.

Dick Kempthorne: F

Having checks to his barber bounce indicates he can't balance his checkbook. He has infested the state with incompetent cronies.

The Twin Falls County commissioners: F minus

\$5,000 thrown away and wasted on the Anderson Lumber building fiasco. The property is still for sale, so the money in escrow is a poor excuse for their ineptness. They also said they were uncertain if they could find \$5,000 for the battered women's center, but they came up with \$270,000 for an out-of-state consulting firm

Letters

water out of out drought-stricken aquifer with no return.

DONALD R. NORRIS
Kimberly

Craig proposal isn't smelling reality of dairies

Was there anyone besides myself who thought the headlines in Monday's South Idaho Press very timely? On one side was the city council candidates; on the other side, the headline, "Planners trying to track where manure is spread."

What could have been better was *The Times-News* on Tuesday with the story on Sen. Larry Craig's proposal to exempt large livestock operations from reporting air pollutant data required by federal law. Evidently our dear senator doesn't think manure stinks. He must have gotten used to the smell by hanging around other politicians.

ARDITH LAND Burley

Lanting has qualities to fully serve T.F.

Residents of Twin Falls, if you want a city councilman who:

- Demonstrates fair and objective leadership
- Is experienced in city planning.
- Listens to both sides without a prior agenda.
- Seeks out information on key issues
- And has a progressive vision for the growth and development of Twin Falls,

Emissions from Sempra pose serious threats

I am very concerned with the power plant proposed in Jerome County.

It is my understanding that the proposed power plant will need to burn more than 300 tons of low-sulfur coal an hour 24 hours a day to generate 600 megawatts of electricity. With the mercury, arsenic, cadmium, heavy metals and carcinogenic gases such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide — if not captured in the ash that is to be stored on-site — will go into the atmosphere in the form of steam. This not only can contaminate our air and areas of the prevailing winds to the east but the school districts of Shoshone, Richfield, Dietrich and Carey, putting these communities at high risk. Also, to put this type of facility over our aquifer is asking for contaminated wells. We are also, prone to earthquakes. I do not understand how we can afford pumping millions of gallons of

Then vote for Greg Lanting, Seat 5, on Nov. 8.

IS. He's a first-rate brother, also.

Eileen Lanting Burley

Consensus and listening two strong Johnson traits

David E. Johnson is a great candidate for Twin Falls City Council. He has been a business manager, and he knows how to keep down costs. He knows that government depends on a strong and vital private sector, and he will bring a cost-sensitive approach to city budgets. That's something every community needs.

Dave is a conscientious builder and good listener. He is a good decision-maker who weighs what he hears and considers all sides to various projects.

Dave has lived in Twin Falls since 1979 and is truly a friend to the Magic Valley. He is a proven leader who will help our city grow and prosper.

I am proud to be supporting David E. Johnson for the Twin Falls City Council.

TIM OBENCHAIN Twin Falls

Hall a capable leader ready for City Council

I had the pleasurable experience of associating with Don Hall when the Boys and Girls Club sought to build their current facility on the CSI Campus. I found Don to be an ex-

tremely capable administrator, a gifted communicator, a fair minded decision maker, and perhaps most important, a man of integrity.

Now Don has announced his candidacy for the Twin Falls City Council. I think we as a community have the opportunity to elect a truly outstanding individual who will represent excellently the type of leadership we all desire for our community. Twin Falls is a wonderful place to live and work, but we are undergoing change which comes to every progressive, vibrant community. It becomes critical that we place our future in the hands of people we can trust to make the right decisions for each of us, decisions that will continue to enhance our quality of life.

Don Hall is an individual who can provide this leadership. I urge you to vote for Don Hall and our community.

JERRY MEYERHOFFER Twin Falls

(Editor's note: Jerry Meyerhoffer is the president emeritus of the College of Southern Idaho.)

Defenders of prey won't get this vote

There probably aren't very many people who care, but let it be known that I will vote to oust any incumbent council person running for re-election who voted to pass that stupid "pay for your gas before you pump it" ordinance.

Jim
Twin Falls

Can We Help You With Your Home Improvements?

You have questions, We have answers!

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& Flooring

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WORLD

UNICEF: Thousands more may die

Death toll from Pakistani quake could rise dramatically

MUZAFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Thousands of people could die unnecessarily from disease, diarrhea and untreated injuries if a disaster-ready relief team doesn't help quake-ravaged Pakistan, UNICEF's chief warned during a helicopter tour of the region Sunday.

Ann Veneman said the window of opportunity to act is closing, with winter rolling rapidly toward the unrelenting Himalayan mountains. Forecasters are predicting a colder than usual winter, with up to 17 feet of snow in some places. Relief officials say some 100,000 quake survivors could face the frigid weather with absolutely no shelter.

The fear is that we could lose thousands of people additionally to diarrhea, disease and injuries that are not treated," Veneman told. The Associated Press in an interview during the helicopter tour. "It's absolutely urgent that we get in and get it as possible. This is an area that will get much colder as the winter comes and the people are going to need shelter and blankets."

Some 80,000 people are believed to have died in the 7.6-magnitude quake on Oct. 8, and 3.1 million have been left homeless. Half the victims are believed to be children, according to UNICEF.

Despite the warnings of a looming calamity, the United Nations has had difficulty raising money for the quake



UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman, left, visits a classroom in a makeshift tent after a school was destroyed by a massive Oct. 8 earthquake in Garhi Habibullah near Muzafarabad, capital of Pakistani Kashmir on Sunday.

victims. As of Friday, it had received just 20 percent of the \$750 million it needs for the next six months. Officials have warned that the shortfall could force U.S. helicopters to stop flying as early as this week.

UNICEF controls \$62 million of the aid pledge, but has so far received just \$1.5 million. Veneman, a former secretary of agriculture in the Bush administration, joined a chorus of voices calling on the world to act.

"Without urgent action, large numbers of children could be

needlessly," she said, adding that she believed that aid has been slower to arrive because of the many natural calamities over the past year, including last December's tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.

"We've had disaster after disaster after disaster this year. The media hasn't given it as much attention," she said, expressing hope that funding would come through before winter.

Zohaida Iqbal, Pakistan's minister of social welfare who accompanied Veneman on the

trip, said the tragedy was unavoidable, but she called the current crisis a test of the world's humanity.

"The earthquake was a natural calamity that nobody could do anything about, but if these people are allowed to die now, that would be more of a tragedy," she said. "It will be on the consciences of many people and many governments forever."

Among the urgent needs: 60,000 tents to house the homeless and an equal number of latrines. According to UNICEF, communicable diseases are increasing by 10 fold daily in some areas. It said more than 1,500 tons of human waste is entering the environment each day because of the 4 million people who must go to the bathroom out of doors — a huge health risk in the coming weeks and months.

Veneman flew over the flattened northwest town of Balakot before, landing at a U.S.-supported relief camp in Garhi Habibullah, where 2,300 survivors have taken shelter at one temporary classroom, girls sang to her while a boy nearby drew pictures of his former house with crayons.

