

Here it comes...

Beginning Thursday, your week starts earlier. The Times-News' expanded arts and entertainment section known as TNT, or Times-News Ticket, will debut.

Look for coverage of upcoming local arts and entertainment events, restaurant and bookstore reviews, a dining guide, travel and music news, reviews of new video game releases and expanded coverage of movies and DVDs.

TNT will publish every Thursday.

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy and cool. High 41, low 19.

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ONLINE TV

AOL Warner Bros. will offer old shows over the Internet for free.

Page D4

SORE FEELINGS

Comments put Venezuela, Mexico at odds.

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BIRD LOVER

Goading man has about 450 feathered friends.

Page B1

LITTLE MAN, BIG NUMBERS

Keydren Clark closes in on NCAA scoring record.

Page D1

COMING UP

Eat cheap

A tour of Jerome's under-\$7 restaurant meals.

Wednesday in The Times-News

Report blasts h... lan B

Political meddling was involved in 'morning after' pill, GAO says

By Tony Pugh
Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — Top officials at the Food and Drug Administration appear to have decided to block over-the-counter sales of a controversial emergency contraceptive months before completing their review of the application in 2004, a new government report said Monday.

appointees of President Bush — took "unusual" steps to impede the approval process.

The GAO's findings renew accusations of political meddling at the FDA, which has been criticized for more than two years for failing to bring the Plan B contraceptive to market despite the urging of its scientific staff.

When taken within 72 hours of intercourse, Plan B blocks conception with 89 percent reliability. Health advocates, women's groups and congressional Democrats charge that the FDA has been slow to approve nonprescription sales of the drug because of opposition from conservative groups that see it as a form of abortion.

The drug is available by prescription. In August, the FDA deferred action on making it available over the counter. The agency said it was safe for girls and women 17 and older but concluded that issues sur-

rounding is preferable safe to younger teens remained unresolved.

The GAO found that minutes of FDA meetings in January 2004 show that Dr. Steven Galson, the acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said former FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford already had decided to recommend blocking the application.

Please see PILL, Page A2

HISTORIC COIN TOSS



Dietrich's Meyer Jeanetta Knowles looks on as Fred Hill, right, Don Heiken, center, and Wanless Southwick flip coins Monday night at Dietrich City Hall to determine who will fill two City Council seats. Hill and Heiken won the toss with 'heads' beating out Southwick, who has been a council member for six years.

Quarters settle three-way tie in council race

By Terry Smith
Times-News writer

DIETRICH — Dietrich is a city with no frills. So when a coin toss was needed to settle a historic three-way tie for City Council, they used three ordinary quarters.

At a special council meeting Monday, six days after the election left three candidates tied for two council seats with 41 votes each, the three-way coin toss was settled without fanfare.

The three candidates — Council President Wanless Southwick, Councilman Don Heiken and newcomer Fred Hill — sat side by side at the wooden council chambers table.

"Well gentlemen, we have three quarters — would you like to examine them?" asked City Clerk Iva Lee Green. The men gave the quarters cursory looks while Green explained that it would be a three-way toss, "odd man out."

The contest however, required physical skill as well as luck. Green told the candidates to toss the quarters, catch them,

A toss of a coin ...

According to Idaho Code 50-468 — "in case of a tie vote between candidates, the city clerk shall give notice to the interested candidates to appear before the council at a meeting to be called within six (6) days, at which time the city clerk shall determine the tie by a toss of a coin."

"In our town, you try to avoid being on City Council," he joked. "There was no animosity in this election — we had three qualified candidates."

Some 15 Dietrich residents, nearly half of them city officials, gathered for the coin toss at City Hall, a one-room affair with a desk at one end and the council table at the other. The meeting seemed more like a gathering of fishing buddies than an official city function.

Southwick explained that Dietrich, a town of about 200 people nine miles east of Shoshone, faces issues similar to those of a larger city — annexation, planning and zoning, street repairs, and completion of a new sewer project.

Everyone present, except Mayor Jeanetta Knowles, agreed that the coin toss was a fair way to settle the tie. Southwick said it was a tie and a coin-toss meeting kept anyone from getting hurt feelings.

But Knowles said there's a better way and offered an alternative in jest: "I'd just follow along behind the three of you and just see who's doing the best job at doing nothing."

Alito boasted of work against abortion

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twenty years ago, Samuel Alito was just trying to catch the eye of Reagan administration officials looking to fill a political slot in the Justice Department.

But the young conservative's boast about being "particularly proud" of his work helping to argue that "the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion" may now make it more difficult for him in his quest to join the Supreme Court.

This is the strongest statement we've seen from a nominee on this very controversial subject for a long time," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee that will hold Alito's confirmation hearing.

Chief Justice John Roberts, who was confirmed by the Senate in September, was able to avoid many questions about abortion during his confirmation by saying he spent his time in the federal government arguing his boss's opinions, not his own.

But Alito put his personal opinion out there in 1985 when he sent a document to the Reagan administration, along with his application to become a deputy assistant attorney general, saying his previous government work had included helping to advance legal positions in which I personally believe very strongly.

"I am particularly proud of my contributions in recent cases in which the government

Please see ALITO, Page A2

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Medicare enrollment gets under way today

By Kevin Franks
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — On your mark, get set, stop.

Enrollment begins today for a new Medicare prescription drug benefit, and officials say it drug for beneficiaries to think about signing up — but not necessarily to decide right away.

There's no need to rush into this, said Mark McClellan, administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. "There's plenty of time to make a decision — and make a decision you can be confident about."

The new benefit kicks in on Jan. 1. Enrollment continues through May 15, 2006.

President Bush calls the program the "greatest advance in health care for seniors and Americans with disabilities since the creation of Medicare 40 years ago."

Some questions and answers:

Q: How will the program work?

A: People must enroll in a plan offered by a private insurer that contracts with the federal government. The insurer will issue a card that beneficiaries will take to the pharmacy. The pharmacist will scan the card to determine the type of coverage the customer has. That determines out-of-pocket costs.

Q: How many drug plans are there?

A: In most states, beneficiaries will be able to select from at least 40 plans. Some plans offer prescription drug coverage only. Others offer managed care that covers the full range of Medicare services, such as visits to a doctor's office. While some find the vast number of plans confusing.

Please see MEDICARE, Page A2

Suicide bombs kill peacekeeper

Attackers in Afghanistan target NATO

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Suicide bombers rammed cars filled with explosives into NATO peacekeepers in two attacks in the Afghan capital Monday, killing a German soldier and an Afghan child and wounding at least a dozen other people — the first major assault on foreign troops in Kabul in more than a year.

Troops thwarted a suspected third bombing by shooting dead three people in a car racing toward the scene of the blasts. Such seemingly coordinated attacks are unprecedented in Afghanistan, and reinforced fears that Taliban insurgents are copying tactics used in Iraq.

The bombings occurred within 90 minutes of each other on a 500-yard stretch of road near the headquarters of Afghan-U.N. election organizers. In each case, the attackers rammed their cars into NATO vehicles.

After the first attack, the body

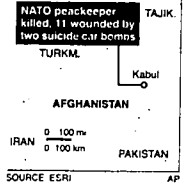
after officials released results from legislative elections in September, showing a win for Karzai's supporters.

Kabul, home to about 3,000 foreigners and patrolled by thousands of NATO peacekeepers, had been regarded as one of the country's safest places despite a flurry of kidnappings over the past year.

Senior Afghan officials have spoken in recent months of al-Qaida operatives entering the country to stage assaults, mostly from neighboring Pakistan. In the past two months, there have been eight suicide bombings nationwide, the deadliest in September outside an army training center in Kabul. Previously, such assaults were far less frequent.

A purported Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for Monday's attacks.

While 86 U.S. troops have been killed this year, 24 International Security Assistance Force soldiers have died, 17 of them Spanish military personnel killed when their helicopter crashed in an accident.



TWIN FALLS FOHL CAST

Today: Partly cloudy and cool. Highs in the lower 40s. Tonight: A chilly night. Lows in the upper teens.

TWIN FALLS LIVE DAY FOHL CAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

Yesterday's Weather

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

BURLEY/RUPERT FOHL CAST

Today: A chilly day under partly cloudy skies. Highs in the middle to upper 30s.

AI MANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 5 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. It will be mostly dry through the remainder of the week.

BOISE Decreasing clouds and cool today. Temperatures will gradually turn milder by the weekend.

NORTHERN UTAH Sunshine, breezy winds and a slow warming trend.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases: Full Moon, New Moon, First Quarter, Last Quarter.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Twin Falls.

U.V. INDEX

Table showing U.V. index levels: Low, Moderate, High.

REGIONAL FOHL CAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for various Idaho cities.

NATIONAL FOHL CAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for various national cities.

WORLD FOHL CAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for various world cities.

Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day. 'The only thing that stands between me and what I want to do is the other people's right to try to make me believe that it is impossible.'

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Pill

Continued from A1. That decision was made months before the FDA completed its staff review of the application to sell the drug without a prescription.

In addition, FDA officials told GAO investigators that Galsen and others had told them in late December 2003 and January 2004 that the Plan B application couldn't be approved because Crawford's office opposed it.

The report says Galsen later denied making any such comments. Dr. Janet Woodcock, the FDA's deputy commissioner for operations, denied the allegations as well in a written response filed with the GAO.

In its 62-page report, which was requested by congressional Democrats, the GAO determined that high-ranking FDA officials were more involved in the Plan B review than in other similar applications and that the FDA's rationale for denying the initial Plan B application in May 2004 was "novel and did not follow FDA's traditional practices."

In addition, the report found that FDA officials, who usually would have signed the so-called "action letter" blocking Plan B's application, disagreed with the decision and didn't sign.

The GAO report has prompted calls from Democrats and women's rights groups for the FDA to finish its review of the Plan B application for over-the-counter sales to girls and women 17 and older. Both groups claim that the agency is

dragging its feet for political reasons.

"Science was pushed aside when the FDA rejected the Plan B application," Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., charged in a written statement. "Agency scientists were ignored and their analyses dismissed to further a narrow ideological agenda that no Americans respect."

Even though Barr Pharmaceuticals wants to require prescriptions for girls 16 and younger, the so-called "morning after pill" has had a rocky time getting over-the-counter status.

Two FDA advisory panels voted 23-4 in December 2003 to recommend that Plan B be sold without a prescription, finding that it was safe and effective.

But on May 6, 2004, the FDA rejected Barr's initial application for nonprescription sales, citing a lack of data about the drug's safety for younger adolescents. The decision was the first of 23 over-the-counter applications since 1997 that the FDA had denied after its advisory committees recommended approval.

Crawford, who resigned in September, said in August that the drug wouldn't be sold over-the-counter until the agency resolved whether its prescription and nonprescription versions could be marketed in the same package and whether the prescription requirement for young teens could be enforced effectively.

Dr. Susan Wood, the former assistant FDA commissioner for women's health and the former director of the Office of Women's Health, resigned in protest after that decision. On Monday, she said the GAO report validated her concerns.

"This report is a sad reminder of why I felt compelled to resign: that instead of improving and advancing women's health, the FDA leadership is ignoring its process and not relying on science and medical evidence."

Medicare

Continued from A1. ing, federal officials say the competition forces insurers to lower costs and provide more generous benefits for people 65 and older and the disabled.

Q: How can I determine which plan is best for me? A: You can compare plans at www.medicare.gov, or you can call 1-800-Medicare, and a customer service representative will help you.

Alito

Continued from A1. argued that racial and ethnic quotas should not be allowed and that the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion," wrote Alito, who was then working for the solicitor general's office.

Republicans and Democrats already are planning to zero in on that statement at his confirmation hearing.

"I think that it is more reasonable to question him closely at the hearing," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who will run Alito's 9th hearings as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bush picked Alito after White House counsel Harriet Miers withdrew her Supreme Court nomination when confronted by withering criticism by some conservatives.

"This may explain why the right wing expressed such enthusiastic support for Judge Harriet Miers," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., one of several senators who will meet with Alito privately on Tuesday.

drug spending reaches \$2,250. Beneficiaries then pay all drug costs until they hit \$5,100. At that point, the customer pays 5 percent of further charges.

Q: How much is the benefit worth? A: It depends. The typical beneficiary can expect to pay about half of what he would pay without any prescription drug coverage — about \$1,100.

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terred

ings that he has "great respect" for Roe v. Wade as a precedent for the court, was confirmed to uphold holding.

Alito "joins a long list of jurists who have written that Roe was wrongly decided, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg before she was confirmed to the court," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a Judiciary Committee member.

The document was included in more than 100 pages of material about Alito released by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library on Monday.

Some abortion rights groups already have come out against Alito because of his work as a federal appellate judge, including a dissent on an appeals court decision striking down a law requiring women seeking abortions to notify their spouses.

But White House spokesman Steve Schmidt said Alito's 15 years as a judge on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals shows "a clear pattern of modesty, respect for precedent and judicial restraint."

the government is subsidizing part of the cost of their drug. The federal government estimates that it will spend about \$724 billion over 10 years to provide the benefit.

Q: How do I know if I qualify for the low-income subsidy? A: In general, you qualify if your monthly income is less than \$1,197 if single or \$1,604 if married. Also, your assets, such as savings accounts or investments (but not your house) must be worth less than \$11,500 if single or \$23,000 if married.

Q: What if I already have prescription drug coverage through my employer or union? A: The government wanted to encourage employers and unions to continue offering drug coverage, so it is offering tax subsidies that give them an incentive to continue coverage and possibly even use some of the tax savings to enhance it.

People should check with their employer or union to determine what impact the new benefit will have.

Alito said he was "unduly restrictive" by promising to avoid "ward's" appeals.

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NATION/WORLD

Police capture teen accused of killing girlfriend's parents

The Associated Press

BELLEVILLE, Pa. — A Pennsylvania teenager is suspected of killing his girlfriend's parents in an argument over her curfew, was captured in Indiana on Monday after a police chase that ended in a crash. The 14-year-old girl, who was in the car, was not hurt, authorities said.

David Ludwig, 18, and Kara Beth Borden were taken into custody after their car had-on into a tree in Belleville, some 600 miles from where the killings took place.



David G. Ludwig is shown in a recent photo released by the Warwick Township (Pa.) police Sunday.

Police were questioning Ludwig but had not spoken with Kara. Because of her age, Indiana and Pennsylvania law requires a relative guardian or attorney to be present.

Investigators said it was not immediately clear whether the girl was abducted or being willingly, but she was being taken on the assumption she was kidnapped.

"It's completely insane, completely insane," Lancaster County, Pa., Coroner E. Gary Kirchner said. "This isn't a Romeo-and-Juliet death. This is far worse than that."

