

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Breezy and cold, with light snow developing. High 32, low 22. Page A2



PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Shoshone setter Kallie Axelsson is the 2005 Times-News Volleyball Player of the Year. Page B1

HARVEST TIME FOR THIEVES

Idle farm equipment attracts copper criminals. Page C1



GOD'S 'HARRY POTTER'

Evangelicals celebrate Disney's upcoming 'Chronicles of Narnia' movie. Page E1



SAD DAY FOR U.S. MARINES

Blast kills 10 troops. Page A3

MED SCHOOL

ISU official suggests one for ISU. Page C4

COMING UP

Hazard zone
When is it worth battling the mess in kids' rooms?
Sunday in The Times-News

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Twin Falls a leader in jobs

Unemployment rate drops dramatically

By Chris Baldwin
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Nine-tenths of a percent makes Twin Falls County a state leader.

Mirroring the state, that's how far the county's unemployment rate dropped between November 2004 and November 2005.

"That type of percentage change might take (places like Twin Falls) live to 10 years," said economist Greg S. Rogers of Idaho Commerce and Labor. "We did it in one."

By the numbers, Twin Falls County had a 3.2 percent unemployment rate in November, according to figures re-

leased Friday by Idaho Commerce and Labor. It's lower than the state or national unemployment rate and only two counties in the state with similar or larger workforces have lower rates.

"The county's workforce grew by 3,688 people to 39,974 because of new light-industrial employers like RV producer Jayco Inc. growth in existing businesses, and many new retail stores such as Lowes, he said.

"We really are one of the leaders in the state as far as retail growth," said Rogers.

In total, 3,903 more people had jobs this November com-

pared to one year ago. "We're in a situation that's a worker's market as far as job availability," he said, noting that economists consider an unemployment rate of about 4 percent as "full employment."

The Magic Valley has many people working multiple jobs, because of below-local-livable-wage pay and the lack of benefits, Rogers said. The area's average wage is rising with the influx of new light-industrial and technical companies, however.

Twin Falls County's unemployment rate actually rose by 2 percent over October, but Rogers attributed that primarily

County	2005	2004	Workforce
Blaine	2.3	3	14,584
Cassia	3.6	4.7	683
Cassa	5	4.9	9,512
Elmore	4.6	5.0	10,651
Gooding	2.9	3.8	8,175
Jerome	2.9	4	10,637
Lincoln	3.7	4.8	2,272
Minidoka	6.2	7.4	3,265
Twin Falls	3.2	4.1	39,974

Source: Idaho Commerce and Labor

to students returning to the classroom. The county had 1,278 people unemployed in

Please see JOBS, Page A2

Parade of Lights



Right, Shaneo Terella, 3, and her sister Shekarae Salgars, 1, peek out of a window at Bridles and Bits Tack Shop on Main Street during Friday night's Festival of Lights parade. Above, a Magic Valley Regional Medical Center ambulance displays more than just its emergency lights Friday night along the route during the Festival of Lights parade in downtown Twin Falls.

Photos by MELBAE THOMPSON/The Times-News



Thieves nab giant blue M&M from T.F. yard

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Cool Dude

Height: 5 feet
Weight: 200 pounds
Last seen: 300 block of Caswell Ave. W.
Traits: Will not melt in your hands
Known to say: "Never let 'em see you melt."



TWIN FALLS — Cindy Nickles is feeling both heartbroken and a little angry about not having a favorite blue M&M in her collection anymore — thanks to thieves that took off with it during the wee hours of Thanksgiving morning.

This isn't the "melts in your mouth, not in your hand" variety treat, but a 5-foot, 200-pound version of the blue M&M known as "Cool Dude."

Nickles had received the grocery store display as a gift two years ago and has used it to adorn her Twin Falls lawn at 349 Caswell Ave. W.

"He wouldn't fit in my kitchen (that is) all decorated in M&M colors and figurines," she said. "So I decided to put him outside."

She decorated Cool Dude to

fit the season: placing lawn tools in his sweet little hands in the summer and outfitting him as Zorro for Halloween. In fact, she had just finished wrapping lights around him hours before his disappearance.

"It was my favorite one," Nickles said. "Whoever took

him had to be some pretty big guys because he was heavy to move."

Nickles estimates that the theft occurred between 2 a.m. and 8 a.m.

The decoration was placed just outside the bedroom window, so whoever took him was extremely quiet and careful, noted Nickles.