"It's devastating to see ... all the buildings that have fallen down, to see people's lives completely shattered, to see a tent next to a house that was there," Veneman said.

U.S. soldiers charged in assault of detainees

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Two U.S. soldiers have been charged with assault for allegedly punching and kicking the chest, shoulders and stomach at a military base in Afghanistan, the military said Sunday.

The announcement came 10 days after the military launched an investigation into television footage purportedly showing a group of U.S. soldiers beating the bodies of two dead Taliban fighters.

The charges against the two soldiers include conspiracy to maltreat, assault and dereliction of duty. The allegations, if substantiated, could lead to disciplinary action, the statement said, adding that neither detainee required medical attention.

The military did not say when the soldiers were charged.

Military spokesman Lt. Col.

lery O'Hara said the two soldiers were still in Afghanistan "performing their primary duties, but they have nothing to do with detained individuals."

The alleged assault occurred at a base in southern Buzurg province in early July, O'Hara said.

One of the two detainees has since been released, while the other is being held at Bagram, the U.S. military's headquarters in Afghanistan, about 20 miles north of the capital, Kabul, he said.

O'Hara said military regulations prevented him from identifying the two detainees or elaborating on why they were detained.

It was not clear if the latest abuse allegation would cause an outcry here. Mistreatment of detainees by Afghan police and Afghan prison guards is not unusual, according to human rights advocates.

"The command remains committed to investigate all allegations of misconduct and will hold individuals responsible for their actions consistent with U.S. military law," Brig. Gen. Jack Sterling, a deputy coalition commander, was quoted as saying in the statement announcing the charges.

Attempts to reach Afghan government officials Sunday for comment were not successful.

The last allegation of military abuse here, the alleged burning of the two Taliban bodies on Oct. 1, was condemned by President Hamid Karzai. The government ordered an independent inquiry and called for the perpetrators to be severely punished if found guilty.

Creation of corpses is banned in Islam. Some Muslim clerics warned of a possible violent anti-American backlash after news of the alleged desecration broke, but so far no demonstrations have occurred.

The may be partially because the video of the alleged act has not been broadcast in Afghanistan and because the burned bodies were purported to be those of two members of the Taliban, a rebel group accused of committing widespread abuses itself.

Sunday's allegations were not the first of alleged abuse of military detainees in Afghanistan.

Kashmiri militant group claims responsibility for bombings in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP) — A little-known group that police say has ties to Kashmir's most feared militants claimed responsibility Sunday for a series of terrorist bombings that killed 59 people in New Delhi.

Authorities said they already had gathered useful clues about the near-simultaneous blasts Saturday night that ripped through a bus and two markets crowded ahead of the Hindu festival of Diwali, one of the year's busiest shopping seasons. Investigators reportedly raided dozens of small hotels across India's capital looking for possible suspects, and police said "numerous" people were being questioned.

The attacks came at particularly sensitive time as India and Pakistan were hashing out an unprecedented agreement to partially open the heavily militarized frontier that divides the disputed territory of Kashmir to speed relief to victims of a massive earthquake earlier this month.

The agreement was finalized early Sunday, and Indian officials appeared hesitant to quickly put the blame for the bombings on Pakistan-based militants, unlike in previous terror attacks during a 16-year-old insurgency by Islamic separatists in India's part of Kashmir.

India's accusations of Pakistani involvement in a 2001 attack on parliament put the two nuclear-armed rivals on the brink of a fourth war. But they pulled back and, after pursuing peace efforts since early last year, both appeared intent on keeping the atmosphere calm.

"We have lots of information but it is not proper to disclose it yet," Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil told clattering journalists after an emergency meeting.

India's accusations of Pakistani involvement in a 2001 attack on parliament put the two nuclear-armed rivals on the brink of a fourth war. But they pulled back and, after pursuing peace efforts since early last year, both appeared intent on keeping the atmosphere calm.

Sunday's allegations were not the first of alleged abuse of military detainees in Afghanistan.

meeting of the Cabinet called to discuss the attacks. "Our people are making good progress. The investigation is going well."

A man called a local news agency in Indian Kashmir to say the militant Islamic Insulariyyah, or Front for Islamic Uprising, staged the bombings, which police said killed 59 people and wounded 210.

The caller, who identified himself as Ahmed Yaq Ghaznavi, said the bombings were "meant as a rebuff to the claims of Indian security groups" that militants had been wiped out by security crackdowns and the Oct. 8 earthquake that devastated the insurgents' heartland in the mountains of Kashmir.

A senior police officer in India's Jammu-Kashmir state said the caller's name was not familiar to intelligence agencies, and New Delhi's deputy police chief, Karnal Singh, said the group had not been very active since 1998.

However, while Singh refused to comment on the claim of responsibility, he said the group is linked to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, the most feared of the dozens of Kashmiri militant groups.

A leading anti-terrorism expert said earlier that the timing and nature of the blasts appeared to indicate the work of Lashkar.

"It looks like Lashkar. They are the most active group here," said Vikram Sood, the former head of the Research and Analysis Wing, India's foreign intelligence agency.

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Beta hits Nicaragua

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua (AP) — Hurricane Beta pounded Nicaragua's Caribbean coast with heavy rains and powerful winds Sunday as thousands of people took out the storm in boarded-up homes or government shelters.

The storm came ashore near the remote town of La Barra as a category 2 hurricane with 105 mph winds. But it weakened to a category 1 with 90 mph winds as it moved inland, dumping up to 15 inches of rain, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

While powerful, Beta was a small hurricane, with hurricane force winds extending outward only up to 15 miles, the center said.

Before reaching Central America, the record 13th hurricane of this year's Atlantic storm season lashed the Colombian island of Providencia with heavy winds, torrential rains and high surf.

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Coming Tuesday

A look at the upcoming NBA season

SPORTS

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

INSIDE

NFL B2
College football B3
Classifieds B48

The Times-News

Monday, October 31, 2005

Section B

MORNING LINE
SPORTSQUOTE

Now if they can just do something about the attire of sports writers - no visible mustard stains allowed - they'll really clean up this league.

- Doug Robinson of the Deseret Morning News about the NBA's new dress code for players

TRIVIA QUESTION: Who said this? "Man, if I would come in at six in the morning, sweep the stands, wash the uniforms, clean out the office, manage the team and play the games."

IN BRIEF
CSI booster luncheon is today

TWIN FALLS - The College of Southern Idaho booster luncheon will be held Monday at noon in Taylor Building Room 277.

Jerome Rec extends registration deadline

JEROME - The Jerome Recreation District is extending the registration deadline for men's basketball and adult co-ed volleyball to 5 p.m. on Nov. 4.