Authorities said Ludwig shot Kara's parents, Michael B. and Cathryn Lee Borden, early Sunday after they argued about her curfew when she came home late. The shootings happened at the family's home near Litz, Pa., about 60 miles west of Philadelphia.

An alert for the girl was issued

running them into a ditch before he hit the tree.

After officers pulled Ludwig from the car, Kara got out and was frantic, screaming and crying, Cox said.

No weapons were found in the car. Police did not know why the pair were in Indiana.

Pennsylvania authorities were traveling to Indiana. Prosecutors expected to hold an extradition hearing for Ludwig on Tuesday or Wednesday, unless he waives those proceedings.

Kara's 13-year-old sister, Katelyn, told investigators her parents were shot after they argued with Ludwig for about an hour, according to court papers.

Katelyn said she saw Ludwig shoot her father, and then ran into the bathroom, where she heard a second shot, presumably the one that killed her

mother, court papers said. Ludwig then ran through the house calling for Kara, she told investigators.

The couple's 9-year-old son ran to the neighbors, who called 911.

Police late Sunday issued an arrest warrant for Ludwig on charges of criminal homicide and kidnapping.

Stephanie Mannon, 16, said Ludwig and Kara had been seeing each other secretly. Their parents didn't approve of them being together because of the age difference, she said. "It wasn't because he was a shady character, because he wasn't."

Both Ludwig and Kara maintain Web sites. Hers refers to interests in soccer, art and her Christian faith; his says he enjoys "having soft air gun wars" and claims expertise in "getting in trouble."

The Borden, both 50, were apparently shot once each in the head, authorities said. Mike Borden worked for a printing company, and the children were home-schooled, said neighbor Tod Sherman. Sherman said the family knew Ludwig through a home-schooling network.

It was the second violent episode in a week in normally quiet Litz, a Lancaster County village known for quilt shops, artists and Strugg's Pretzel House, which bills itself as America's first pretzel bakery. On Tuesday, police shot and killed a 23-year-old man after he shot and wounded an officer who had gone to his house to arrest him on a traffic charge.

U.S.-led operation kills 50 insurgents

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. and Iraqi troops launched a fresh attack Monday against an insurgent stronghold near the Syrian border despite calls by Sunnis to halt such operations to encourage a big turnout in next month's election. The U.S. command said about 50 insurgents were killed.

Two U.S. Marines were killed and at least seven were wounded in the fighting in the border town of Obaidi, according to a New York Times reporter embedded with the Marines. A Marine spokesman told the Associated Press that he cannot report casualties until 24 hours after they occur.

In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near the main gates to the heavily guarded Green Zone, killing two South Africans and wounding three other people.

The victims worked for State Department security contractor DynCorp International, the U.S. Embassy said.

The U.S.-Iraqi attack against Obaidi was the latest stage of an offensive to clear al-Qaida-led insurgents from a string of towns and cities in the Euphrates River valley near the border with Syria.

Nation/World in brief

initial leg of an eight-day journey to Japan, South Korea, China and Mongolia. Bush has hopes of improving his image on the world stage.

"Reasonable people can disagree about the conduct of the war, but it is irresponsible for Democrats to now claim that we misled them and the American people," Bush said. "Only one person manipulated evidence and misled the world — and that person was Saddam Hussein."

Bush, who wore a flight jacket, was cheered and applauded by the receptive audience.

84 days this year, the agency said. The EPA considers the totals to be final numbers for 2005 because the smog season runs from May through September.

"It's a tough job cleaning up the ozone at this point because there are not a lot of easy emissions to target," said Joe Cassmassi, planning and rules manager for the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the region's main smog-fighting agency. Ozone is one of the components of smog.

Houston and the San Joaquin Valley, which in recent years rivaled or surpassed Los Angeles as the country's smoggiest areas, ranked lower this year.

But Los Angeles' rank comes with an asterisk.

The EPA this year switched from measuring smog over a one-hour period to measuring it over an eight-hour span. Under the old system, Houston would have edged out Los Angeles for the top spot by violating the standard on 33 days compared with 30 days.

Although it led the nation in smoggy days, the Los Angeles region's air is considerably cleaner than it used to be.

— compiled from wire reports

Los Angeles once again nation's smog capital

LOS ANGELES — The greater Los Angeles region surpassed Houston and the San Joaquin Valley as the nation's smog capital, in part because of a change in method of ranking, federal officials said.

Air quality in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's smog standard on

Bush slams war critics again on way to Asia

ELMENDORF, ARIZ. — President Bush hurled new arguments against Iraq war critics on Monday as he headed for Asia, warning some Democrats of sending mixed signals to our troops and the enemy.

"That is irresponsible," Bush said. Bush addressed U.S. forces and their families during a recruiting stop in Alaska, his way the

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- SATURDAY - Chef's Choice

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NATION

South Dakota activists seeking to strip judges of their immunity from lawsuits

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A movement is under way in South Dakota to turn the benches on members of the bar.

Activists are trying to put a radical measure on next year's ballot that could make South Dakota the first state to let people who believe their rights have been violated by judges to put those judges on trial. Citizens could seek damages or criminal charges.

The measure would overturn more than a century of settled law in the United States by stripping judges of their absolute immunity from lawsuits over their judicial acts.

"The current system doesn't work because there is no adequate way to hold a given judge accountable for proper behavior or to prevent them from judicial misconduct if they choose to do so," said businessman William Siegmeyer, a leader of the movement.

Legal experts warned that such a provision could dangerously undermine the independence of South Dakota's judiciary, plunge the court system into anarchy, and run afoul of the U.S. Constitution.

And they noted there are already remedies available to the public: Bad rulings can be overturned on appeal, and judges who break the rules can be punished by state disciplinary boards and, in South Dakota and other states, voted out of office.

Marle Fallinger, a law professor at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., said judicial immunity is seen as a way to protect judges' independence so they decide cases on the merits, not in response to pressure from the community or individuals.

"Judges are kind of the last barrier we have between government oppression and the individual, so if they can't be independent, that could be a problem," Fallinger said.

She added: "Judges will be chilled from making the right decision because they don't know what crazy litigant is going to decide they are going to sue them."

Siegmeyer, owner of a company that manufactures livestock-feed grinders, turned in 46,800 signatures last week to put the proposed state constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2006. That is about 13,000 more than needed. The state is still verifying the signatures.

Judicial immunity, the doctrine that says judges cannot be sued over their judicial acts, was established by the U.S. Supreme Court in an 1871 case.

The South Dakota amendment would eliminate state judges' immunity in cases involving deliberate violations of the law or someone's constitutional rights or deliberate disregard of the facts.

People could file complaints against judges after the traditional appeals process has concluded. A special grand jury would handle complaints, deciding whether a judge could be sued or face criminal charges.

If the grand jury decides on criminal charges, it could indict the judge and create a special tribunal that would act as both judge and jury, deciding guilt and any sentence. The measure would not apply to federal judges.

Siegmeyer said he has never had a bad experience in court. In fact, supporters of the measure have no examples of any problems in South Dakota. But Siegmeyer said the amendment could help curb the abuses he has heard about across the country.

On its Web site, the group promoting the amendment, South Dakota Judicial Accountability, cites an Indiana case from the 1970s involving the sterilization of a 15-year-old girl, and argues that stripping judges of immunity would also help prevent decisions such as the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allowed homes to be seized for private development.

"We didn't throw the yoke of the king off to get under the yoke of the judges," said Gary Zerman, a Valencia, Calif., lawyer who is a spokesman for the South Dakota ballot effort.

Tom Barnett, secretary-treasurer of the State Bar of South Dakota, said inmates would quickly figure out that they could harness the judges who put him behind bars by filing a complaint.

"You don't think there aren't hundreds of them, everybody giggling up in the penitentiary," he said.

Georgetown University-Law School professor Roy A. Schotland, who studies judicial elections and constitutional law, said the measure could violate the Constitution.

"It at least erodes and may go so far as to destroy judicial independence, which means it erodes and perhaps destroys the rule of law and fair judging," Schotland said.

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At Swensen's, we understand that every family faces its own unique Thanksgiving challenges. Whether it's the uncle who can single-handedly consume 15 pounds of candied yams or the single sitting or the great aunt who insists on bringing all twelve of her cousins to Thanksgiving dinner. Fortunately, at Swensen's Markets we're standing by to help you get an early jump on your Thanksgiving preparations with great prices on everything you'll need for a low-stress holiday weekend, including a FREE turkey with a \$100 purchase. So stop by Swensen's this week—and stock up on everything you'll need to keep even your strangest and pickiest relatives full and happy this Thanksgiving holiday.

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EDITORIAL

Third time will bring no charm on gay marriage

Third verse, same as the first. Not much has changed since last winter when the Idaho Senate came up short with a 21-14 vote to pass a gay marriage amendment to the state Constitution. It was the second straight year gay marriage legislation failed in the Senate.

To no one's surprise, it appears to be back. House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, R-Burley, and Senate President Pro Tem Bob Giddens, R-Idaho Falls, are working with other Republicans to write an amendment with suitable language. If it comes back to Boise this winter, a gay-marriage debate would be the third in three years.

And yet, virtually nothing has changed on the political landscape since the last time legislators debated gay marriage.

Homosexual couples are not lining up at the courthouse to exchange nuptials. Idaho's Supreme Court is not hearing any challenge to state marriage laws, and conservatives in the U.S. Congress have not turned away from the issue.

Idaho has two laws on the books regarding gay marriage: One defines marriage as a personal relationship arising out of a civil contract between a man and a

woman"; the other bans marriages that "violate the public policy of this state" including same-sex marriage.

Then, at the federal level, the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 remains the law of the land. While a challenge to Idaho's state laws is possible, it would also face long odds of winning. The only way Idaho's laws protecting

the sanctity of marriage would ever lose power is if the federal DOMA law is overturned by federal courts.

That's the message repeated and amplified by Idaho's Republican Rep. Mike Simpson, who has said a state Constitution would suffer the same fate. Under those conditions, the real debate over protecting marriage is in Washington — not Boise.

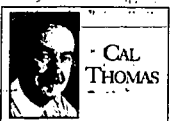
Idaho and federal laws clearly protect marriage for what it truly is — an agreement between man and woman to preserve and rear the institution of families. A majority of Idahoans and Americans are satisfied with that definition. But they don't see any reason to wander into a fight when state and federal laws have not been challenged.

State lawmakers have better business than to engage in an unnecessary debate, especially if the discussion is bound to be decided elsewhere.

Our view: Idaho legislators have no need to push for an amendment against gay marriage. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Last week, President Bush and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove, in speeches one day apart, appeared to have rediscovered an ingredient the absence of which has contributed to the administration's falling poll numbers: voters' anger.

In a Veterans Day speech in Tobyhanna, Pa., President Bush took on his critics who have said he lied about intelligence to justify deposing Saddam Hussein.



While acknowledging it is "perfectly legitimate" to criticize his conduct of the war, the president said, "Some Democrats and anti-war critics are claiming we manipulated the intelligence and misled the American people about why we went to war."

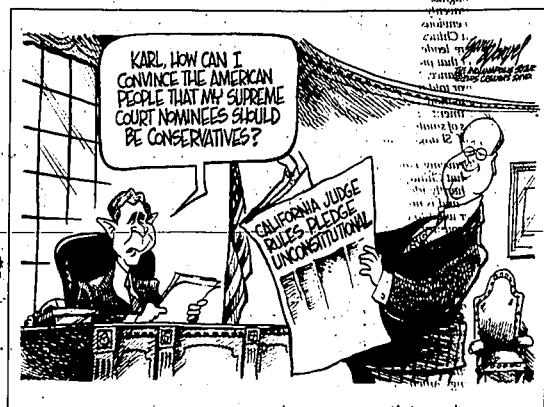
Democrats are fully aware that a bipartisan Senate investigation found no evidence of political pressure to change the intelligence community's judgments related to Iraq's weapons program.

The president said the stakes in the global war on terror are too high "and the national interest is too important for politicians to throw out false charges." He said too many of his critics are "deeply irresponsible" and sending the wrong signal to America's enemy and to U.S. troops.

Democrats reacted immediately, accusing the president of using Veterans Day to politicize the war. What have they been doing the other 364 days of the year. If not trying to undermine the war effort by playing politics and contributing to disunity, thus encouraging the enemy.

In his speech to the Federal Reserve on Nov. 10, Rove gave a brief history of the consequences of judicial activism and how it has violated the separation of powers clause of the Constitution and contributed to disrespect for the courts and the law.

He noted the changes to the courts that were made in Texas when citizens realized their



Some of these grateful people should be brought to the United States for a "Thank You America" event. Let the Democrats tell the liberated Iraqis they should not have been freed from the clutches of Saddam Hussein.

will and constitution were being frustrated because of "millions of dollars from a handful of wealthy personal injury trial lawyers" that were "poured into Texas' Supreme Court races to shift the philosophical direction of the Court." He noted the court "earned the reputation as 'the best court that money could buy.'"

Alabama, he said, faced a similar situation when the state legislature passed tort-reform legislation in 1987. "However," noted Rove, "activist judges on the trial lawyer-friendly state Supreme Court struck it down, prompting a period of 'jacked justice' through the mid-1990s, where the median punitive damage award in Alabama reached \$250,000 — three times the national average."

Time magazine labeled Alabama "tort hell."

At the federal level, Rove cited a few recent rulings —

The Ninth Circuit Court's declaration that "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional and the dismissal by a federal judge of a 10-count indictment against hard-core pornographers on grounds that the federal obscenity law violated the pornographer's right to privacy, "despite the fact that popularly-elected representatives in Congress had passed the obscenity laws and that the pornographers distributed materials with simulations where women were raped and killed."

What these two speeches have in common is their aggressive tone.

Before demagoguery became the primary product of contemporary politics, we once saw more politicians battling it out with the opposition in the name of the family, morality, feel-good, kumbayah, can-we-all-get-along approach that is as palatable as cold oatmeal. Why haven't we heard more of

this type of form the administration takes of the unattainable objective of "changing the tone in Washington?"

The Bush and Rove speeches showed the new battle strategy for the administration. Here's something else that would help: expose more White House to the gratitude of the Iraqis. Visit www.freeiraq.com.

"The Web page features Kurds thanking America. Why have their voices not been heard on American news broadcasts and in White House press?"

"Some of these grateful people should be brought to the United States for a 'Thank You America' event. Let the Democrats tell the liberated Iraqis they should not have been freed from the clutches of Saddam Hussein!"

"It's time to play hardball with the left if you want to be a good first punch."

"Offense will be football games and wars. It also shapes public opinion."

"This is his political offense with more of the type of rhetoric used last week by President Bush and Karl Rove."

Send mail to Cal Thomas at The Times-News, 2225 Sherman Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, N.Y. 14208. Readers may also leave e-mail at cal@calthomas.com.