"I am a light sleeper and didn't hear a thing. And they carefully unplugged the lights he was wearing — they are gone too," said Cool Dude's owner, and protective guardian.

After waking up to finding only a few broken pieces of her treasured ornament, law enforcement authorities were notified and a police report filed.

She points out that Cool Dude's captors left few clues behind, except for one critical

piece of evidence.

"Anyone who knows anything about M&M's knows that Cool Dude always wears his shades," Nickles said. "So if anyone spots a giant blue M&M without them, they know he's mine."

Hopefully, he'll be home for Christmas.

"The police told me not to be surprised to find him on top of the school or city hall," she said. "I am hoping so (because) that's only a prank."

She stated that although no reward is being offered for helping Cool Dude find his way home, she will be forever grateful.

"I just want him safely back," she said. "He has really become part of the family."

Blair Koch lives in Buhl. She can be reached by e-mail at blair_206@hotmail.com or by calling 316-2607.

More snow: Water picture brightens for Magic Valley irrigators

By Michelle Dunlop
Times-News writer

Shutdown on reservoir system.

See page A2

TWIN FALLS — Just two months into the new water year, Magic Valley irrigators have a bit more to smile about than in recent years.

The region depends on the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer as its source for water. On Friday, the reservoir system above the aquifer sat at 41 percent of its total capacity, up from 25 percent of capacity on Dec. 2, 2004.

"That looks quite a bit bet-

ter," said Tim Miller, a hydrologist with the Bureau of Reclamation — the agency that monitors water for the region.

While the region's water picture is shaping up better than this time last year, there's still a long way to go until spring, Miller said. And a lot can happen over the next several months.

For instance, even though

the water picture last year at this time looked bleak, heavy spring rains in 2004 improved the irrigation season.

The rains allowed irrigators and canal companies to hold back on delivering water to farmers. Thus, the canal companies were able to keep water in storage at the reservoirs and "carry" it over for use next season. Some of that carryover from this past irrigation season shows up in the higher reservoir levels this year.

Snow coated most of the valley on Thursday, even though the predicted high snowfalls

didn't pan out.

"We did benefit from that snow," Miller said. "It definitely helped out."

Magic Valley irrigators benefit greatly from spring runoff from snowpack accumulated in the Island Park and Jackson, Wyo., area, Miller said. Snowpack levels for the Upper Snake River area above Palisades Reservoir were at 110 percent of average on Friday, up from 73 percent of average at this time last year, he said.

Island Park received about 8 inches of snow during the last storm, said Rick Winther, a me-

Wary of the road project

Controversy may taint contract.

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — As debate over Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's \$1.2 billion highway-improvement plan intensified in the Legislature last spring, Washington Group International held its annual lawmaker gathering at its Boise headquarters.

The March event has for years given the \$2.9 billion defense contractor and engineering company — and its CEO, Steve Hanks — a chance to talk informally about Washington Group's performance around the world as lawmakers munch smoked clams and shrimp and sip Idaho wines.

Last year was different, several legislators say, because Hanks depicted some of his remarks to the governor's "Connecting Idaho" plan and its importance to the state economy. The largest-ever state highway project was touted as a way to create jobs and boost over-the-road commerce, and it is central to Kempthorne's effort to cement his pro-business legacy.

This was the first time Hanks entered the political realm, where he dedicated a good deal of his time to Kempthorne's plan, said Rep. Leon Smith, R-Boise, who opposed the package last April. "It certainly opened my eyes to have him get up there and start pushing the highway package."

Two months ago, Washington Group and Denver-based partner CH2M Hill Inc. won what could be a six-year, \$30 million contract to oversee the highway building effort, included in the road projects is the construction of another bridge over the Snake River Canyon, near Twin Falls.

Now, Parsons Brinckerhoff, the New York-based company that lost the bid, is suing the state of Idaho, alleging that Washington Group and CH2M Hill got it based on inflated considerations rather than professional qualifications.

Federal highway officials also have asked Idaho to reconsider the contract, citing concerns that state transportation board members didn't follow federal law requiring that contract decisions be based on technical merit.

Nine senior state Transportation Department engineers who reviewed the bids recommended Parsons Brinckerhoff be given the contract.

On Oct. 27, however, members of the Idaho Transportation Board voted 4-1 to give it to Washington Group and CH2M Hill, arguing — according to meeting minutes — that considerations including the two companies' work with Idaho on past projects gave them the edge.