Tennis stars featured in Boise exhibition

BOISE - Andre Agassi, Steffi Graf, James Blake and the world No. 1 doubles team of Bob and Mike Bryan will be featured along with Belarusian teenager Viktoria Azarenka, the world's No. 1 ranked junior, at the Taco Bell Arena at Boise State University Saturday, Dec. 3.

The format will consist of a singles match between Agassi and Blake in a match reminiscent of their 2005 US Open quarterfinal thriller.

A doubles match featuring Agassi and Blake against Bob and Mike Bryan and a mixed doubles match pairing Agassi and his wife Steffi Graf against Azarenka and Mike Bryan will also be featured.

Tickets are available for \$15-\$85 at the Taco Bell Arena Box Office at BSU, all Select-a-Seat outlets and on-line at www.idahotickets.com (not including Grand Slam tickets).

Buhl plans playoff booster bus to Holt

BUHL - The Buhl High School boosters are planning a fan bus to Pocatello's Holt Arena Saturday, Nov. 5 at a cost of \$20 per person.

TRIVIA ANSWER: Baseball Hall of Famer Duke Snider.

Volleyball showcase set for Wednesday

The Times-News

TWIN FALLS - The District IV Volleyball All-Stars Showcase will be held Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. at Twin Falls High School.

Northwest - Jamie Stone, hitter, Wood River; Hannah Richards, setter/hitter, Wood

Local sports

River: Brittanie Tuome, outside hitter, Gooding; Amy Trauholt, outside hitter, Gooding; Lesley Sliman, setter, Gooding; Haley Gill, opposite hitter, Gooding; Cami McLean, middle blocker, Camas County; Mary Kentell, middle blocker; Minto, coaches: Joleen Tuome/Jenny Koski.

hitter, Dietrich; Hailey Harris, outside hitter, Shoshone; Katie Strunk, middle blocker, Shoshone; Kyli Astle, middle blocker, Shoshone; Kelli Axelsson, setter, Shoshone; Jessica Itgaly, outside hitter, Carey; coach Rick Burke.

Southwest - Lauren Davis, outside hitter; Twin Falls: Abbe Reynolds, outside hitter, Buhl; Morgan Peterson, defensive specialist, Buhl; Lexie Haye, middle blocker, Kimberly; Stacy Walters, setter, Kimberly; Sami Hollinger, defensive specialist, Kimberly; Allison Ko, middle blocker, Filer; Maureen Hoyt, libero, Filer; coach Chrissy Waitley.

Tom Watson rallies to win Schwab Cup

The Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. - Tom Watson rallied from a six-stroke deficit with an 8-and-64 Sunday to win the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the season-long, multi-event on the Champions Tour.

Watson surged up the leaderboard as third-round leader Jay Haas struggled, finishing at 16-under 272 for his sixth win of the year and eighth victory on the Champions Tour.

The Senior British Open champion, who had 39 PGA Tour victories, earned \$140,000 and also claimed the Charles Schwab Cup points race and a \$1 million annuity.

Haas, going for his third win in four weeks, closed with a 71 and was one stroke back from Kite had a final-round 67 and was third at 13 under. Mark McNulty was 11 under after a closing 68, and Loren Roberts and leading money winner, Dana Quigley, were another stroke back in fifth after 70s.

Quigley, playing in the final pairing with Haas, tried to put pressure on his playing partner early. Also starting six strokes back, Quigley opened with three straight birdies, but gave strokes back with bogeys at Nos. 6 and 8 and left off the pace.

Haas struggled with his putting early and made the turn in even-par after a birdie and a bogey on the front nine. He made two consecutive birdies to open the back nine, despite hooking his drive at the 11th. He hit his second shot pin-high to set up a short birdie putt. He also hooked his drive at No. 12 and made another bogey as his lead dropped to a stroke.

Pettersson holds on at Chrysler Championship

PALM HARBOR, Fla. - Carl Peterson steadied his nerves and his swing down the stretch Sunday, saving par with a tough chip on the 15th and a clutch putt on the 16th for an even-par 71 to win the Chrysler Championship for his first PGA Tour victory.

Ebad Campbell made five birdies on the back nine in a terrific charge, including a 12-foot putt that swirled into the cup on the 18th hole for a 67 that left Peterson no room for error.

Leading by one shot, Peterson found the middle of the fairway and hit his approach 20 feet by the cup, trying to nestle the ball close to the hole, he ran it 13 feet by but made that for par and the \$954,000 prize.

Pettersson, born in Sweden and raised in North Carolina, had always dreamed of playing and winning on the PGA Tour, and his career hit off. He finished at 3-under 275, but not before an improbable chip on the 15th to save par, a 10-foot par save on the next hole and no mistakes on the last two.

Edwards flips for Atlanta, gamers sweep to tighten Nextel standings

The Associated Press

JAMPTON, Ga. - Carl Edwards completed a sweep of the NASCAR Nextel Cup races at Atlanta Motor Speedway, and made up some ground in the Chase for the championship.

Edwards, who barely held off veteran Jimmie Johnson for his first Cup victory on the Georgia track in March, had a dominating car through the second half of the 325-lap Bass Pro Shops 500.

Edwards, in his first full season in NASCAR's top stock car series, lost a lead of more than 6 seconds when the last of nine caution flags waved for debris on lap 203. But he was able to regain control and pulled away to earn his third victory of the season, beating four-time Cup champion Jeff Gordon to the finish line by 2.713-seconds, half the front straightaway on the 1.5-mile oval.

Stewart, the hottest driver in the series since June, finished ninth and increased his lead atop the standings from 15 points to 43 points over Johnson, who finished 16th - the last driver on the lead lap.

Edwards led four other Chase contenders in finishing ahead of Stewart, tightening the points battle with three races remaining.

"If we do this for three more weeks, we'll be all right," said Edwards, who did his patented backflip off the window ledge of his No. 99 Ford after the race. "Man, I can't thank my guys enough. The car was just awesome."

Edwards' Roush Racing teammates Mark Martin, Matt Kenseth and Greg Biffle finished third, fifth and seventh, Dale Earnhardt Jr., who dominated the early part of the race, was fourth; Jeff Burton eighth; Earnhardt, McMurray and Burton all failed to qualify for the Chase.

Ryan Newman, who began the day third in the points, finished a lap down in 23rd and lost considerable ground.

Heading to Texas for next Sunday's race, Stewart and Johnson still have a cushion over the rest of the Chase field. Biffle is 75 points behind Stewart and 13 points behind Newman tied for fourth 107 points back, Martin 143 behind and Kenseth 155 back.



Carl Edwards does his signature backflip Sunday in front of his pit crew and No. 99 Office Depot Ford after winning the Bass Pro Shops MBNA 400 at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga.

Edwards' Roush Racing teammates Mark Martin, Matt Kenseth and Greg Biffle finished third, fifth and seventh, Dale Earnhardt Jr., who dominated the early part of the race, was fourth; Jeff Burton eighth; Earnhardt, McMurray and Burton all failed to qualify for the Chase.