The Times-News

Bred Hard... Publisher Chris Steinbach... Editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Bred Hard, Chris Steinbach, Steve Crump, Eleanor Burkart, Ramona Jones and David Cooper.

LETTERS

Local doctor went extra mile after Katrina

This letter is in regard to one of our local doctors who took the time out of her extremely busy schedule to offer her services to the victims of hurricane Katrina.

Dr. Kathryn Engle flew to Louisiana to offer medical services to the victims of our country's worst natural disaster. Upon arrival, she was told she was not Federal Emergency Management Agency certified and her medical services could not be accepted. I cannot comprehend the lack of common sense displayed by our government while thousands of people suffered, some with serious medical issues and not able to receive medical treatment from qualified physicians.

I am aware that Dr. Engle is not the only physician in our community to offer their services to the victims of this disaster. Many people in the Magic Valley have given monetary help, food, clothing and other necessary relief and showed the true spirit of giving to those in need.

In wanting to help hands on, and being denied, I can only hope people like Dr. Engle who show their compassion and concern for others do not get discouraged and understand they are appreciated.

Dr. Engle, I feel proud that you are a part of our community.

PATTI CLARK
Twin Falls

Gas profits warrant a closer inspection

I read in *The Times-News* last week Exxon profits for last quarter were approximately \$8.5 billion.

That's the highest quarterly

profit of any corporation in U.S. history, including General Motors and Ford.

Remember, during this time they were declaring huge energy shortages due to Katrina, higher costs and other global challenges.

While we were told that we all must conserve energy, it would appear that Exxon, along with the many companies, must have accomplished the greatest price gouging, profiteering and greed in American history.

Why aren't our congressmen demanding some straight answers from the oil crowd in the White House? What kind of "spin" would they put on this?

I am astounded that the public is not outraged. Just good old American free enterprise, I guess.

BEVERLY J. FRAZIER
Burley

Suit will waste district time and resources

I am a proud teacher of the Twin Falls School District for more than 13 years. My faith and trust in the administration and board have never wavered, even through the most trying times.

The lawsuit filed recently by four teachers was stated to be on behalf of all teachers, which is false. Many of us are disheartened that we are put into the same category when we are all looking forward to negotiations coming to closure as quickly as possible for the morale of the educators, administration and community as a whole.

While I am very grateful the bargaining team works with the district to come to contract agreements, I do not believe that a lawsuit that wastes valuable time and resources will do any good. It will only have a

negative impact upon a truly honorable profession.

KATHY DOYLE
Twin Falls

Protect water on else lose it to outsiders

Do you really want to ship Idaho's water down power lines out of the state of Idaho?

- If you end the oil supply, the motor stops. It stops the water supply, life stops.
- Across the world, 23,000 square miles, a chunk of land the size of the state of West Virginia, turns to desert every year.
- It took all of history up to 1630 to put a billion people on the planet but only 100 years to add the second billion. The third billion arrived in just 44 years and the most recent billion came in a scant 12 years and now we have 6 billion people. We add a city the size of New York each month — more than 90 million per year. If today 1 million people are killed in a natural disaster or a war, then 1 million will be replaced in four days!
- Since the last century, the population doubled but water use tripled!
- Half the planet's wetlands were lost in the last century. Don't think the govt or federal government is going to protect your water because it is a personal matter and you are only get done if you do it yourself. Ask Karl Dreher what happened to the water in the western watershed of Colorado.

Idaho has 1,293,262 people and the United States has 293,655,404, so you figure out where the political power can be concentrated that just make it not in Idaho, for sure! Today as I write this, 5 million people die each day from famine in just

one little country — Malawi. Last year, only about 25,000 out of 200,000 full shares of the Twin Falls Canal Co. were even voted — amazing but true! An overwhelming majority of our own state legislators voted to get rid of "public interest considerations" (HO 284) in transferring your water rights to people like Sempra, including Sen. Gannon of my own district.

You know what the politicians and interlopers in Jerome are trying to do with your water and that is only the first of many more shenanigans to come.

The water belongs to each little person in Idaho, and it is your responsibility — not some politician or big appropriator — to see that those you have given the right to use your water use it wisely. You decide or Sempra decides for you.

MAX HAT FIELD
Dallas, Texas

Look around to see gasoline corruption

Just how long are the gas stations going to rip off the people of Twin Falls?

I was in Idaho Falls and Rexburg last weekend and Chevron gas was \$2.42 when I came home to Twin Falls to find it at \$2.59!

I just had a visitor come from Hamilton, Mont., and guess what gas is up there? Not \$2.59 or even \$2.42 but \$2.25! Doesn't that just make you wonder what the heck is going on in Twin Falls, Idaho? In Idaho, period, even at \$2.42, that is still 17 cents more than the gas in Rexburg.

Makes you wonder just who has stock in the gas and oil companies, that it stays up there higher in price!

CORENE H. BUEHLER
Twin Falls

Returning soldiers provided lasting memory

To members of the 116th Brigade Combat Team: Welcome home!

It was my honor, and will be one of my greatest memories, to be a part of welcoming you back home on Nov. 8.

Sonya Nowland, family assistance coordinator and wife of Sgt. 1st Class Kent Nowland, had it right. She said, "They aren't just the spouses' soldiers, they're the community's soldiers."

This community, this state

Write to my

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 400 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters

Getting in touch

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

Sen. Mike Crapo
In Twin Falls, call or write: Heather Tel, regional director 202 Falls Ave., Suite 2, Twin Falls, ID 83301 734-2515; Fax 734-0314 In Washington: 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20540 (202) 224-6142 e-mail messages can be sent via Sen. Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/crapo

Rep. Mike Simpson
In Twin Falls, call or write: Charlie Barnes, agriculture field director 1201 Falls Ave., Suite 25 Twin Falls, ID 83301 833-244-4444 Fax 834-7244 In Washington: 1339 Longworth Building Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5531 Fax: (202) 225-0216 Access: e-mail through Nis.Walsh@hqs.gov or Mike@mikesimpson.com <http://www.house.gov/simpson>

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathews, regional director 560 Flies Ave., Suite A Twin Falls, ID 83301

and they are proud of you.

We appreciate you for your dedication and your sacrifice. Add kids and your families who carried on at the home front during your tour of duty.

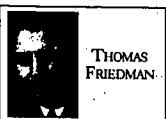
We anxiously await as other members of your unit are soon to arrive, and wish you all the very best!

Glenda Doughty is Mayor for the city of Twin Falls.

OPINION

Thou shalt preserve the center

Dear God in Heaven: Forgive me, my God, for I have been so blind and I have had bad thoughts. Forgive me, Heavenly Father, for I have cast an envious eye on the covetousness of these political system, where leaders can, and do, just order that problems be solved. For instance, Shanghai's deputy mayor told me that his city has been so polluted by the government simply moved thousands of small manufacturers out of Shanghai to clean up the air.



THOMAS FRIEDMAN

Reagan, the most overrated president in U.S. history, lowered taxes and raised government spending, trigger-

ing a huge spike in the deficit. But because he did it with a sunny smile and it happened to coincide with the decline of the Soviet Union, he is remembered as a Great Man.

The senior George Bush raised taxes and helped pave the way for the prosperity of the 1990s. He also managed the actual collapse of the Soviet Union without a shot being fired, using unsambling but deft diplomacy. Yet the elder Bush is somehow

remembered — including, it seems, by his own son — as a failed president.

Add it all up and you can see that we have put ourselves in a position where only a total blow-out crisis in our system will generate enough authority for a democratic government to do the right things. Let us pray.

Thomas Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times.

Forgive me, Heavenly Father, because I know that China's political system is highly ideal — not even close — and is not one that I would ever want to emulate in my own country. But at this time, when democracies, like India and Argentina, seem incapable of making hard decisions, I cannot help but feel a fringe of insularity. It is to be serious about its problems and actually do things that are tough and require taking things away from people.

Dear Lord, please accept my expression of remorse for harboring such feelings. Amen.

Well, you get the point. At a time when we are busy cutting others about the need to adopt democratic systems, ours and many others seem to be hopelessly gridlocked — with neither the left nor the right able to generate a mandate to tackle hard problems. And it is the yawning gap between the huge problems our country faces — Social Security reform, health care, education, climate change, energy — and the tiny, fragile mandates that our democracy seems able to generate to address these problems that is really worrying.

Why is this happening? Clearly, the way voting districts have been gerrymandered in America — thanks to the Voting Rights Act and Tom DeLay-like political manipulations, is a big part of the problem. As a result of this gerrymandering, only a small fraction of the seats in the U.S. Congress and state legislatures are really contested anymore. Therefore, few candidates have to build cross-party coalitions around the middle.

Most seats are now reserved for one party or the other. And when that happens, it means that in each of those districts the real election is the primary, where Democrats run against Democrats and Republicans against Republicans. And when that happens, it produces candidates who appeal only to their party base — so we end up with a Congress paralyzed between the far left and far right.

Add to this the fragmentation of the media, with the rising power of bloggers and podcasters, and the decline in authority of traditional centrist institutions — including The New York Times — and you have what the Foreign Policy magazine editor Moses Naim rightly calls "the age of diffusion."

"Show me a democratically elected government today anywhere in the world with a popular mandate rooted in a landslide victory — there aren't many," said Naim, whose smart new book, "Illicit," is an absolute must-read about how small illicit players, using the tools of globalization, are now able to act very big on the world stage, weakening nations and the power of executives across the globe. "Everywhere you speak in this age of diffusion, you see these veto centers emerging, which can derail, contain or stop any initiative. That is why so few governments today are able to generate a strong unifying mandate."

This is a real dilemma because a vast majority of Americans are just center-left or center-right. Many surely feel disenfranchised by today's far-left, far-right Congress. Moreover, the solutions to our biggest problems — especially Social Security and health care — can be found only in compromises between the center-left and center-right. This is doubly true today, when the real solutions require Washington to take stuff away from people, not give them more.

But our political no longer rewards good behavior. Ronald



The Turkeys are "Nervous"

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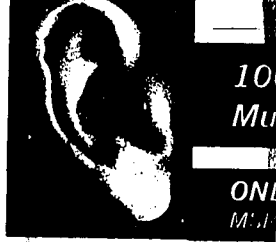
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MAGIC VALLEY

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 City Editor: Matthew Bruch, 735-3264
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AROUND THE VALLEY

Public hearing on allowing gun shows
 TWIN FALLS — County commissioners are considering allowing gun shows at the county fairgrounds. They'd like to know what the community has to say at a public hearing at 10 a.m. Wednesday in commissioners'



Talkin' with Birdman



Chris Schmitt with his ducks on his lawn Thursday outside of Gooding. Schmitt has more ducks, geese, white peacocks and emus. Meet Thursday as Schmitt goes through nightly rounds of feeding and shutting down his ranch. Language with his adopted son, Lin, who tends to the free-range chickens and sells their eggs at

ty man discusses his feathery friends

When it's time to feed the emus, Schmitt calls them to dinner by singing an old church hymn.

"Come and dine the master calleth," Schmitt sings out to them. He can carry a tune.

"Do you have an emu out on Highway 46?" the officer asked him.

Turns out Emma the emu had decided to take a stroll. Schmitt, Lin and a friend went out to pick him up — yes, he had already chucked. They managed to get Emma into the back of a pickup, but it was no easy feat, Schmitt said.

The police called another time asking Schmitt if he was missing a llama. He wasn't.

Schmitt, the regional teacher at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, began raising pigeons as a teenager on the family farm in Nebraska.

Schmitt has a little side business releasing his white pigeons and doves at weddings and other occasions. And he sells his free-range chicken eggs to Adkinson markets in Blaine County. Lin, 21, pretty much runs the chicken egg operation.

Schmitt and his wife, Karen, adopted Lin from Taipei, Taiwan, nine years ago. They also have three other grown children.

Schmitt points out that all of his birds are free range. "It's cruel and unusual punishment to keep a bird locked up in a cage," Schmitt said, picking up a chuckar and tossing it into the air. It flutters away.

"That's what Schmitt loves most about birds. They can fly."

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicvalley.com.

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Somebody needs you

TWIN FALLS — Any local charities, community service organizations, churches or anyone helping others in need can announce their needs in a special section printed on Thanksgiving. The section regarding things that need help with along with name and phone number.

Send items to "Somebody Needs You" Attn: Jami Whited, 132 Fairfield St. W., Twin Falls, ID 83301. e-mail to jwhited@magicvalley.com, fax to 734-6538 or call her at 735-3278.

Snow levels

Watershed	Salmon	Big Wood	Little Wood	Big Lost	Little Lost	Henry Fork/Teton	Upper Snake Basin	Oakley	Salmon Falls
100%	17%	18%	10%	13%	100%	13%	18%	14%	7%

Comission sinks floating holiday

By Renee Wells
 For The Times-News

BURLEY — County employees will not be getting an extra paid holiday in 2006. Cassia County pays its employees on 10 standard national holidays, four more than many people in the business sector enjoy. And in past years, the county also has granted a floating holiday, where half the employees get an extra day off at Thanksgiving and the other half get one during the Christmas holidays.

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Commissioner Paul Christensen moved to allow the employees the extra day, but a vote fell in the commission chambers. "If you're waiting to get a second from

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By Sandy Miller
 Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — New technology has made way for much-improved knee and hip replacements.

But with that new technology comes higher costs.

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center spent \$4.1 million on orthopedic supplies in 2004-2005, up from \$2.7 million, or 54 percent, from the previous year.

"There's a lot of new technology that has improved implants for hips and knees," said John Groesbeck, the hospital's chief financial officer.

Groesbeck said another reason for the rising cost of orthopedic supplies is that the hospital is doing more back surgery, thanks to the addition of spine surgeon Dr. David Christensen to the hospital's med-

The hospital board on Monday heard a report on the hospital's finances for the 2004-2005 budget year that ended Sept. 30. Magic Valley Regional brought in \$114.9 million in revenue between Oct. 1, 2004 and Sept. 30, 2005.

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Benefits went up, too, with the hospital putting \$10.9 million into employee benefits, up from \$9.4 million, or 16 percent from the previous year.

Magic Valley Regional ended up with \$9.6 million in net income at the end of the year, up from \$7.9 million, or 20 percent, from the previous year.

The hospital had \$120.5 million in total

LDS spire debate grounded

By Candace Baltz-Smylie
 Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — Several dozen community members gathered Monday night at the Twin Falls City Council meeting for nothing.

The reason for the crowd: On the agenda was a motion to review the Planning and Zoning Commission's approval of special-use permits for a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple, specifically a plan about the temple's spire — proposed to be 159 feet high. The commission granted the permits on Nov. 8.

Councilman Chris Talkington made the request, and prepared a written statement that he read to the crowd. He said it was the place of the council to plan rather than react, and that allowing such a tall structure without any standards in place would set a dangerous precedent. He predicted that such a decision could be regrettable.