NFL WEEK EIGHT

Broncos pluck Eagles

The Associated Press

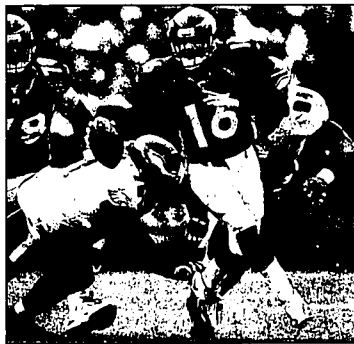
DENVER - The rain was falling and another big Denver lead was swirling down the drain.

In stepped little-known receiver Todd DeVoe and better-known tightback Tatum Bell to help the Broncos turn a possible embarrassment back into a blowout.

Devoe caught a 63-yard touchdown pass from Jake Plummer and Bell ran for 67- and 6-yard touchdowns in the fourth quarter Sunday to help the Broncos hold off, then run away from the Philadelphia Eagles for a 49-21 victory.

The four-touchdown margin doesn't begin to detail how scary this one got for the Broncos (6-2).

Plummer, who finished with a season-high 309 yards, threw three of his four touchdowns passes on the first 23 minutes of play to give Denver a 28-0 lead, but the Broncos allowed Philly (4-3) within seven points and a mere 24 yards of the tying score early in the fourth.



Denver Broncos quarterback Jake Plummer scrambles away from Philadelphia Eagles defensive tackle Hollis Thomas and defensive end N.D. Kalu, right, during the second quarter Sunday in Denver.

Donovan McNabb had running back Lamar Gordon wide open on a third-and-5 from the Denver 24, but went to the end zone instead and was picked off by rookie Dominique Foxworth.

Bears down Lions in OT to lead NFC North

The Associated Press

DETROIT - The Detroit Lions were hailed out after one ill-advised Jeff Garcia play in the fourth quarter, then the Chicago Bears burned them on another overtime.

Garcia's across-the-body pass was picked off by Charles Tillman and returned 22 yards for a touchdown with 1:43 left in overtime Sunday, lifting Chicago atop the NFC North with a 19-13 win over Detroit.

The 35-year-old quarterback rolled right and tried to throw back across the field to Mike Williams. Tillman stepped in front of the throw and ended untouched to the end zone where they were mobbed by teammates.

It was a big win for Chicago (4-3), not only because the Bears broke a first-place tie with Detroit (2-4), but also because they secured a head-to-head tiebreaker over the Lions, whom they beat 38-6 in an earlier meeting.

The Bears led 13-3 at half-time, then the Lions had

consecutive scoring drives to tie the game with 13:20 left in the game.

Thomas Jones fumbled on the ensuing drive at Detroit's 28; then the Lions caught a huge break on the next play.

With Brian Griese draped on him, Garcia was flagged for intentional grounding when the Bears thought he threw a lateral and line-backer Hunter Hillenmeyer picked up and returned for a score. The Bears challenged, but the play stood.

Chicago overcame the call and won its third straight, becoming the first NFL team with 650 victories.

Brooks quarterback Kyle Orton was 17-for-31 for a career-high 230 yards with a TD for the Bears. Garcia was 23-of-35 for 197 yards with an interception.



National Football League Week 8

AFC East table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

NFC East table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

West table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

North table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

South table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

West table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

North table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

South table with columns for Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA, Home, Away, AFC, NFC, Div.

Rams 24, Jaguars 21 table with stats for Jacksonville and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Cowboys 34, Cardinals 13 table with stats for Dallas and Arizona Cardinals.

Chargers 20, Chiefs 20 table with stats for San Diego and Kansas City.

Chargers 28, Chiefs 20 table with stats for San Diego and Kansas City.

Panthers 38, Vikings 13 table with stats for Carolina and Minnesota.

Bengals 21, Packers 14 table with stats for Cincinnati and Green Bay.

Atlanta 19, Lions 13 (OT) table with stats for Atlanta and Detroit.

Giants 38, Redskins 0 table with stats for New York and Washington.

49ers 15, Buccaneers 10 table with stats for San Francisco and Tampa Bay.

Redskins 0 table with stats for Washington.

Chargers 20, Chiefs 20 table with stats for San Diego and Kansas City.

Chargers 28, Chiefs 20 table with stats for San Diego and Kansas City.

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Chargers 20, Chiefs 20 table with stats for San Diego and Kansas City.

Texans rally for first victory

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texans are winless no more. Kris Brown kicked a 40-yard field goal...

With the victory, the Cowboys (5-3) stamped on pace in the jammed NFC East. Arizona (2-5) lost its 14th straight game...

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Council will discuss alcohol permit

TWIN FALLS — Dan Willie's proposed Grand restaurant faces another challenge today: this time before City Council.

City Planning and Zoning Commission ruling that granted Willie a special-use permit to serve alcohol within 400 feet of a residential area.

Willie was granted the permit in September. He was also granted the permit in August, but that recall was nullified because all the property owners within 400 feet were properly notified.

Bradbury was one of several cities of the restaurant at the September planning and zoning meeting. Her appeal will be heard at a public hearing scheduled for 6 p.m.

The council meeting is scheduled to start at 5 p.m. at Council Chambers, 305 3rd Ave. East.

CSI plans mental awareness events

TWIN FALLS — Tom College of Southern Idaho organizations have teamed up to plan and host Mental Illness Awareness Week from Monday through Friday.

Psychology instructor Jerod Opsal has been the key planner for the event, which is sponsored by CSI Health Sciences and Human Services, Eagle View Lecture Series, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Student Senate Program Board.

Steve Moei will be the keynote speaker from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday in the SINE Arts auditorium, with the topic: "The stigma of mental illness: What are we doing right?"

Moei is an associate professor of psychology at the University of Idaho, the department's outreach coordinator, director of the U of I Adolescent Learning Program, and chair man of the U of I Institutional Review Board.

Each weekday will observe a different demographic of mental illness — families, children, adolescents and adults with discussions, presentations, displays, activities and a special selected music at the Lamp-house Theater. Friday's presentation will feature well-known historical figures who have had mental illnesses.

The entire week's schedule is available at www.csi.edu/mentalhealth. Questions and participation are welcome. Opsal can be reached at 732-6889 or a [jopsal@csi.edu](mailto:opsal@csi.edu).

Events will discuss safety improvements

TWIN FALLS — Safety improvement alternatives for the Blue Lakes North Corridor Project will be discussed at an open house meeting to be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday in room 276 of the Taylor Building at the College of Southern Idaho, the Idaho Transportation Department announced.

The open house will provide area residents an opportunity to learn about the project and give input on a range of safety improvements for Blue Lakes Boulevard from Falls Avenue to Lone Line Road.

The city of Twin Falls and the transportation department are working together to determine what roadway improvements, if any, should be added to transportation departments planned resurfacing and drainage improvements. Alternatives include consolidated driveways, right-of-way restrictions, raised medians, U-turns, acceleration and deceleration lanes and increased law enforcement.