"(It could become) a contest by religious denominations for who can reach the closest to God," he said to the crowd.

The church applied for, and was granted, two special-use permits: one to be located in a residential zone and the other to exceed a height of 35 feet. The temple has been approved for a height of 50 feet, not including the spire.

The city does not regulate spires, said Twin Falls City Attorney Fritz Wunderlich.

Let's not confuse building heights with spire heights," he said. "Right now, we don't include those in codes."

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NewsTracker

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- **The latest:** A motion on Monday night by Councilman Chris Talkington to revisit the issue died from lack of support by the council.
- **What's next:** Planning and Zoning's approval of the special-use permits stands.

Candace Baltz-Smylie can be reached by e-mail at CandaceBaltz@hotmail.com

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Public hearing on allowing gun shows

TWIN FALLS — County commissioners are considering allowing gun shows at the county fairgrounds.

They will discuss what the community has to say at a public hearing at 10 a.m. Wednesday in commissioners' chambers at the county courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N.

Twin Falls County Fair Manager John Pitz said the current fairgrounds do not allow fire arms on the property. He said the site at Plaza Vista is a large open area with a large enough area to accommodate gun shows. He said people would like to see the place changed to allow gun shows at the fairgrounds, except during the annual county fair.

Scrap metal three open houses

JEROME — Idaho Valley Energy, the subsite of Scram Generation that is building a \$1.4 billion gas-to-liquid power plant in Blaine County, will host three community open house events today and Wednesday.

The project team and technical specialists will be on hand to answer questions involving regional power requirements, air quality and environmental studies, water use, electric transmission, economic benefits and community involvement.

The open house schedule is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. today at the Best Western Sawtooth Inn, 2653 S. Lincoln in Jerome; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Best Western Bunker Inn, 400 N. Overland Ave. in Burley; and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Red Lion Hotel Canyon Springs, 137 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. in Twin Falls.

The proposed project would be built on 640 acres about nine miles northeast of Jerome. Construction could begin in 2006.

The open houses will provide opportunities for the development team to meet with the community, provide information and answer questions.

Jerome veterans can learn about benefits

JEROME — Jim Kimball, veterans service officer for Jerome County and Mike Strahs, state veterans officer in the Burley office, will be on hand Wednesday to discuss veteran benefits and to help veterans file claims for those benefits.

Veterans are invited to drop in between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Jerome County EMS building at 240 B. Main in Jerome.

Veterans can be eligible for a number of benefits, including medical benefits, educational benefits and low interest home loans. Veterans also can get help with finding employment.

"We have the forms to get them started," Kimball said.

For more information, call Kimball at 324-1377.

Somebody needs you

TWIN FALLS — Any local charities, community service organizations, churches or anyone helping others in need donations for the 2006 can announce them on page B6 in a special section published on Thanksgiving.

Include information regarding things the charity can help with along with contact name and phone number.

Send items to "Somebody Needs You" Attn: Jami Whited, 132 Fairfield St. W., Twin Falls, ID 83301, e-mail to jwhited@magicalvalley.com, fax to 735-4538, or call her at 735-3278.

— compiled from staff reports

Snow levels

Watershed	% chance
Salmon	17%
Big Lost	18%
Little Wood	112%
Big Lost	13%
Little Lost	108%
Henry's Fork/Teton	16%
Upper Snake/Ba	14%
Oakley	8%
Salmon Falls	7%

A compilation of
on Nov. 15, 2005, at 11 a.m.

Talkin' with Birdman



Above, Arden Schmitt, right, embraces his cow Brandy while his ducks walk on his lawn Thursday outside of Gooding. Schmitt has more than 450 fowl of various types, including ducks, geese, white peacocks and emus. Top left, an emu stands in the evening sunset Thursday as Schmitt goes through nightly rounds of feeding and shutting down his ranch. Top right, Schmitt communicates in sign language with his adopted son, Lin, who tends to the free-range chickens and sells their eggs at Atkinson's markets in Blaine County.

Gooding County man discusses his feathery friends

with the duct tape sticking to his head.

"They would follow me wherever I went," Schmitt said. "They were my babies."

Later, when they're finished eating, Schmitt opens the door to their duck residence and calls them back in. One colorful mallard decides to head off the other way.

"The new kid on the block doesn't quite have the routine down yet," Schmitt said.

When it's time to feed the emus, Schmitt sings out to dinner by singing an old church hymn.

"Come and dine the master calleth," Schmitt sings out to them. He can carry a tune.

"Do you have an emu out on Highway 46?" the officer asked him.

Turns out Emma the emu had decided to take a stroll. Schmitt, Lin and a friend went out to pick him up — yes, Emma is a male, but by the time Schmitt found out, the name had already stuck. They managed to get Emma into the back of a pickup, but it was no easy feat, Schmitt said.

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And that's what Schmitt loves most about birds.

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Please see HOLIDAY, Page B3

Please see HOSPITAL, Page B3

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Times-News correspondent

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The reason for the howl: On the agenda was a motion to review the Planning and Zoning Commission's approval of special-use permits for a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple, specifically the part about the temple's spire — proposed to be 159 feet high. The commission granted the permits on Nov. 8.

Councilman Chris Tinkling made the request, and prepared a written statement that he read to the crowd. He said it was the place of the council to plan rather than react, and that allowing such a tall structure without any standards in place would set a dangerous precedent. He predicted that such a decision could be regrettable.

"It could become a contest by religious denominations for who can reach the closest to God," he said to the crowd.

The church applied for, and was granted, five special-use permits: one to be located in a residential zone, and the other to exceed a height of 35 feet. The temple has been approved for a height of 50 feet, not including the spire.

The city does not regulate spires, said Twin Falls City Attorney Fritz Wunderlich.

"Let's not see a building heights with 'spire heights,'" he said. "Right now, we don't include those in codes."

After talking out his point, several council members spoke about the issue. None of them agreed with Tinkling.

"Having attended the meeting and seeing the very thorough manner with which it was presented to the public, I was very impressed with how it was addressed," said Councilman Dennis Maughan.

Vice Mayor Anne Glow agreed with Maughan by refreshing a conversation he'd had with a family member a few days earlier. In it, Glow said, they decided that Twin Falls needed a stronger architectural element to draw tourists.

Councilman Trip Craig continued along those lines when he spoke.

"It's a good thing and will keep people here and bring them here instead of going to another temple," he said.

Another of Tinkling's concerns was the effect such a tall structure would have on neighbors, but Craig dismissed that, pointing out the computer program the council had seen earlier that predicted the shadow of the spire would fall in the winter on the north side of the temple in a planned subdivision that has not yet been built.

"People moving to avoid know ahead of time," he said. "Right now, it's a minimal shadowing with minimal shadowing on the surrounding neighborhood."

After about half an hour of discussion, a council member motioned for the discussion to continue through the scheduling of a public hearing, but there was no second to the motion, so the issue died. There will not be further discussion of the topic and the previous decision to approve the Planning and Zoning commission's approval of the special-use permits stands.

Candace Baltz-Smylie can be reached at cbaltz@hoimail.com.

NewsTracker

- **Last we knew:** Twin Falls Planning and Zoning approved on Nov. 8 two special-use permits to allow the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to build a temple in a residential zone, and to exceed the city's building height ordinance by 15 feet.
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MAGIC VALLEY

OBITUARIES

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

Esther Minerva O'Dell



TWIN FALLS — Esther Minerva O'Dell, 100, of Twin Falls, passed away Nov. 10, 2005, at Woodstone Retirement Center in Twin Falls, Idaho, with her loving family surrounding her.

Esther was born June 2, 1905, in Sedgwick, Kan., the daughter of Jesse and Ella Eliza Tucker Brington. She was one of six children, four sisters and two brothers.

On Oct. 13, 1922, in Newton, Kan., she married her sweetheart, Charles Raymond O'Dell. To this union were born three children, Raymond Neil, Katherine Louise and Margaret Leah.

Esther was a strong woman who loved her family and took care of them. When her daughter moved back home with five children, Esther took them all in and loved them and raised them as her own. She was always willing to care for them and never looked for anything in return. She will always have her family's love and devotion for the day she died for them.

She had a tremendous faith in God and an incredible work ethic. She knew how to make ends meet on a little bit of nothing and she always had a smile. In 100 years of age, she had seen many changes and grown from riding on horseback and

taking horse and buggy to town, to riding in new-age automobiles. She saw the changing world around her become automated and modernized, but she still clung to the simple ideals that she was raised with.

She saw the passing of her family as her parents, her brothers, Paul and Oscar Brington; sisters, Ruth Brington Delgado, Ella Brington Davis and Thelma Brington Falk; her beloved Charles, her children, Raymond, Katherine and Margaret, all preceded her in death. She left quiet a legacy with 14 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and 82 great-great-grandchildren and four great-

great-grandchildren. She was a beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Surviving Esther is her daughter-in-law, Helene (Tyler) O'Dell; her grandchildren, Portia (Nick) Aquino, Linda Patterson, Gary (Angie) Cavender, Karen (Daryl) Stokes, Karla (Robert) Miller, Wilma (Mike) Mobley, Marve (Dave) Olsenberg, Steve (Vickie) Cowger, David (Becky) Cawley, Jerry (Ghaz) Croger, Jert (Vicki) Nelson, Kathy (Bruce) Bulcher, Mike (Loretta) O'Dell and Christy (Lorett) Dobby; her great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral for Esther will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 18, 2005, at the Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, with Pastor Dwayne Kluchecy, Interment will follow at the Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Twin Falls. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, at the funeral home.

All services and arrangements are under the direction of the Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls, Idaho.

J.C. Williams



TWIN FALLS — J.C. Williams passed away peacefully at his home on Nov. 12, 2005, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born to Ole and Rose Olive Williams on June 25, 1920, on a farm just east of the Twin Falls High School. He always said, however, that he had been born and raised in "God's country."

On Aug. 31, 1941, he married Margaret Lavon Pratt, daughter of Blanche Latham and Ellis Pratt. Margaret and Jay were blessed with three children: Chuyita Williams and Linda Walls, Twin Falls, and Gary (Pat) Williams, Ogden, Utah.

He was devoted to his husband, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He once said that he and Margaret raised three of their own kids anyway. They were further blessed with five exceptional grandchildren: Kelley (Bob) Shillington, Lanning (Ginny) Morrison, Ben (Janie) Williams, Mandly Williams and Carey Williams along with seven great-grandchildren, the seventh little one born just one day before he passed away.

His parents, his brothers, Lot and Lou Williams; his newborn daughter, Margaret Joan; and baby granddaughter, Lena Marie Morrison, preceded him in death.

While he and Margaret were starting their young family they moved to Seattle, Wash., where Jay worked as a sheet metal welder building destroyers for the WWII effort.

In 1945, Jay and Margaret moved back to Twin Falls where he owned and operated Twin Falls Floral and served as president of the Idaho Florists Association. As a young businessman in Twin Falls, Jay was always active in the community. He was very civic minded and contributed his time and effort to many service clubs around the valley. He was a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Elks, Toastmasters and Masonic Lodge. He believed in the motto, "service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy."

In 1953, the family moved to their farm just north of Twin Falls, where he farmed and operated a dairy. Jay eventually worked for Brown Equipment, Beaver Chemical and Swanson Company. In 1970, Jay and Margaret built the Lazy I Ranch, a senior citizens community located on their Pole Line Road property.

Many of Magic Valley's children who grew up riding horses will no doubt remember J.C. Williams. Once a week from the early 1950s through 1980 as many as 110 riders would practice drills under the direction of

Tim Qualls and J.C. He believed the Twin Falls Riding Club was the best thing in the world for kids. He believed horses and kids went together and kept them out of trouble.

All his life this smiling horseman worked overtime to help others have fun in the saddle. He was instrumental in seeing to it that his children, grand children, nieces and nephews had a horse. He was an excellent horseman and in 1975 was a founding member of the Idaho Horse Council, serving on its first board of directors and remaining a director of the Council for 10 years.

He also made many years with the Sheriff's posse. J.C. was the recipient of a great tribute when he was selected to be the State of Idaho Wagon Master for the Bicentennial Wagon Train and led the team into Valley Forge. Jay was happiest when trail riding through Idaho's beautiful mountains with his children and grandchildren.

Jay made his home a home to many members of his and Margaret's extended family. He was generous with his love, his wisdom and his beliefs and lived every moment of his exemplary life with Cowboy Ethics. He truly was an example of the Golden Rule, Honesty and Jay's creed. He believed when you make a promise you keep it and that a man is only as good as his word. He lived every day with courage.

A celebration of his life will take place at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel. Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.

Fredrick Alvin Essmacker

TWIN FALLS — Fredrick Alvin Essmacker, 69, passed away Thursday, Nov. 10, at St. Alphonsus hospital in Boise, with his family by his side. He was released from the pain that he had endured for so long.

Fred was born July 23, 1936, in Richmond, Ind., to Alvin and Virginia Essmacker.

He is now reunited with his parents and his family.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; daughter, Kimberly; sons, Henry and Freddie (Frankie); granddaughters, Deanna, Meghan, Melissa and Dakota; and grandson, Aaron; and many other loving family members and friends.

June L. Stepanovich

June L. Stepanovich, 79, of 41505 S.E. #517 Lisbon, Ohio, passed away at 11:03 p.m. at the Northside Medical Center on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2005, from complications of a heart attack. June was born on June 18, 1926, in Twin Falls, Idaho, the daughter of Frank and Olive Heppstead.

Mrs. Stepanovich was a homemaker and she had moved to the local area in 1946. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Columbiana when she was a member of the choir. She was also a member of the Columbiana Women's Club, the Columbiana Garden Club and the Monday Card Club. She

was an avid bowler for over 40 years having bowled at Boardman Lanes for many years. She was an avid gardener and grew many types of flowers and plants.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Stepanovich, whom she married March 5, 1946; three daughters, Jess (Janice) Chandler and her partner, Chris Laine, of Seattle, Wash.; Jody Larson and her husband, Charles, of Rapid City, S.D.; and Judy Johnson and her husband, Bruce, of Lewiston, Idaho; two sons, Ron Stepanovich of Temple, Texas, and Robin Stepanovich of Leetonia, Ohio; two sisters, Mrs. Verda Fischer of Spray, Ore.,



and Mrs. Harold (Maxine) Brandow of Ypsilanti, Mich.; a brother, John Heistand of San Antonio, Texas; six grandchildren, Sean, Whitney, Amie, Nick, Jennifer and Julianne; and a great-grandchild, Piper. Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service which will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 18, 2005, at the First United Methodist Church in Columbiana with the Rev. Steven K. Brown officiating. A private interment will be held in Green Haven Memorial Gardens. Friends may call from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2005, at the Seederly-Morg & Beck Funeral Home in Columbiana, Ohio.



Gwendolyn (Gwen) Brown Sutton

BURLEY — Gwendolyn (Gwen) Brown Sutton, 91, much beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and longtime Burley resident, died peacefully at her home in Burley on Monday, Nov. 14, 2005.

She was born May 6, 1914, in Ammon, Idaho, the daughter of Furmose and Katie Owen Brown. She married her sweetheart, Richard P. Sutton, on Aug. 21, 1933. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. They were devoted companions for 66 years until his death in 1999. They began their life together in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and then lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Chicago, Ill., where they worked and sacrificed to enable her husband, Dick, to graduate from the University of Utah and then from Northwestern Medical School as a physician.

They moved to Burley in 1947. A faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Gwen was an exceptional guide patrol teacher in Primary for 12 years. She loved her boys and they, in turn, remembered her influence and their studies for years to come. Called in 1967 to be secretary in the 5th Ward Relief Society, she fulfilled callings as council, ward president and singing school teacher. She was grateful for the opportunities to serve in these callings and for the sense of accomplishment and lasting relationships created by this service. She was involved in many community activities, including PTA, Music Club, Home Demonstration Club and Literary Club. She served as a senior judge at the polls and co-directed the Heart Fund drive for several years and then handled the Heart Fund materials for over 25 years.

She enjoyed needlework and gardening and was an avid reader. She also enjoyed bowling for several years on a league with other women with whom she developed lasting friendships. She joined her husband in his favorite hobby, trapshooting, and became the navigator when he obtained his pilot's license. After her husband retired from his medical practice, they spent several winters in Mesa, Ariz. This was an especially happy time in their lives as they served as officiators in the Mesa LDS Temple.

She was a caring sister, aunt and friend. She was appreciative of every kindness shown her and had a kind and generous nature, always ready to help someone in need. She was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her death will be greatly missed, but her sweet nature and guiding influence will long be remembered by her family who loved her dearly.

As her health declined in the last years of her life, she was valiant in enduring without complaint, maintaining her good nature and a sense of humor. She was cared for in her home by her daughter with the help of her other children and the kind and caring help of devoted employees of Comfort Keepers, neighbors, friends and members of the Burley 5th Ward. She so appreciated, the young men brought the sacrament to her home on Sundays. They always brightened her day with their kindness and she felt a special affection for them. The family also wishes to acknowledge Dr. Walter Petersen, who cared for her until his recent retirement; Dr. Wendell Wells, IHCC Hospice; Iuan Wright and others at Norco and the staff at Rite-Aid Pharmacy, all of whom have been kind and helpful.

Survivors include four children, Dorene Sutton (formerly Altman) of Burley, Mrs. John (Jeanne) Welch of Provo, Utah, Robert James (Virginia) Sutton of Camp Hill, Pa., and Steven Richard Sutton of Turmwater, Wash.; one sister, Wanda Woodhouse of Auburn, Wash.; two brothers, Lyle Brown of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Albert Brown of Rexburg, Idaho; 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, two brothers and one great-grandchild. A funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Burley West Stake Center, 2420 Park Ave., with Bishop R. Scott Byrd officiating. Burial will be at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Park, Idaho, cemetery. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley; and from 9 to 9:45 a.m. prior to the funeral on Thursday at the church. The family suggests that those who wish to make memorials in lieu of flowers, may make them to the Idaho Youth Ranch.

SERVICES

Beverly Jones Hackney of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 10 a.m. today at the Church of the Ascension Episcopal in Twin Falls (Park's - Magic Valley - Funeral Home).

Cory T. Simpson of Richfield, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Richfield LDS Church; family and friends may call from 10 a.m. until time of the service today at the church (Demary Funeral Service).

Daniel Phillip Carr of Rupert, funeral at noon today at Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.; burial at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Veterans Cemetery in Boise.

Lloyd Eugene Schorzman of Malta, viewing at 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel. Funeral at noon Wednesday at St. Edwards Catholic Church with a rosary service at 7 p.m.; funeral at noon Wednesday at St. Edwards (Reynolds Funeral Chapel).

Wednesday at the Malta, LDS Church. Friends may call one hour before the service at the church.

Carlos M. Castillo of Twin Falls, rosary at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Rost Funeral Home; McMurray Chapel, Mountain Home; Mass at 2 p.m. Friday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Mountain Home. Viewing from 4 p.m. until time of the rosary Wednesday at the funeral home.

Olin Gifford of Boise, funeral at 3 p.m. Friday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Gary L. Krefl, viewing at 5 p.m. today at St. Edwards Catholic Church with a rosary service at 7 p.m.; funeral at noon Wednesday at St. Edwards (Reynolds Funeral Chapel).

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Holiday

Continued from B1
 "I think the county provides the employees with good benefits and holidays and they have a good time on vacation time, which they can use if they want a four-day holiday. I don't agree with providing them with it."

Handy quit, but that the employees essentially get two weeks of holidays with pay. He said that is four more days than most employers provide.

After some discussion, Commission Chairman Dennis Crane said he was going to go with Handy on the decision, but did not sway Christensen's effort to give employees the extra day. The decision to eliminate the floating holiday passed on a 2-1 vote.

"It's probably better get

County holidays

Blaine: standard 10 federal holidays*
Camia: 10
Cassia: 10
Gooding: 11 (federal holidays plus one floating day)
Jerome: 10
Lincoln: 11 (federal holidays plus one floating day)
Minidoka: 11 (federal holidays plus one floating holiday that

must be taken the week of Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year's)
Twin Falls: 10
 * The 10 federal holidays: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Washington's Birthday (aka Presidents Day); Memorial Day; Fourth of July; Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving and Christmas

ready for a fight." Crane said after the vote.

In other business, the commission approved placement of a sheriff's repeater on Deadline Ridge, south of Magic Mountain Ski Area in the South Hills. Commissioners also deliberated on the Von Gibby Confined Animal Feeding Operation appeal hearing.

They directed county attorney Al Barrus to put together a decision, which will be announced this week.

County Administrator Kerry McMurray told commissioners an appeal hearing is also set for Nov. 29 for the Woodbury CAFO appeal hearing.

McMurray told commissioners the zoning board plans to hear no more hearings after the end of this month, so they can concentrate on getting the comprehensive plan worked out.

Public hearings will then be scheduled to get input on the plan.

Hospital

Continued from B1
 assets at the end of its fiscal year, up from \$112 million, or 7.6 percent from the previous year.

It had the same numbers for total liabilities and net assets.

In other action Monday, the board presented Dr. James Retinier with a plaque honoring his service on the board from Jan. 1 to Sept. 1.

Prior to becoming a board member, Retinier represented the medical staff at board meetings as the hospital's chief of staff.

"I feel a little silly being out in front here," said Retinier, who is used to having a seat at the board table.

"It was a pleasure to serve with all of our folks on the board."

Retinier did not say whether he would run for re-election.

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicvalley.com.

Magic Valley Regional finances

Here's a look at how Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's finances in 2004-2005 fared compared with last year. The hospital's budget year ended Sept. 30.

	2004-2005	2003-2004	Pct. change
Revenue			
Net patient revenue	\$104,930,184	\$102,536,996	2%
Other operating revenue	\$10,016,321	\$9,141,156	10%
Total operating revenue	\$114,946,505	\$111,678,152	3%
Expenditures			
Salaries	\$44,770,579	\$42,492,052	5%
Benefits	\$10,914,462	\$9,379,848	16%
Fixed physicians'	\$5,353,469	\$4,705,508	14%
Fees/other	\$7,853,262	\$6,754,998	16%
Supplies	\$12,705,573	\$11,787,748	8%
Supplies drugs	\$3,215,480	\$6,152,442	-48%
Supplies ortho	\$4,114,164	\$2,667,849	54%
Utilities	\$1,280,947	\$1,397,828	-8%
Repairs/maintenance	\$3,302,146	\$2,614,709	26%
Leases/rentals	\$2,094,624	\$1,860,541	25%
Insurance	\$1,269,399	\$1,019,099	25%
Interest expense	\$935,507	\$1,250,956	-26%
Depreciation/amortization	\$6,500,316	\$6,612,652	-2%
Other expense	\$2,136,325	\$1,204,738	77%
Total operating expense	\$106,455,284	\$99,774,969	7%
Income from operations	\$8,491,221	\$11,903,183	-29%
Non operating revenue	\$1,063,666	(\$1,027,091)	—
Net income	\$9,554,887	\$10,876,092	20%

DEATH NOTICES

Earl B. Carlson

BURLEY — Earl B. Carlson, an 83-year-old Burley resident, died Sunday, Nov. 13, 2005, at Cascade General Medical Center. Arrangements will be made by the Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel.

Helen F. Sneddon

HEBURN — Helen F. Sneddon, a 75-year-old resident of Heburn, died Monday, Nov. 14, 2005, at Warren House in Burley. Arrangements will be made by the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

Viola Murine Hagen

TWIN FALLS — Viola Murine Hagen, 92, of Twin Falls, and a former Hazelton resident, died Monday, Nov. 14, 2005, at Alterra Assisted Living. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1231 Washington St. N. in Twin Falls. Viewing for family and friends will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, at White Mortuary, Twin Falls.

Pauline Dietz

RUPERT — Pauline Dietz, 81, of Rupert, died Sunday, Nov. 13, 2005, at the Minidoka Memorial Hospital. A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, at the Rupert Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 14th St. with Pastor David Poovey officiating. Burial will follow at the Paul Cemetery. A viewing will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Hansen Mortuary, Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St., one hour before the service at the church.

Eva Rosa Robertson

TWIN FALLS — Eva Rosa Robertson, 84, of Twin Falls, Idaho, died Sunday, Nov. 13, 2005, at her home in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Arrangements will be made by Parkes Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Lillie Quilici

TWIN FALLS — Lillie Quilici, 83, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Nov. 14, 2005, at Twin Falls Care Center in Twin Falls, Idaho. Arrangements will be made by Parkes Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Juan Lamas Jr.

BURLEY — Juan Lamas Jr., a 59-year-old Burley resident, died Sunday, Nov. 13, 2005, at his home from an extended illness. Arrangements will be made by the Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel.

Shirley Mae Smith Anderson

EL CAJON, Calif. — Shirley

Mae Smith Anderson, a 78-year-old resident of El Cajon, Calif., formerly of Burley, died Thursday, Nov. 10, 2005, in El Cajon, following a lingering illness.

At Shirley's request, there will be no formal service. Cremation took place in California and a family gathering will take place next spring.

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 7:30 • 9:30 (PG)
CHICKEN LITTLE
 7:30 • 9:30 (G)
LEGEND OF ZORRO
 7:30 • 9:30 (PG)
THE WORK & THE GLORY
 7:30 • 9:30 (PG-13)
DREAMER
 7:30 • 9:30 (PG)

BURLEY THEATRE
 ALL SEATS \$2.00 EVERYTIME!
DUKES OF HAZZARD
 7:30 • 9:30 (PG-13)



HARRY POTTER, and the Goblet of Fire PG-13
Midnight Show Thurs., Nov. 17th
 All Seats \$6.50
 Tickets go on sale Thurs., 17th 8:00 a.m.
 Movie opens for regular shows on Friday the 18th

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COMICS

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Baldo

By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



Brevity

By Gary Rood



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



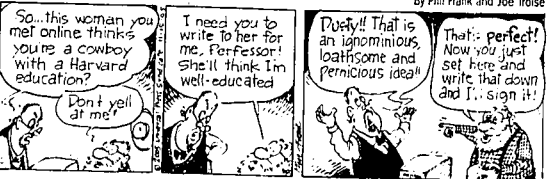
Doonesbury

By Gary Trudeau



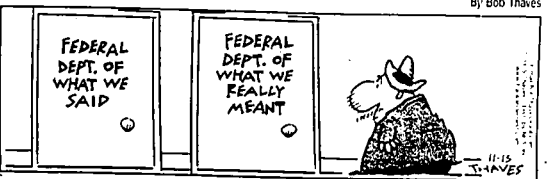
The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Toise



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Mallard Fillmore

By B. J. Neuse



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

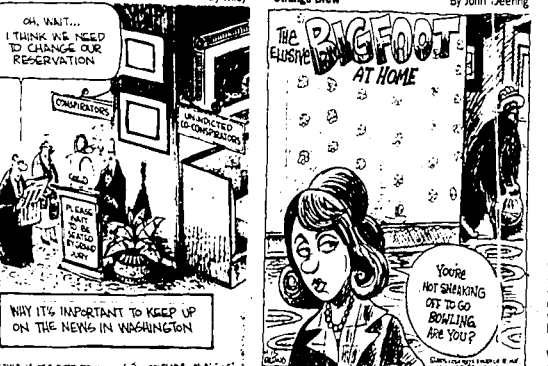


Non Sequitur

By Wiley

Strange Brew

By John Jeering



Let others call the shots, Libra

IF NOV. 15 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: With Jupiter passing through your sign this year, you are likely to experience some windfalls or better luck than usual. People will tend to be more generous towards you in 2006—but until the end of January, be careful to exert self-discipline and fulfill all your responsibilities, as you could lose ground if you go into debt or fail to follow the rules. Next September and October, a prayer may be answered or situations that have been problematic will improve dramatically. Use your wisdom at that time to set beneficial plans into motion.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Leadership abilities are in top form today, so strive to be a role model for others. You may feel a need to closely examine deep feelings and instincts or be interested in sharing them with others.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): A full moon in your sign this evening could illuminate partnership issues or bring deep ambitions into tight focus. Some discussions can cause worry but will eventually work out for the best.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Working under pressure can produce desired results. A sprin-

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

...of discipline added to a generous helping of get-up-and-go will put you in the driver's seat in any business endeavor.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Tonight's full moon may direct the spotlight onto your deepest desires and delights. You may be ready to abandon an old way of doing things as new passions begin to take precedence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your determination to succeed with business or career may reach new heights. Whatever your particular passion may be, you have the necessary stamina to complete any important task begun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Those with a mind like a steel trap need to find suitable prey. You can be the winner on any business playing field by being a bit more nimble and mentally agile than the competition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Other people call the shots. To produce income it is necessary to deal with other people who create the rules or conditions. If you follow instructions, you might fatten your wallet eventually.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A fresh revelation could alter your views on personal affairs to a climax. Once you have made up your mind, nothing can block your path or hold you back.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work could become an all-consuming passion under these stars. Jupiter could set tight deadlines or rules could seem stringent. But you have what it takes to "Make a positive splash."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your career maneuvering can lead you to the head of the class. Now is a good time to initiate projects that require dedicated, passionate effort and dynamic sparks of creative genius.