Citizens will be able to provide input about the project in the upcoming annual Twin Falls Community survey, which asks for thoughts about city utilities and streets. The survey is mailed to approximately 3,000 Twin Falls residents.

For more information on the Blue Lakes North Corridor Project, contact ITD Project Manager Steven Tonks at 886-7888, Twin Falls City Engineer Gary Young at 735-7273 or Twin Falls City Councilman Dennis Maughan at 308-2578.

— compiled from staff reports

Halloween events take place around M.V.

The Times-News

Halloween parties and activities are taking place today around the Magic Valley.

Twin Falls

College of Southern Idaho clubs and organizations will host a free Halloween carnival for youngsters from 4 to 7 p.m. CSI students will staff booths of activities with candy and other prizes to be awarded. Kids will be treated to games, contests, face-painting and various seasonal festivities, all free. Children are encouraged to come to the party in their costumes. The activity is open to all families.

For information, contact the CSI Student Senate at 732-6880.

Hands On in downtown Twin Falls

The event is open to kids of all ages. Hands On is located at 147 Shoshone St. N.

The event is open to kids of all ages. Hands On is located at 147 Shoshone St. N. The event will be a safe, non-scary, family-friendly gathering including a living history maze complete with actors, special effects and games. There will be candy, popcorn, hot and cold drinks and snacks, as well as a silent auction for adults and a

bouncing game for kids.

Costumes are welcome, but nothing scary or inappropriate for small children.

For more information, call 733-5349. The First Assembly of God is located at 189 Locust St. N.

Kids and students get into the concert free.

Adult tickets are \$5.

Calvary Chapel of Twin Falls will hold a Halloween alternative party from 6-9 p.m. at the corner of Falls Avenue and the corner of the road leading to Shoshone Falls.

The event will feature a journey through Bible land, traveling through the life of Moses.

Eden

Trinity Lutheran Church will hold a Halloween night alternative to trick-or-treating for

youngsters from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It's free.

Rupert

Courtesy Care and Rehabilitation will hold its annual Halloween party from 6:30-8 p.m. in the east dining room of the center inside Mindoka Memorial Hospital.

The party is for kids aged 10 and younger. Popcorn balls, cookies, witches' brew and hot cider will be served.

For more information, call 436-0401. Mindoka Memorial Hospital is located at 1224 Eighth St.

Hagerman

Lea Owsley Post 31 of the Please see EVENTS, Page C6

Meet the candidates

Buhl Chamber of Commerce plans community forum

By Blair Koch Times-News correspondent

BUIH — Voter turnout in Buhl for the presidential election was slightly over 50 percent, according to Steve Katz of the Buhl Chamber of Commerce — they would like to see that many people come to the polls. Now it is to decide who will be Buhl's mayor and council members.

Be there

You can meet the candidates for Buhl City Council on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 7 p.m. at the Buhl High School cafeteria at 7 p.m.

Barbara Griener decided not to seek reelection. Running for city council positions are incumbent Reggie Linnus, Steve Lightbarger, and Dick Kanzante. They will also attend the open forum.

"We are pushing for a good turnout for the election coming up," Katz said.

The forum is scheduled to take place Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Buhl High School cafeteria. Facilitating the debates will be Lucy Feltner, a former Twin Falls County Commissioner, and Dan Olinstead, an employee of Idaho Power.

They will be asking the candidates questions on behalf of Buhl's Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Council.

"We don't yet know what the questions will be," Feltner said. "The questions are being developed now and we won't get them until about an hour before the event."

Citizens in attendance will have a chance to ask questions as well.

Katz explained that the event will begin with short introductory comments by a facilitator, followed by a provision of five minutes for each candidate's opening remarks.

Questions will then be asked by the audience, followed by the facilitators, with each candidate getting one minute for response.

Gandidates will then have one minute for closing remarks.

BEET HARVEST



Paul's Gary Flak harvests beets recently with his 1949 Farmall M. His McCormick digger digs one row of beets at a time and the invention allowed farmers to harvest about eight acres a day compared to today's six-row digger, which can harvest 25 to 30 acres per day. Flak completely restored the old tractor, one of 40 he owns.

Former Rupert mayor worked hard for community

By Jaml Whitton Times-News writer

SAGLE — From an early age, Bill Whitton learned the value of hard work. From growing up on a farm to becoming a successful politician, broadcaster and more, his determination to see a job done right and done well, impressed and inspired many who knew him.

The former mayor of Rupert died Oct. 25.

Whitton was born in 1941 in McCall but grew up on a large farm southeast of New Plymouth. He had to walk six miles to and from school and do morning and afternoon farm chores, but in all 12 years of school, Whitton was never late or absent. He even received an award recognizing this at his graduation.

In 1959, Weiser's KWEE paid Whitton \$1 per hour to work weekend shifts playing music and reading news. It was his first job. He later became the station's sales manager and once met Loretta Lynn.

In the 1970s, he became a city councilman, the youngest to ever be elected in Idaho at the time.

In 1974, he was elected mayor of Rupert and then re-elected for four more terms. He served as police commissioner and was overseer for Rupert's electric utility.

From fixing potholes to promoting firefighter training to getting people signed up for library cards, he strived to improve the community in any way he could through his open award recognizing this at his graduation.

a life remembered

William (Bill) Francis Whitton

Born: May 19, 1941.
Died: Oct. 26, 2005.
Survivors: Florence, Carol Avery; daughters, Zia (Cherie) Cline, Zanetia (Brynn) Cline and Paige (Leif) Bishop; and seven grandchildren, Charles, William, Colton and Corbin Cline, Joey Dillon, with a brother or sister on the way, and Zachary and Tanner Bishop.

Service: Funeral at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 Eighth St., in Rupert. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Butler County. The burial will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at the New Plymouth Cemetery.

Please see LIFE, Page C6

What's up with chocolate?

Ask Jim Woods, College of Southern Idaho anthropologist professor, about chocolate and you will get a history lesson bursting with documented trivia dating back to 800 B.C. Chocolate was rare, exotic and expensive. So only the elite could partake in the extremely bitter, frothy drink made from powdered cocoa beans.



ALIVE & WELL
Jan Mittleider

Since the Aztecs traded cocoa beans like money, according to Woods, some of the first recorded counterfeit operations focused on drilling holes in the bean, leaving only its shell, and stuffing it with clay. Montezuma, the first notable chochaholic, depended on the caffeine-laced potency for super-charged sexual prowess to accommodate multiple wives — or so he thought. It would have been interesting to get the wives' perspectives.

The Mayans injected the potent liquid into gourds with gaffe-like necks for use as an enema to unplug instantaneous drug-induced euphoria. This ritual led to convulsions if not monitored by a trained shaman. It seems that the nerve endings in the posterior are far more responsive than in the slow trek through the digestive system.

With such a rich history there is little wonder why chocolate still inspires ritual, romance and robust pleasure today. If you look beyond the mysticism around the "food of the gods," you may find additional healing benefits.