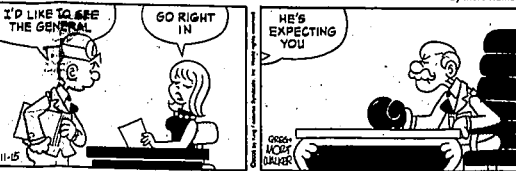
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Uranus, the ruler of your sign, is highlighted in the heavens. Personal matters that have been on hold can now proceed and changes you have dreamed of making can now be accomplished.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pleasing others is a real issue, since your mental agility but since you understand what is going on beneath the surface it is easy to leap past obstacles. Those with powerful plans may take control.

COMICS

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Bom Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



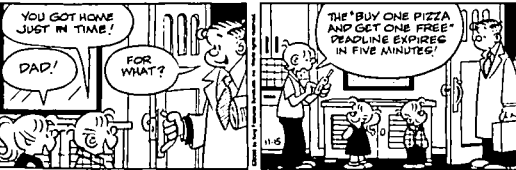
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



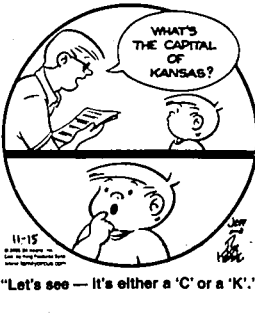
Derms the Manace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Kean



Great American Smokeout a jump start to better health for millions

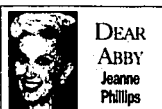
DEAR ABBY: Thursday, Nov. 17, will mark the American Cancer Society's 29th Annual Great American Smokeout. It's a day when millions of smokers will put down their cigarettes — "just for one day" — with the conviction that if they can last 24 hours without a cigarette, then they can do it for 48 hours, 72 hours, and stop smoking for good.

For nearly three decades, the American Cancer Society has designated the third Thursday of November as a day for smokers nationwide to unite and kick the deadly habit of smoking. On that day, we urge people who smoke to, instead of lighting up, put down their cigarettes and call us for support in "staying quit" for good.

If you're a smoker, the smartest thing you can do to improve your health and longevity is to quit smoking. The American Cancer Society Quitline can help you double your chances of success.

We advocate policies that help smokers quit, such as insurance coverage for tobacco cessation programs and smoke-free workplace laws. Research shows that smoke-free workplace laws not only encourage smokers to quit, but also protect non-smokers from exposure to secondhand smoke — a known health hazard.

Please, Abby, help us to spread the word that quitting



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

smoking is one of the healthiest decisions your readers can make. It can save their lives. Studies have shown that smokers who quit by age 35 will avoid 90 percent of the risk attributable to tobacco, and people who quit smoking before age 50 have one-half the risk of dying in the next 15 years compared to those who did not quit.

—STEPHEN F. SENER, M.D., PRESIDENT, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

DEAR DR. SENER: I'm delighted to help you spread the word. The Great American Smokeout is something that I and my mother before me have been pleased to promote since 1985.

Readers, I hope you will take this important opportunity to heart. More people die from lung cancer than from any other form of cancer. Quitting smoking has never been easier because medications are now available that help to suppress the symptoms of craving and withdrawal.

Call the American Cancer Society's 24-hour toll-free Quitline

—877-837-7848 (YES-QUIT)— to be connected with counseling services in your community, provided with self-help materials that offer information and strategies on quitting for good, and receive information about current medications available to help you quit.

All services are free and provided 24/7. You can also go to www.cancer.org/smokeout. So, folks, if you are promising yourselves that "one of these days" you were going to quit, why not start on Thursday just for 24 hours? I can't think of a better Thanksgiving gift you could possibly give yourselves and the people you love you.

And, now, I'd like to ask a favor, please. If you quit on Thursday — even for just 24 hours — let me hear from you. I'd love to know how long you were able to stay clean. Good luck. I'm rooting for you! — Love, Abby

DEAR ABBY: Please settle an argument for me. My men are saving the telephone. It is rude to ask, "May I ask who is calling, please?" My wife says it is nasty and that people will think I am screening her calls. Please advise.

—AARON IN SYRACUSE

DEAR AARON: I disagree with your wife. Not only is it not rude or nasty, in my home and also my office, it is standard operating procedure.

White or brown, eggs taste the same

Despite preferences and prejudices, there's no real difference in flavor or nutrition between white and brown eggs. The main difference is that while hens lay white eggs and rust-colored hens lay brown eggs. So cart it we all get along?

This day in history: On Nov. 15, 1492, Columbus discovered tobacco (he noted in his journal on this day that the native Americans smoked the stuff).

Tobacco didn't actually make it back to the Old World until a French ambassador brought some back in 1560. His name was Jacques Nicot and he claimed that tobacco had wondrous medicinal properties, which is why tobacco's active ingredient is called nicotine.

The pro football coaching record goes to George Halas, who coached the Chicago Bears for 40 seasons before his fourth and final retirement in 1967.



Random Kinds of Funniness
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

Cowboys were called cowpokes and cowpunchers because that was literally what they did to get the cattle into rail cars.

The most-collected comic books are those featuring superheroes.

The smallest monkey is the pygmy marmoset, which is about the size of a squirrel and weigh as much as a Quarter Pounder, but all. They feast on insects and fruit, and chew on trees to suck out the sap.

David Letterman funds scholarships at his alma mater,

Hall State University. However, they go only to modest achievers like Letterman himself, who had a C average.

There are no wild American flamingos left. The only ones left are in captive flocks, most with their wings clipped so they won't fly away.

While the well-known Galapagos Islands giant tortoise can grow up to 4 feet long, it's not the biggest tortoise in the world. That honor goes to the more obscure Aldabra giant tortoise that mostly lives in the sea off East Africa. The Aldabra can grow more than 6 feet long — about the length of a kitchen table.

Like the pitter-patter of rain? Try moving to Quilleyue, Wash. It's the wettest city in the United States.

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

SCIENCE OF FANTASY

Museum exhibit melds science and fiction of 'Star Wars'

BOSTON (AP) — In a certain galaxy far, far away, fantasy and physics — as the legid wasteland of Hoth and the infernos of Mustafar. Spaceships flit between planets, massive factories churn out robot and clone armies, and circuitry keeps alive the Empire's greatest villain.

Here on earth, though, more conventional forces are at work than in the Star Wars series. There's no gravity-defying force to help change a tire, no light sabers for prying the bushes, and no landspeeders in the garage for a late-night pizza run.

Light-years still separate science from fiction in George Lucas' six-film epic about the galactic battle between good and evil, but a new exhibit at Boston's Museum of Science tries to show that the fantasies of Star Wars aren't all far-fetched.

The exhibit uses the wacky popular media as a bridge to real science, and fire up interest — particularly among youngsters — about the promises of engineering, physics and other fields.

Lucas said he never considered the science of the Force that binds together Lucas' universe, and the Jedi knights who wield it. There was no reason to explain why cars don't drive walked, or how smuggler Han Solo could boast that his ship, the Millennium Falcon, "made the Kessel run in less than 12 parsecs."

"In the beginning we kept pushing very hard: this is a fantasy, this is a space fantasy, this is not a science fiction movie," he said in an interview with the museum. "There was no consideration about science at all, other than to make things have common sense reality."



Filmaker George Lucas pauses in front of a Stormtrooper exhibit at the Museum of Science in Boston. The exhibit, 'Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination,' runs at the museum through April 2006.

In 1977, Humanoid robots can walk and talk. Engineers are creating personal hovercrafts, and today's prosthetics nearly mimic some of the part-human, part-cyborg characters that inhabit Lucas' film.

The \$5 million exhibit was a collaboration between the museum and Lucasfilm Ltd., Lucas' company. It premiered in October.

It offers everything to put a Star Wars buff into orbit. On a recent weekday morning, the dimly lit hall teemed with excited schoolchildren, staring in awe at the collection of light sabers and spaceships, costumes of storm troopers, Jawas and tusken raiders, and the towering, glowing figure of Darth Vader.

"Dude, this thing is insane!" one boy said as he looked at a model of the "droid C3PO" with electronic limbs exposed. "Can we go to Darth Vader?" a girl called out to her friend.

At the entrance rests Luke Skywalker's famed landspeeder, the seuffed and rusted vehicle in which he glided over the sur-

face of Tatooine. A peek underneath reveals the wheels that were hidden onscreen.

Its 2005 counterpart is an exhibit about "real-world speeders" under development, such as the Moller m400 Skycar.

Throughout the exhibit are interactive displays about real-world science. At one robotics station, Matt Froment, a 32-year-old science teacher at Elm Street Middle School in Nashua, N.H., watched Mitchell Gaffney, 13, working toggle switches to make robots leg walk over a surface, as students looked on.

Froment said he "grew up on the Star Wars," and pounced at the chance to bring his class. He said it can be a battle to interest kids in science and he fretted that they wouldn't be excited. That worry vanished when the class walked in the door.

Lucas shrugs off a question about whether it's problematic to highlight a Hollywood movie alongside real science. Every thing is commercial, he said, and if the exhibit creates excitement and interest about science, then it's a success.

IDAHO/WEST

Scientists seek clues to identify WWII airman found in glacier

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (AP) — The airman's possessions, laid out on a table in a military lab, offer a peek deep into the past.

His pockets produced 51 cents in dimes, nickels, and pennies dating from 1920 to 1942. A neatly handwritten note tucked inside a faded address book reveals the words "all the girls know," though the rest of the letter is mostly decomposed and unreadable.

Forensic scientists at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command are using these and other clues to help them identify the body of a World War II airman found in a California glacier last month. The Hawaii-based experts have spent the last few weeks meticulously examining his bones, taking DNA samples, and studying his teeth to learn

when he was and when he died.

"We want to be able to understand what happened to him fully," said Robert Mann, deputy scientific director of the lab identifying the remains. "And we also want to be able to answer whatever questions the family may have about 'exactly what happened to my son, my brother.'"

Mann and his colleagues believe the airman was one of four aboard a navigational training flight that disappeared after taking off from a Sacramento airfield on Nov. 18, 1942.

So far they have determined the airman was Caucasian, in his early 20s, and stood between 5-foot-9 and 6-2. He had either light brown or sandy blond hair. X-rays showed many of his bones were broken, indicating he sustained massive trauma

when his plane crashed. He wore an unopened parachute.

Close examination shows, a partially visible name on a heavily corroded metal badge attached to the airman's brown U.S. Army Air Forces uniform.

But though it would be easy to jump to the conclusion this name tells whose body it is, researchers want to identify him through dental records or DNA — not just by whose shirt he was wearing.

The airman generated a sensation when two climbers found his body protruding from the ice and snow in the Sierra Nevada mountains last month. Families of the men who perished on the 1942 Army Air Force training flight called the Fresno County Coroner's office to see if he was their lost loved one.

The POW/MIA Accounting Command has recovered and examined the remains of missing U.S. servicemen everywhere from Laos to Germany but skeletons are usually all that's left of the bodies. Scavengers often run off with the belongings and even the remains of the dead, depriving scientists of valuable clues that could help in

the identification.

This airman's mountain grave, however, had apparently been untouched since his plane crashed. The frigid temperatures mummified his remains, leaving flesh on his bones.

The flight from the Sacramento airfield was piloted by 2nd Lt. William A. Gamber, 23, of Fayette, Ohio. It also had

three aviators aboard: Ernest Munn, 23, of St. Clairsville, Ohio; John Montgomery, 25, of Moscow, Idaho; and Leo M. Johnson, 22, of Fairford, Minn.

Making a DNA match could be tricky because one of the cadets doesn't have any living maternal relatives in the United States.

Canyon County prosecutor fighting recall campaign

CALDWELL (AP) — Canyon County Prosecutor Dave Young says organizers of the recall effort against him are giving out false information.

The recall campaign began gathering signatures in September after organizers contended that mistakes, oversights and inaction by deputy prosecutors under Young's direction had hindered cases involving domestic violence, driving under the influence and other charges.

Organizers must get 14,626 signatures, or 20 percent of the county voters in the 2004 general election, by Nov. 30. Organizers said they have more than 200 people gathering signatures, but don't know how many signatures have been collected so far.

Recall leader Teri Ottens told The Idaho Statesman that she and others helping in the recall have sat through court hearings and trials, sifted through court and police records, and interviewed victims, their families, law enforcement officers and officials to gather information.

"We as citizens have made an attempt to find out what the truth is," Ottens said. "Young had the opportunity to respond to us every single time and he didn't, so we went with what was in the

record and with information from interviews. He's always putting the blame on someone else."

The recall began with a group of residents who have been researching domestic violence and other cases in Canyon County since Angie Leon was shot to death by her estranged husband, Abel Leon, in 2003. Young acknowledged in 2003 that his office made some mistakes in the Leon case that may have contributed to Angie Leon's death, such as agreeing to Abel Leon's release while he was awaiting sentencing on a felony eluding police conviction that included protection-order violations.

Organizers said the recall is not a personal attack on Young, but an effort to improve the justice system in Canyon County.

Movies
Orpheum
Johnd 7:40 - 9:20
Odyssey 6
Doom 7:00 - 9:15
Saw 2 8:00-9:45
Prime 11:15 - 9:30
Derolled 7:00 - 9:15
Flight Plan 10:00 - 9:15
Weather Man 7:15 - 9:30
Jerome 4
Dreamer 10:10 - 9:15
Chicken Little 9:10 - 9:00
Legend of Zorro 9:00 - 9:30
Zorhuro 9:15 - 9:00
Twin 12
Legend of Zorro 10:15-11:30-9:45
Chicken Little 10:10 - 9:00 - 9:15
American Zion 11:15 - 9:45
Dreom-Hr 10:10 - 9:30
The Fog 11:30-9:45
Just Like Heaven 11:30-9:00
Elizabeth 10:15-9:45 - 1:30
Get Rich or Die Tryin 11:15 - 9:45
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Please Join Us for a Community Open House

Three community open house events have been planned to provide you with the facts on the proposed Idaho Valley Energy project.

Dates and Locations:

Jerome Tuesday, Nov. 15 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Best Western - Sawtooth Inn 2653 S. Lincoln 208-324-9200	Burley Wednesday, Nov. 16 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Best Western - Burley Inn 800 N. Overland Avenue 208-678-3501	Twin Falls Wednesday, Nov. 16 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Red Lion Hotel Canyon Springs 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd N. 208-734-5000
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At these events, you'll get the latest information on a variety of aspects of the Idaho Valley Energy project including: a project overview, permitting, air quality and environmental studies, water, transmission, economic benefits and community involvement.

The Idaho Valley Energy project team - which will include technical and environmental specialists - will be on hand to answer questions and get your input on this project.

For your convenience, we've scheduled meetings in the communities of Jerome, Burley and Twin Falls. Each meeting will feature the same information and format. Food and beverages will be provided at each event.

Please join us at the open house most convenient for you.

For more information, please call us toll-free at 1-877-736-7729 or e-mail us at SempraCommunity@Sempra.com. We look forward to meeting you.



HURRICANE RELIEF



MAE PENDE: The Times-News

Valley School sixth-grade girls pack blankets and pillows they crafted to send victims of Hurricane Katrina. To the left, Valene Lickley writes the address to a New Orleans child's home on the board, while instructor Frank Dehoney organizes the group. Jessica Lancaster shakes out the comforter she made before she puts it in a box to be shipped.

Sixth-graders answer call to help

By Julie Pence
Times-News correspondent
HAZELTON — As soon as the sixth-grade girls at Valley Middle School heard their teacher, Frank Dehoney ask what they stand for, they knew the answer. Helping others.
And those in need were victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Those donations paid for materials to make blankets and pillows for children in the New Orleans area. That happened after the sixth-grade girls — who spend half of each 45-minute language arts class segregated from their male classmates — decided they would help those displaced by Katrina. They had already exposed to the idea after eighth-graders helped them research hurricanes — especially Hurricane Katrina.

“This is a pretty neat project. The kids thought it up themselves.”
— Brian Hardy, Valley Middle School principal

Superintendent Laurel Nelson arranged for the female sixth-graders to travel to Twin Falls on a field trip to purchase materials. After that, “We just crafted the blankets and pillows,” Valene said. Students had already acquired the skills necessary to tie comforters and pillows from after-school classes the district offered to them when they were younger, she added.



The students at The Little City of Rocks Workshop attended five stations where they learned about geology, paleontology, archeology, wildlife and water awareness.

Students learn about Idaho history on trip

By Nan Reedy and Kelly Kast
GOODING — Not much beats a gorgeous fall day spent out of the classroom learning about nature.
The Little City of Rocks Workshop celebrated recently its 15th year of bringing together students from Gooding and Cassia counties for a hands-on day of science and learning about the natural wonders few of them had experienced before the workshop.
The workshop was held at the Bureau of Land Management wilderness study area about 10 miles north of Gooding called Little City of Rocks. Built by volcanic activities tens of thousands of years ago and twisted and scoured into weird formations by the wind and weather, the area is a place for students to see how the landscape in the time of the dinosaurs.
The workshop is sponsored by the Gooding Soil Conservation District. District Supervisor Bob Bolte ran the tour to keep the event moving smoothly as students moved to different stations.
At the geology station, Jeff Gibardi with the Sawtooth National Forest led the students into the center of the earth, simulating exploding magma through the many volcanoes that dot the area.
He then helped the students mentally travel through the Cretaceous and Jurassic periods with fossilized plants and footprints, right up to modern times.
His collection of mineral treasures revealed the history of the earth.
Kelton Hatch with Idaho Fish and Game brought a collection of skins and skulls of the desert predators who live in the hills surrounding this area. The students were excited to feel the fur and sharp teeth and imagine the life and death hunt that went on every day.
At the paleontology station, Annee Rousseau with the Hagerman Fossil Beds had students look through the bushes and grass for bones, lots of bones, that the students put together into a skeleton.
Terry Edwards with the National Resources Conservation Service taught his “Indians” to hunt, while the gatherer “Indians” helped Nan Reedy with Gooding Soil Conservation District grain corn, wheat and grass seed using a mano and matate and a mortar and pestle.
At the end of the day, the students were provided a booklet about each station, which included a quiz, to take back to the classroom, and a “Nature Link” newsletter with photos of the day to take home and share with their families.

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Filet Public Library gets new books for shelves
FILET — The Filet Public Library, 219 Main St., has added several new books to its shelves: “Payback” by Fern Michaels, “Now You See Him” by Stella Cameron, “Rush” by Carl Hiaasen, “Stands a Calder Man” by Janet Dalley, “The Divide” by Nicolas Evans, “Friends, Lovers, Chocolate” by Alexander McCall Smith, “The Highest Tide” by Jim Lynch, “Polar Shift” by Clive Cussler, “Slow Burn” by Julie Garwood, “Navy Grooms: Navy Woman, Navy Husband, Navy Baby” by Debbie Macomber, “Must Love Dogs” by Claire Cook, “Merquios of a Dirt Road Town” by Stephen Bly, “Hate Crime” by William Bernhardt, “The Punisher” by D. A. Stern, “The Maverick” by Lon Copeland, “Loving Mercy” by Teresa Bowdell, “Night Tales: Night Shift, Night Moves” by Nora Roberts, “50 Harbor Street” by Debbie Macomber, “Day of the Dead” by A. Janice, “Punt Blank” by Catherine Coulter, “Eldes” by Christopher Paolini, “The Night Remembered” by Kathleen Eagle, “Night Falls Like Silk” by Kathleen Eagle, “High Rhythm” by Brian Jacques, “Drift House: The First Voyage” by Dale Peck, “Pay the Piper” by Jane Yolen, “Poppy’s Return” by Avi, “The Ragwitch” by Garth Nix, “Junie B. First Grader” and “Boo and I Mean It” by Barbara Park, “Kira Kira” by Cynthia Kadotaha, “Five Little Pumpkins” and “The Great Pumpkin Sticks Again” by Charles S. Seiving, “Thomas and Percy and the Dragon” by the Rev. W. Awdry.

Oakley celebrates Family Reading Week
OAKLEY — Oakley Elementary School, 455 W. Poplar St., and the Oakley Library are celebrating Family Reading Week through Saturday.
On Saturday, Christopher “Truck” West, his wife Angela, his son, Dakota James, and illustrator Janet Burch will be at the Oakley Library, 185 E. Main St., from 4 to 5 p.m.
After Dakota was born, West began composing the stories that eventually became “Petey’s Truck Adventures.” West also has written “Truck’n Those Famous Potatoes” and “Road Hazard Learns a Lesson.”
West will read two stories and they will all visit with guests. At 6 p.m., a drawing will be held for the children who attended the event and two children’s picture books will be given away.
For more information, call the library at 862-2434.

Coin club will nominate officers on Wednesday
PAUL — The Empty Pockets Coin & Currency Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Paul City Hall meeting room.
The group will nominate officers for next year and make plans for the Christmas party.
Anyone with an interest in collecting coins or currency is welcome to attend.
For more information, call David Byzak at 678-3938.

Acquia Elementary holds annual book fair
ACEQUIA — Acquia Elementary School, 20504 Fourth St., is having its Annual Book Fair Week through Friday. The theme is “Dive into Reading.”
On Wednesday, all grandparents are invited to accompany their grandchildren at the Grandparents Luncheon and receive a copy of a “wish list” of books their grandchildren have made.
On Thursday, the Acquia Caring Parents and Teachers will host its Family Fun and Literacy Night with a chili & cinnamon roll dinner.
The cost is \$3 per person or \$12 for families. Characters from favorite children’s books will come to visit and read books to everyone.
All families with students at Acquia are invited.
For more information, call 436-6985.

Hospice holds ‘Lights for Life’ ceremony today
BURLEY — Cassia Regional Medical Center’s Intermountain Health Care Hospice will hold its Annual “Lights for Life” Ceremony at 7 p.m. today in the foyer of Cassia Regional Medical Center, 1501 Highland Ave.
Music will be by Jaque Lee and Friends, with special guest, Stephanie Lucas.
The “Lights for Life” Hospice Tree lights and ornaments signify the remembrance of loved ones that have passed on or someone people would like to honor. Individuals, families and businesses can make a tax-deductible donation to buy an ornament in the name of a loved one. Donations will help provide funding for volunteer training, patient medication, clothing, transportation and other critical needs associated with HHC Hospice at Cassia Regional Medical Center.
Hospice is a program that provides palliative care and attends to the emotional and spiritual needs of terminally ill patients at an inpatient facility or at the patient’s home. The event is open to the public.
Donations can be sent to: MC Hospice, Cassia Regional Medical Center, 1501 Highland Ave., Suite D, Burley, ID 83318.

M.V. Palliative Care Coalition holds meeting
TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Palliative Care Coalition, a share group for professional caregivers in the community who deal with serious illness and end-of-life issues, will meet from 4:30 to 6 p.m. today at the Bridgewater Estates Great Room, 1828 Bridgeview Blvd.
The group provides an opportunity to share ideas, experiences and approaches, while offering support and improving skills, organizers say.
For more information, call Sheryl at 733-2274 or Jamie at 737-2501.

Kimberly Public Library adds books to shelves
KIMBERLY — The Kimberly Public Library, 120 Madison W., has added several new books to its shelves:
Christian fiction: “Hannah’s Hope” and “Forgivers” by Karen Kingsbury; “Last Light” by Terri Blackstock; “The Preacher’s Daughter” by Beverly Lewis; “What She Left Me For” by Trace Peterson; and “Lionel” and “The Rain From God” and “The Ransom” by Mark Ammann.
Adult non-fiction: “The Sea Hunters” by Clive Cussler; “No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problem” by Jeff Hawthorn; “Lying Emergencies” by Jan Scholten; “Family Fun: Homemade Holidays” by Deanna E. Cook (Ed.); and “Blood Brother” by Anne Bird.
Juvenile fiction: “The Mayor of Central Park” by Avi; “Cry Thankful” by Megan E. Bryant; “Minnie ‘N’ Me: The Perfect Boy” by Walt Disney; “Tooth’s Pumpkin” by Isabel Ganes; “That’s What a Friend Is” by P.K. Halliham; “A Mother for Choco Pink” by Kekoa Kawa; “The View From Saturday” by R. L. Kinsburg; “This is the Husky” by Abby Levine; “Spindles End” by Robin McKinley; “Luffy’s Thanksgiving” by Kate McMullan; “My Life as Crocodile Junk Food” by Bill Myers; “The Kingdom Keepers” by Ridley Pearson; “The Littles” and “The Scary Halloween” by John Peterson; “Holler Cries, Shark” by Marcus Pfister; “Tulliver: The Zookeeper” by Patricia Reif; “Under the Persimmon Tree” by Suzanne Fisher Staples; “Disney’s Winnie the Pooh’s Thanksgiving” by Inrice Jaldrone; “The Mystery of the Haunted Boxcar” by Gertrude Chandler Warner; “Too Many Pumpkins” by Linda White; and “Tink” by Margaret Wild.
Fiction: “The Mystery of the Haunted Boxcar” by Gertrude Chandler Warner; “Too Many Pumpkins” by Linda White; and “Tink” by Margaret Wild.
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WORLD

Mexico, Venezuela sever diplomatic relations

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez accused Mexican leader Vicente Fox of being a "puppy" of President Bush and said "Don't mess with me, etc." Fox shot back on Monday that "we have dignity in this country" and demanded an apology.

Now the two nations are withdrawing their ambassadors.

The severing of diplomatic relations came after a week of verbal sparring that highlighted Latin America's differences over free trade and relations with the United States. The conservative Fox tends to side with Washington on many issues, while Chavez, a socialist and populist, has been one of the hemisphere's strongest critics of Bush.

Venezuela's president has repeatedly accused Fox of being a "puppy" of American interests and of disrespecting him after the pair took opposing positions during this month's Summit of the Americas.

On Sunday, Chavez used his weekly radio and TV show to warn Fox: "Don't mess with me, sir, because you'll get stung."

Fox retorted in an interview with CNN: "Other countries might accept (Chavez's) wording and the way he attacks every-

body and he attacks institutions. We are not willing to do that in Mexico."

Venezuela called its ambassador home Monday rather than apologize for the remarks, and Mexico responded by recalling its own envoy to Venezuela.

Fox said his government was mulling its next move. "We can't allow people to offend our country," he told CNN in Spanish.

Venezuelan Ambassador to Mexico Vladimir Villegas said he would fly to his homeland aboard a commercial flight Monday night.

"The whole world knows that this didn't begin on the Venezuelan side," Villegas said. When asked what the driving issue was behind the flap, he said "look a little bit north" — a reference to the United States.

Tensions between Fox and Chavez spilled over after the summit in Argentina, where Fox defended a U.S.-backed proposal for a Free Trade Area of the Americas. Chavez proclaimed the idea dead.

They reached a breaking point late Sunday, when Mexico issued a statement saying Chavez's latest barb "strikes at the dignity of the Mexican peo-

ple and government." Early Monday, Fox's spokesman, Ruben Aguilar, said Mexico would expel the ambassador if Venezuela didn't apologize by midnight.

Hours later in Venezuela, Foreign Secretary Ali Rodriguez said his country would not accept Mexico's demands.

Venezuela "rejects as an unjustified attack the ultimatum issued by the government of Mexico," Rodriguez said.

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The Times-News

Chirac: 'profound malaise' behind riots

PARIS (AP) — President Jacques Chirac said Monday that unrest in the poor neighborhoods of France is the sign of a "profound malaise" the entire nation must work to heal through job-training and employment opportunities for troubled youths.

In his first address to the nation since the rioting erupted, the president said companies, unions and the media must help bring diversity to French society and combat what he called the poison of discrimination.

French law must be obeyed, but values and hope also must be kindled in youths living in the poor, largely immigrant suburbs ringing French cities, he said.

"These events testify to a profound malaise ... This is a crisis of direction, a crisis of reference points, it is a crisis of identity," he said. "We will respond by being firm, being just and being faithful to the values of France."

Chirac spoke after the Cabinet approved a measure to extend a state of emergency from 12 days to three months. The parliament was to debate the bill Tuesday. There will be a possibility of ending the measure before the three-month term expires.

Chirac, who turns 73 later this month, was hospitalized in September for a blood vessel problem that many thought was a stroke. However, he showed no signs of an ailment Monday (usually, he wore spectacles, as he had done in his youth).

He announced the creation of a corps of volunteers to offer training for 50,000 youths by 2007, and told companies and unions they must encourage diversity employment for youths from tough neighborhoods.

French media, which are not very ethnically diverse, must "better reflect the reality of France today," Chirac said.

"We will not build anything enduring without fighting this poison for society which is discrimination."

Speaking with a French tricolor and EU flag behind him, Chirac said that discrimination — seen as a factor behind the violence — should be combated. But he appeared to rule out U.S.-style affirmative action.

There is no question of entering into the logic of quotas, the French leader said. And he defended the French model of integration which seeks to meld people of all origins into a single mold — and which many officials and experts now say has failed.

"At stake is respect for the law but also the success of our policy of integration," Chirac said.

The unrest has abated over the past week. But the decision to extend the state of emergency until mid-February made clear authorities feared the anger seething below the relative calm could resurface.

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18 Estrange
20 Plenty
21 All the people
23 Attempt-
24 Inclined trough
25 Hemp for sacks
26 Sheriff's band
27 High mountain
28 Mrs. Bush
31 Swap
33 Bovine fall
36 Forgive one's sins
38 Pedicurist's target
40 Soup vegetable
41 Deserve
42 Give way
44 Blend
45 Metal fastener
47 Hammam's Hank
50 Experiencing tedium
51 CEO's degree
54 Gossip channels
56 Chief Justice Warren
57 One's other self
58 Published in installments
60 off (annoyed)
61 Rocky peak
62 Develop gradually
63 comes to a conclusion
64 Canonized Mile.
65 Reduce it.