There is some compelling evidence that supports the potential for enhanced cardiovascular health and the consumption of cocoa powder. Dr. Carl Keen, nutrition researcher at the University of California at Davis, says that compounds in cocoa beans may lower bad cholesterol, ease inflammation and improve blood flow. A recent Italian study confirms that 3 1/2 ounces of dark chocolate lowered blood pressure and boosted insulin sensitivity.

Before you bust your grocery budget on Godiva, however, consider the rest of the story: The recent flurry of media reports surrounding chocolate as an anti-aging powerhouse is driven by the chocolate industry itself. The intriguing background data is based on very small studies, as few as 15 people, and large quantities of quality chocolate. The benefits could be negated by the corresponding weight gain for most of us if we devoured 400-500 calories of the dark stuff on a daily basis, as did some of the study participants.

So what's a person to do? All the carrots, celery and skinless chicken breasts in the world won't give you the same satisfaction as one good piece of dark chocolate that begins to melt like velvet on your tongue upon impact. So, if you love chocolate, choose high-quality dark chocolate in small doses as part of a healthy diet. The more cocoa-powder the chocolate contains, the more antioxidants you get.

Skip the milk chocolate, which has the lowest antioxidant levels because it is made with milk, sugar and other ingredients. "As you dilute it more, the antioxidants get pushed out," says James Hamley, research chemist at the USDA Food Composition Lab. And skip white chocolate, which isn't really chocolate at all.

To maximize the health benefits of chocolate, make sure the first ingredient on the label is cocoa solids or chocolate liquor, not cocoa. Avoid chocolate confections which have a thin chocolate shell with sugary insides that are mostly empty calories.

"The chocolate like a mini vacation rather than a snack attack. Savor it slowly for the greatest satisfaction with a small amount. Supplement snack options with hefty doses of other antioxidant-rich food choices like fruits or vegetables.

"Life itself is the proper binge," said Julia Child, the writer's favorite advocate for the pleasures of sensual eating in moderation.

Jan Mittleider is a health educator and coordinator of the award-winning Over 50 and Getting Fit Program at the College of Southern Idaho.

TIPS FOR KEEPING OFF HOLIDAY WEIGHT



Tim Harmer photo illustration

Just one more bite

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Halloween kicks off a holiday season that brings enough edibles to stuff a reindeer. Who can say no to candy bars, turkey legs or Christmas cakes?

Truth is, more people than you might think, Studies show folks gain an average of one pound, not five or 10, over the holiday season. The bad news, though, is that we seldom lose that pound. Holiday timing bears some of the blame — outdoor exercise becomes a matter of survival when temperatures drop and winds begin to howl.

Over the years, the weight adds up. But avoiding a candy dish at work or dessert tray at home during the holidays is like asking Santa to drop a hundred pounds. It's not gonna happen.

So what's a holiday-fare fanatic to do? "Go to the parties and eat the Christmas stuff — just don't gorge," says Kat Powell, a College of Southern Idaho career development specialist with a master's degree in exercise physiology. It's not what you eat, it's how you eat it.

Powell offers these tips for staving off holiday weight gain — and losing the extra pound for those who can't keep their hands off the snack tray:

1. All in moderation. This means alcohol, too. Inebriants increase appetite and are high in calories. Plus, booze dulls taste bud sensitivity, meaning you'll have to eat more chocolate to satisfy your palate. And for the snacks: "Try very small portions," Powell says. "Ask for 1/4-size pieces."

2. Timing is everything. Eat a full meal before exposing yourself to holiday goodies. That way, your

bowel full of jelly will more likely be filled with healthy food.

Also, Powell recommends, wait at least 20 minutes between each snack. It takes 20 minutes for the stomach to tell the brain it's full, so you might be eating more than you actually crave.

3. Prendibly makes the difference. "Don't stand by the buffet table," Powell says. At holiday gatherings, socialize away from the food. You'll have to cross the room for a sweet instead of being able to reach for it.

And at work: "Stay out of the break room."

Not so easy, says Mary Kuhn, an administrative assistant who works in an office where holiday sweets are as common as paper clips. In an office environment, resisting the magnetic lure of holiday food is often futile.

"It's like they call you," Kuhn says. "I'll get up and walk out to get a cookie — make a special detour. It's hard to avoid."

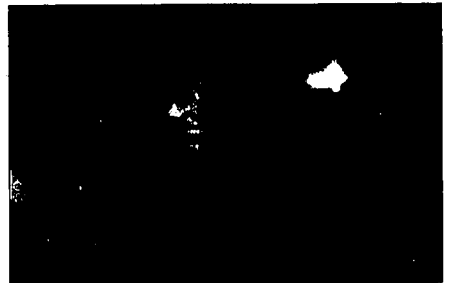
Normally, Kuhn's office stocks treats for employees in the break room and snacks for clients in the waiting area. But it's the workers who end up eating the majority of food from both locations.

However, there is hope for the office-bound worker in proximity to the treat tray.

"Cover it up with a towel if you have to," Powell says. "Out of sight, out of mind."

She also recommends office workers keep healthy alternatives — like bananas, yogurt or cheese and crackers — at their desks. Better to fill up with crackers than candy canes.

Kuhn works off the extra sweets on her home treadmill, but confesses most of her co-workers put on a few pounds over the holidays.



ASHLEY SMITH/The Times-News

Mindy Harmer stands next to her treadmill at her home in Twin Falls. Harmer says she tries to work out four times a week. During the winter — instead of walking outdoors in the cold — she uses exercise tapes at her home, her treadmill and trips to a local gym.

"We just gain weight and swear to be good at the beginning of the year."

4. Don't stop exercising. A no-brainer, says Powell. Increasing your caloric intake by 500 calories a day will add a pound a week. To keep from gaining weight, you must burn those extra calories.

"Exercise is the essential component of effective weight management," she says.

This time of year, though, finding time to work out — and a place where you won't get chilled — can be as difficult as avoiding the treats.

But Powell says hectic schedules and freezing weather are no excuse.

"There are lots of ways to fight hypothermia — like dressing in layers."

Nevertheless, Mindy Harmer, who walks a few times a week near the Perrine Bridge, will be taking her workouts indoors soon, where a stack of exercise tapes and a neglected treadmill await.

"I have a lot of Pilates and aerobics tapes. And maybe I'll dust off the treadmill," she says.

For those without the latest fitness video or exercise machine, Powell has some simple suggestions:

"Park farther away, take the stairs or shovel the sidewalk. Do the little things, and you can keep from gaining weight over the holidays."

Times-News features writer Matt Christensen can be reached at 735-3243 or matt.christensen@tnnews.net.

Cowboy boots: A country classic with mass appeal

By Suzanne D'Amato
The Washington Post

The cowboy boot has high-stepped its way to the fashion forefront. And the city folks getting corralled? They aren't all Toby Keith devotees. As industry watchers tell it, the allure of the cowboy boot has long transcended its Wild West heritage.