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Monday's Puzzle Solved

- 3 Friendship
4 Ships' diaries
5 Intention
6 Charts
7 Compatibility device
8 Worth
9 Actor Jannings
10 Repressed
11 Iberian nation
12 Firmly fixed
13 Very small
19 Sharp-sighted
22 Expulsion
24 Collier
26 In favor of
27 Fuss
28 Track circuit
29 Presidential nickname
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32 Clothing
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11/15/05

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SHAWE
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200 Employment
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203 Public Service Message

306 Financial Services
NEED CASH NOW?
307 School Instruction
CLASSIFIEDS

308 Open House
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
DRACO INVESTMENT CORP

309 Homes For Sale
BLISS New high energy efficient custom home

306 Financial Services
NEED CASH NOW?
307 School Instruction
CLASSIFIEDS

308 Open House
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
DRACO INVESTMENT CORP

309 Homes For Sale
BLISS New high energy efficient custom home

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502 Homes For Sale
TWIN FALLS Free M.L.S. Search and Foreclosures

502 Homes For Sale
TWIN FALLS House to be moved Two bedroom, 1 bath

502 Homes For Sale
GEM STATE REALTY, INC. PAUL (Crestview Area) For Sale by Owner

502 Homes For Sale
RUPERT Nice 2 bdrm. 1 bath, 1120 sq ft. hardwood floors, new paint and roof

502 Homes For Sale
SHOSHONE Brand new 2300 square foot manufactured home

502 Homes For Sale
THINKING OF BUILDING? Call The Lynn Rasmussen Team

502 Homes For Sale
TWIN FALLS Excluded country living, close to town

502 Homes For Sale
TWIN FALLS Single home, 2 1/2 bath, 243 B Ave

502 Homes For Sale
GEM STATE REALTY, INC. TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage

516 Commercial Property
RUPERT Near historic downtown square 6000 sq ft., 3 bath, 2 very large rooms

516 Vacation Property/ Times Shares
SUN VALLEY Like your vacation home? Buy a timeshare

516 Cemeterly Lots
Lake view Gardens 4 spots, block 2, lot 42

521 Manufactured Homes
BURELY 1998 Fleetwood, 26x48 535,000

501 Furnished Homes
TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage

502 Unfurnished Homes
TWIN FALLS Country setting, 5 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 3 car garage

512 Farms/Ranches/Dairies
BUHL Farm with a view, 38+ acres Extra

513 Acreage and Lots
BURELY 1-20 acre ranch, Power and irrigation water available

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Stand Out from the crowd! You'll find it in the Classifieds

SCORES AND STATS

WHAT'S ON T.V.

- Football: Bowling Green at Miami, ESPN2, 8 p.m. Basketball: Princeton NIT, first round, ESPN2, 8 p.m. Hockey: Tampa Bay at Washington, OLN, 5 p.m. Tennis: ATP Masters Cup, ESPN, 10 a.m.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3P, 2P.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Agassi, Nadal withdraw from Masters Cup. SHANGHAI, China — Andre Agassi and Rafael Nadal withdrew from the ATP Masters Cup on Monday...

Kings fined \$30,000 for Detroit-bashing pictures. NISW YORK — The Sacramento Kings were fined \$30,000 by the NBA on Monday...

Utah quarterback out for season. SALT LAKE CITY — Utah quarterback Brian Johnson will miss the rest of the season after injuring his left knee during a run late in the fourth quarter...

Giants facing illness of second co-owner. EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants are dealing with the terminal illness of one of their co-owners for the second time in less than a month...

Claudino scores 16 in Arizona State win. TEMPE, Ariz. — Bryson Krueger scored 17 points and former College of Southern Idaho center Bruno Claudino had 16 leading Arizona State past Alberta 85-54 Monday night...

Boyd indicted on phone threat charges. JACKSON, Miss. — Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Dennis "Oh-Cah" Boyd surrendered Monday to federal agents in Tampa...

Bears Miller and Kreutz admit to altercation. LAKE FOREST, Ill. — Chicago Bears teammates Ed Miller and Olin Kreutz admitted Monday they were in a fight last week in which Kreutz broke Miller's jaw...

Miller and Kreutz admit to altercation. Details of the fight were not clear, and neither Kreutz or Miller would provide them. Miller needed surgery last week after initially saying he hurt his jaw in a fall at his home...

BOXING

Boxing results table with columns: Weight, Winner, Opponent, Referee, Round.

WRESTLING

Wrestling results table with columns: Weight, Winner, Opponent, Style, Round.

BASEBALL

Baseball results table with columns: Team, Score, Innings, Errors, Hits, Runs, RBIs.

SOCCER

Soccer results table with columns: Team, Score, Goals, Assists, Cards.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

American Football results table with columns: Team, Score, Quarterback, Rushing, Passing, Receiving.

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Wrestling results table with columns: Weight, Winner, Opponent, Style, Round.

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Baseball results table with columns: Team, Score, Innings, Errors, Hits, Runs, RBIs.

SOCCER

Soccer results table with columns: Team, Score, Goals, Assists, Cards.

FOOTBALL

Football results table with columns: Team, Score, Quarterback, Rushing, Passing, Receiving.

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BASEBALL

Baseball results table with columns: Team, Score, Innings, Errors, Hits, Runs, RBIs.

GOLF

Golf results table with columns: Player, Score, Par, Holes in One, Birdies, Bogies.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

American Football results table with columns: Team, Score, Quarterback, Rushing, Passing, Receiving.

WRESTLING

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Soccer results table with columns: Team, Score, Goals, Assists, Cards.

HOCKEY

Hockey results table with columns: Team, Score, Goals, Assists, Cards, Shots, Saves.

Advertisement for Greg Middlekauff's Factory Certified Picks of the Week, featuring 2002 Accord EX-VL, 2003 Honda Pilot EX, and 2004 Accord with prices and contact information.

Stocks end mixed on inflation concerns

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street wobbled through a listless session Monday as prices fluctuated as investors cast aside upbeat earnings at Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Lowe's Cos. in favor of critical inflation and spending data later this week.

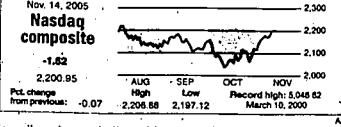
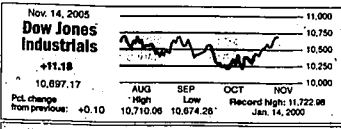
Strong results from Wal-Mart and Lowe's came as a sign that consumers are still spending despite the recent spike in energy costs brightening the holiday sales outlook.

A pair of multimillion-dollar acquisitions also brightened the market's mood. Georgia-Pacific Corp. is being taken private and Host Marriott Corp. is buying 38 upscale hotels.

But, with key government data on inflation and retail sales due this week, investors are waiting for indications of whether higher costs are driving up prices on consumer goods, said John Forelli, portfolio manager at Independence Investors LLC.

"Now that gas prices have come down, there's more concern that inflation will be kept at bay," Forelli said.

"But I'm not sure the market



is really going to believe that until the (Federal Reserve) says so.

Forecasts for a cold snap in the Northeast pressured crude oil despite recent reports that U.S. supplies are adequate for increased demand this winter.

A barrel of light crude gained 16 cents to \$57.69 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

At the close of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 11.33, or 0.1 percent, to 10,697.17.

Broader stock indicators

were lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.96, or 0.08 percent, to 1,233.76, and the Nasdaq composite index lost 1.52, or 0.07 percent, to 2,200.95.

Bonds declined after an auction last week catapulted them to their peak water demand, which occur at about the end of June, during the hottest, driest time that the plants are growing.

Because the farm does not require that level of electricity year-around, Crews said the other uses for the power and began working on developing a prototype for a solar-powered tractor, which Crews said ultimately would be used in Africa.

Farm

the students gain an appreciation of why farmers do what they do and how they do it.

Because of the experimental nature of the farm, Crews said students sometimes take on projects that are long shots.

They will try things that have a high risk of failure, but if they succeed, they will be proud of their work, he said.

Crews and a group of other solar-power advocates in the community are working on an experimental project of their own.

He explained that the farm designed its array of solar panels near the irrigation well to meet the peak water demands, which occur at about the end of June, during the hottest, driest time that the plants are growing.

Because the farm does not require that level of electricity year-around, Crews said the other uses for the power and began working on developing a prototype for a solar-powered tractor, which Crews said ultimately would be used in Africa.

Continued from D4

said, lawyer Howard Snyder said.

Juries also will recognize that many plaintiffs have been left emotionally scarred, Snyder said. "There is a lengthy period when you're in the dark about whether you'll live or die. It's a very difficult road for these women and for their families."

Trial for the first plaintiffs in federal court could get under way in July.

Lawyers on both sides expect that the jury verdicts or settlements in those cases could set benchmarks for the other pending hormone-replacement cases.

Most of the 3,000 suits filed in federal District Courts around the country have been collected before U.S. District Judge William Wilkin in Little Rock, Ark., for pretrial discovery. Several hundred hormone cases are also before state court judges in New Jersey, where Wilkin is headquartered, and in Pennsylvania.

For half a century, hormone pills were fixtures in medicine cabinets of women of a certain age. Tens of millions of American women have taken some form of the estrogen-progesterin mix to temper the dreary night sweats, insomnia, hot flashes and other heralding symptoms of menopause.

Women often stayed on the regimen for years, convinced by their doctors — and a steady barrage of ads — that the pills also would ward off wrinkles, brittle bones, heart disease and other ravages of age.

But because the farm does not require that level of electricity year-around, Crews said the other uses for the power and began working on developing a prototype for a solar-powered tractor, which Crews said ultimately would be used in Africa.

their 60s or 70s, or they were smokers, had had blood clots or other risk factors for cancer and vascular disease.

Wyeth's senior corporate counsel, Mark French, also said that doctors and patients had been warned about the breast-cancer link. "That information had been on the Prempro label since 1995," he said.

Santa Monica, Calif., plaintiff's lawyer Gary M. Paul disagrees. "No one had ever indicated either to the doctors or to the women how much of an increase there was for breast cancer from using this medication," he said.

Regardless, news of the study was enough to persuade thousands of women to stop taking the drugs.

One was Fran Yeoman of Los Angeles. She had been on Prempro, but her doctor, Dr. Frank G. Prover, took the drugs for three years to cope with insomnia and occasional hot flashes and said they were wonderful.

Yeoman stopped her last pill in July 2002 when she had to temporarily stop all medications before hip replacement surgery.

But after her surgery came news of the study linking the hormone drugs to health problems. "I called my gynecologist and told her I didn't want to go back on it."

Later that year Yeoman learned she had breast cancer, and she has since used several drugs to control the disease.

After a lumpectomy and radiation treatment, Yeoman says she is "perfectly fine," but she recalls that the diagnosis "absolutely shocked me. I had never smoked, didn't drink coffee and I haven't had red meat in 22 years."

Many women, however, were not so alarmed by the 2002 study.

Ellen Goldstein, for example, checked with her gynecologist after the study's findings were

released to discuss the risks and has since not had blood clots, strokes, heart, time, Goldstein said, the two women have collectively agreed that she should stay on the medication.

"I'm not sure the market is really going to believe that until the (Federal Reserve) says so."

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks including AAPL, AMZN, MSFT, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary of market activity for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. Includes sections for Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and Diaries.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table listing NASDAQ national market data with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg.

INDEXES

Table showing various market indices like S&P 500, Dow Jones, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing stocks of local interest with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the S&P 500 major stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the National Market and 100 most active on American Stock Exchange.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing American Stock Exchange data with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg.

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities including Mon Commodity, Soybean, Corn, Wheat, and others.

BEANS

Table of closing prices for various types of beans.

GRAINS

Table of closing prices for various grains including wheat, corn, and soybeans.

POCATELLO (AP) - Idaho Farm Bureau Inter-

Table of closing prices for Pocatello (AP) Idaho Farm Bureau Inter-

WHEAT

Table of closing prices for various types of wheat.

DATE

Table of closing prices for various types of dates.

ALL INVESTMENTS

Table of closing prices for various investment funds.

MARKETS

Table of market data including exchange rates and commodity prices.

CHEESE

Table of market data for various types of cheese.

POTATOES

Table of market data for various types of potatoes.

WHEAT (AP) - Non

Table of market data for Wheat (AP) - Non.

SUGAR

Table of market data for various types of sugar.

LIVESTOCK

Table of market data for various types of livestock.

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FOSSIL FUELS

Table of market data for fossil fuels including oil and gas.

POCATELLO (AP) - Idaho Farm Bureau Inter-

Table of market data for Pocatello (AP) Idaho Farm Bureau Inter-

TV

Continued from D6
ships and hammers will also be sold, according to AOL.
iN2TV will offer an early test of whether consumers can be persuaded to watch longer-form programming on their computer screens.

Sugar

Continued from D4
In a normal year the loss in Earth, a town at the heart of Cajun country and the southern Louisiana coast would not have shaken the market, said USDA senior economist Larry Salathe. The 22,000 tons lost in southern Louisiana represents just 3 percent of the refined sugar grown in the U.S. according to the USDA.

Salathe describes the destruction of Louisiana's crop as the proverbial nail in the coffin. It followed a bad crop last year in Florida, the nation's No. 1 sugarcane growing area. Hurricanes in 2004, causing the U.S. sugarcane crop to drop from 4 million tons in 2003 to 3.3 million in 2004.

Salathe says he's already a shortener in the market, said Salathe. "Then we get the hurricanes in Louisiana that limited the ability to alleviate that shortage."
To take the edge off, the USDA temporarily increased sugar imports and released sugar beet reserves into the market.

More than half the sugar reserves in the U.S. comes from sugarcane, the rest is from sugarbeets, the rest is from sugarbeets.
But neither the imports nor the reserves could stave off the price increases, because two of the country's largest refineries, both in New Orleans, were shuttered, said Salathe. When they reopen, it's hoped that prices will retreat.

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homes with TV.
About half of those Internet users say they have watched video online, according to an industry analysts.
Several alternatives to traditional TV viewing have been announced in recent weeks, including a deal between Apple Computer, Inc. and Walt Disney Co. that makes iTunes of iTunes and other programs available as individual TV downloads for viewing on computers or video-capable iPods.

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Something missing?

We are able to customize our market reports. If you're invested in a stock, mutual fund or commodity that's not in our report, give us a call and we'll try to include it. Please call Raymond Jones at 733-0931, Ext. 262, with your suggestions.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including fund names, returns, and other metrics.