"There's this romance behind it," says Fred King of El Paso-based Luchese Boot Co., which has manufactured the style since 1883. "It's a way for anyone to live that part of America that almost doesn't exist anymore."

For some shoppers, the fact that celebrities have taken to the boots just adds another layer to the fantasy. Wherever Jessica Simpson and Sienna Miller tread, sartorially speaking, they are happy to follow.

"We knew that 'Dukes of Hazzard' was coming out," says Kassie Rempel, owner of Simpyles.com, a shoe Web site based in Washington. The

movie prompted Rempel to order an intricately top-stitched style by the Frye Co. for the site. They sold out in a matter of weeks and had to be restocked. "We've had to call (Frye) and tell them, 'Send us whatever you have.'"

Western stores have also found the trend to be a business boon, as all manner of shoppers continue to turn up in droves.

"The real cowboys who come in, they buy ropers," says Michael Corbett, of Boot Hill Western Store in Woodbridge, Va., referring to a simple work boot that's more

functional than fashionable. "But these customers, they're buying these totally crazy fad boots, like really funky bright green with a lizard print."

For some shoppers, being able to say that you bought your boots at a store such as Boot Hill is a badge of honor. When Antoinette Karpacs, 18, wanted a pair, she shied away from the stylized steppers offered at places such as Nine West.

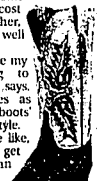
"I wanted real boots," Karpacs says. The George Washington University freshman procured a pair in ruby-red leather at Locust

Grove Country Shop, a western wear store near her Indiana, Pa., hometown. They cost \$350, but to her, they were well worth it.

"My boots are my favorite thing to wear," Karpacs says. Her love owes as much to her boots' status as their style.

"Girls will be like, 'Where'd you get these?' Urban

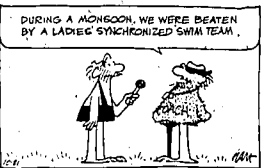
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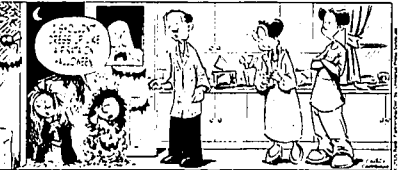
B.C.

By Johnny Hart



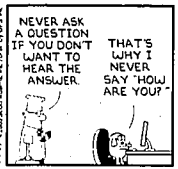
Baldo

By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



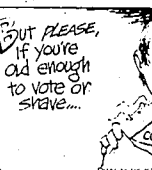
Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Pickles

By Brian Crane



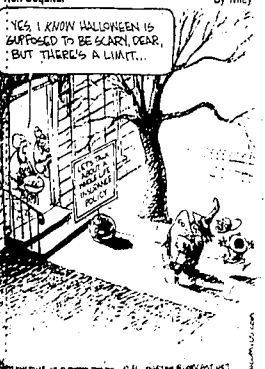
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



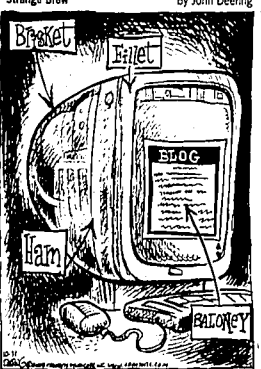
Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Strange Brew

By John Deering



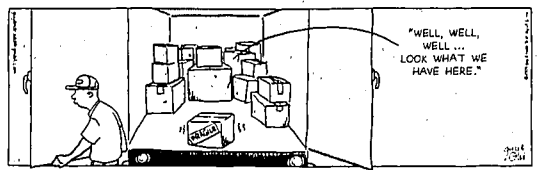
Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Brevity

By Guy & Rodd



Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



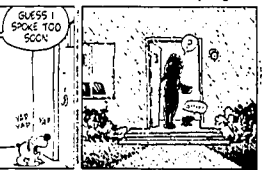
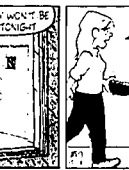
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Luan

By Greg Evans



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Stock up on sweets, Sagittarius

IF OCT. 31 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your lifestyle is on a new level and you have learned to be independent. The year ahead offers you both tests and opportunities to expand your scope of influence. Learn to be grateful for help and assistance, but don't depend upon others with what you should be doing yourself. Saturn will touch your section of the zodiac in January and June and may teach you serious lessons unless you meet obligations without fail. In March, late June and early July, romantic misunderstandings could cause a rift. Be patient and look for the silver lining in any storm cloud this year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on having the best time possible as All Hallows Eve looms near. Put on your best manners when dealing with others on a one-on-one basis, as sharp words could cut deeply.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Plenty of fun-filled trips and pleasant treats should come your way. Don't be greedy or eat all that Halloween candy yourself. Be a Good Samaritan and share goodies with others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Peaceful relationships may hit a snag. Secret unhappiness and a lack of frank discussion could

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

create unresolved anger. Write down complaints to see how silly they are and then burn them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Show off a flair for the bizarre and peculiar tonight when local ghouls and goblins fill the streets. You may be able to thrill a small ghost or two with your entertainment ingenuity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be a Scrooge when little hands come tapping on your chamber door. Be generous even if you prefer to keep all the scrumptious candy for yourself. Hold off beginning important projects.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take things one day at a time. The tendency to go too fast could be counterproductive. Too many tricks, or a prevarication, could prevent you from getting the treat you desire.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Significant others may experience pangs of jealousy if you are too popular with good-looking Halloween vamps or vampires. Bypass the temptation to indulge in expensive

investments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Like the Rolling Stones sang, "Can't get no satisfaction." Relationships could be somewhat out of kilter tonight, so play host to costumed visitors and snuggle up with the leftover treats.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be prepared with gobs of goodies for tiny trick-or-treat visitors who may knock on your door. Don't let passions have the upper hand or give a mate reason to mistrust you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't get spooked. It is wise to be suspicious of candy from strangers — but don't go to extremes and throw everything in the Dumpster. Attend to essential business matters with diligence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be the voice of reason that soothes troubled waters. Your objectivity is valued and may put the fears of others into perspective. Enjoy Halloween treats and delay initiating any important.

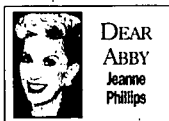
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your slogan this Halloween should be "Think first, discuss then, and act." Those you love, the most may have quick tempers and short fuses for a few hours. Be a calming influence.

Family ties are fraying after dad's sexual assault

DEAR ABBY: I come from a very close-knit family. We always tell each other we love each other after every meeting and phone call. My life partner, "Jennifer," has become part of our family. We can't be married because we are lesbians.

Jennifer thought a lot of my dad until last week. I was at work, and my father came by the house. I had no idea that he would ever make a move on Jennifer. She told him four times to knock it off. Dad weighs more than 220 pounds and Jennifer weighs only 95. He continued to fondle her and try to kiss her. She was scared to death. As soon as she got the chance, she ran upstairs to be with our pre-teen daughter.

Abby, this weekend I couldn't even look at my father. I didn't hug him or tell him I loved him. I wanted to beat him to the ground. I talked to my sister about this. We agreed that we shouldn't tell Mom. They have been married 37 years, and she would grieve herself to death. I don't want to drag her into this, but I don't want anything to do with my father right now either. Dad says he "doesn't know what's wrong" with me and that he was "very hurt" after seeing me last weekend because I was so cold to him. Please advise me.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I disagree with you and your sister. Your mother should be told immediately exactly what happened. Your father sexually assaulted your partner. Because an extreme change in behavior can be a sign of serious mental or physical illness, he needs to be scheduled for a complete physical and neurological evaluation.

Please do not postpone it. Your father has shown himself to be a danger to your partner, and possibly to your daughter as she begins to develop. I am sorry for your mother, but you can't protect her from this. For everyone's sake — including your father's — this must be dealt with now.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are child-free, 30-somethings who own a home with a yard and no fence. Our house

and yard are a sanctuary from our hectic professional lives. Lately, the neighbor's cat has been using our yard as a place to recline, and it hisses at me angrily when I tell it to go home. I'm not fond of cats, and I'm actually afraid of this one. Also, another neighbor and his kids have been using our yard as a thoroughfare from the property behind us to their own yard, which has a fence.

I don't go into other people's yards. I respect the space of other people. I expect that respect in return, and don't want people trampling through our yard. We plan to plant more flower beds in the future, and they will be in the way of their yard. Am I curmudgeonly to feel this way, or should other people respect our privacy and property?

— ENCROACHED UPON IN FLORIDA
DEAR ENCROACHED UPON: They should respect your privacy, property and expressed wishes — but it appears they don't. So surround your property either with a hedge or an attractive fence. And as to the cat that is "menacing" you, tell its owners that unless they keep it off your property, you will inform animal control. (Then do it if necessary.)

Houdini's wife looked to the 'other side'

This day in history: On Halloween 1926, magician Harry Houdini died after being punched in the stomach a few days earlier. In the following years, his wife Bess held Halloween séances based on his promise to, if possible, contact her from "the other side."

Halloween traditions began perhaps 2,800 years ago as a celebration of the Celtic lord of death, Samhain. Celts believed that Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to return on Oct. 31. Their Druid priests built a huge bonfire and sacrificed animals, crops and humans to begin the season of coldness and darkness. After the fires lit, down, the Celts would carry its flames to light their way home. They wore costumes and even carried illuminated faces, like jack-o'-lanterns, to scare the spirits away.

In the 9th century A.D., the Catholic church established All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 to compete with the Samhain festival.



RANDOM KINDNESS FACTINESS
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

The church service was called Allhallowmas, so the ghostly night before became known as Allhallow'en.

Trick or treating likely came from the 9th century custom of "souling." Christian beggars would go door to door promising to pray for your dead relatives if you'd give them a current-filled "soul cake" baked for the occasion.

Halloween pranks in your great-great-grandfather's day included taking the hinges of the neighbors' gate and tipping over their outhouse.

No, "Frankenstein" wasn't the monster's name. Nor was it, as some have it, "Adam." Victor

Frankenstein was the scientist who figured out how to "bestow animation upon lifeless matter." Author: Mary Shelley's monster was named only "Monster."

Does the White House have any ghosts? Ghostly folklore includes sightings of Abe Lincoln pacing the halls. Tom Jefferson, playing the violin, Abigail Adams hanging laundry and Dolly Madison inspecting the rose bushes she planted.

How much do you spend on your Halloween costumes? Retailers report that the total for all-Americans' costumes will be about \$1.5 billion this year.

Biologist Wade Davis investigated reports of zombie slaves in Haiti and discovered they may be true. A cocktail of poisons from puffier fish and cane toads can put a victim in a zombie-like state.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at factmonsters@mingo-barrett.com

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

COME TO TOWN WITH US, BARGE! YOU'LL LEARN STUFF!
YEAH, WE'RE GOING TO A MUSEUM!
OKAY...
I LEARNED SOMETHING, ALL RIGHT! STOP DIETING!

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

BOO!!!
GET BACK TO WORK BLUMSTEAD!!
I WONDER HOW HE KNEW IT WAS HER?

The Born Loser By Art Sansom & Chip

DON'T BOTHER TRICK-OR-TREATING AT THE BROOKS' HOUSE!
WHY NOT?
MRS. BROOKS IS PREGNANT...
SHE'S HANDING OUT PICKLES!

Garfield By Jim Davis

THIS IS A WARM MOMENT, ISN'T IT?
SURE.
A MAN AND HIS CAT
WHATEVER.
I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD TOUCH ME

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

LAND HO!
VERY GOOD, LUCKY EDDIE!
BUT YOU STILL HAVE TO WORK ON YOUR TIMING!

Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

HOW COULD YOU SPEND \$50 ON GROCERIES?
HERE'S THE RECEIPT.
IT COMES OUT TO ABOUT A FOOT PER PERSON

Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

THIS IS MY REPORT ON THE MOUNTAINS OF CENTRAL ASIA.
AND I THINK YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST GIRL I'VE EVER KNOWN.
FORGET IT, CORMAC. MY HEART BELONGS TO MY SWEET BABBOO...
DON'T LISTEN TO HER! SHE'S OUT OF HER MIND!
SORRY, MA'AM, WHERE WAS I?

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

YOU'RE NOT PARTICIPATING IN HALLOWEEN?
I SURE AM.
BY READING THE BIBLE?
IT SAYS "RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU."
NEWS FLASH: THE KING'S PUMPKIN JUST CHANGED BACK INTO A CARRIAGE, AND TOOK OFF

Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

"HE'S DEFINITELY OVERQUALIFIED FOR THAT JOB."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane

"This would get me lots of candy 'cause I'd look really hungry."

BIG BUCK Photo Contest

BULL

THRU
DECEMBER 15TH

Take a photo of your "Big Buck" at Sportsman's Warehouse in Twin Falls & you could win "Big Bucks"!

One winner each week will have their photo published in the Times News on Thursday in the Outdoor Section and online at magivalley.com. Weekly winners will get a \$100 gift certificate from Sportsman's Warehouse in Twin Falls. On December 21st one Grand Prize winner will be selected from the weekly winners to receive a \$1000 gift certificate from Sportsman's Warehouse in Twin Falls.

Pick up an entry blank at Sportsman's Warehouse in Twin Falls. Complete the form & return it along with your photo*. Winners will be selected by the staff at Sportsman's Warehouse according to size of the Buck or Bull & composition of the picture.

The animal must be taken legally in Idaho in the 2005 season. Contestants will be required to provide your license or tag number and the date the animal was taken.

See Customer Service for more details.

SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE
America's Premier Outfitter

*photos will not be returned.