"If you and I bid on something, the people who are examining our proposal are supposed to look at our qualifications, as to who best fits those

Please see ROAD, Page A2

eteorologist for the National Weather Service out of Pocatello. Depending on elevation, the Jackson area accumulated between 2 and 4 inches.

The region encompassing southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming could see snow showers all week, with the best chance for accumulation coming on Monday, Winther said. Next week, however, the area can expect cold but dry conditions.

Times-News reporter Michelle Dunlop can be reached at 735-3237 or by e-mail at mdunlop@magicvalley.com.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: breezy and cold with light snow showers developing. High: 40-45.
Tonight: Light to moderate snow. Low: 20-25.
Tomorrow: Clouds likely to linger, light snow showers possible. Highs low to middle 30s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, High/Low. Lists weather for Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Jerome, etc.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Cold, cloudy and windy at times with a chance of snow. Highs low 30s.
Tonight: Very cold with light flurries possible. Lows low 20s.
Tomorrow: Overcast mostly cloudy with back winds and light snow possible. Highs upper 20s.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes monthly and yearly statistics.

Sunrise and Sunset

Table with 2 columns: Sunrise, Sunset. Lists times for Boise, Burley, etc.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Periods of light snow are expected through the weekend. Those heading out to ski can expect some fresh powder, but getting to the ski areas may be difficult at times.

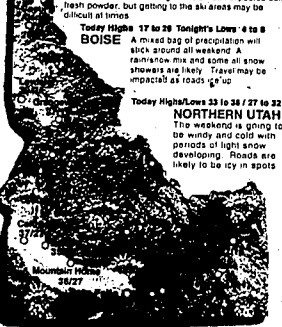


Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes monthly and yearly statistics.

Barometric Pressure

Table with 2 columns: 9 pm barometer, Yesterday 20.04 in. Includes pressure readings for Boise, Burley, etc.

U.V. INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Location, Index. Lists UV index for Boise, Burley, etc.

NORTHERN UTAH

Today High/Lows 33 to 34 / 27 to 32. A mixed bag of precipitation will stick around all weekend. A rain/snow mix and some all snow showers are likely. Travel may be impacted as roads get icy.

MOON PHASES

Table with 2 columns: Dec 8, Dec 15, Dec 23, Dec 31. Lists moon phases like Full Moon, Last Onew, etc.

Moonrise and Moonset

Table with 2 columns: Moonrise, Moonset. Lists times for Boise, Burley, etc.

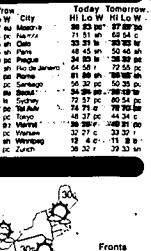
REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Boise, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Atlanta, Beijing, Buenos Aires, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

'Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty, if not a great many more, than you ever had in your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.'

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, etc.

Valid 8 p.m. today

Table with 2 columns: Yesterday's National Extremes, High/Low. Lists temperature extremes for Boise, Burley, etc.

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Some in GOP push to replace DeLay

The Washington Post — Widening corruption scandals in Washington are heightening Republican sentiments for a GOP leadership shake-up early next year that would permanently replace former majority leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, according to House members and GOP leadership sources. Many Republicans say they are troubled that DeLay's political money-laundering trial in Texas could drag on for months, leaving the question of leadership in limbo. And they are increasingly anxious that DeLay may be implicated in the bribery and corruption investigations of Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff and former representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif.

But with few members willing to publicly challenge DeLay's return, leadership aides still give the lawmaker a strong shot at a comeback, provided a Texas court exonerates him of charges that he illegally funneled corporate campaign contributions to state legislative candidates. Much will depend on whether DeLay can get the case thrown out or win acquittal by the time Congress convenes Jan. 20 for President Bush's State of the Union address, some GOP lawmakers and aides say. "No question, there's considerable discontent in the conference about DeLay's return, but nobody's talking on the record," said a House Republican political strategist who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of crossing DeLay, should he return. "If he beats this rap in Austin, he will be back as majority leader. Because nobody's going to tell him no."

DeLay was forced to step down as majority leader in September immediately after his indictment. House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, R-Mo., assumed the majority leader's post on a temporary basis. It is a measure of DeLay's lingering power on Capitol Hill that a dozen interviews on DeLay's future elicited almost no named responses — either from DeLay allies or from lawmakers and congressional aides ready to see him replaced. "There is a lot of sentiment out there about DeLay's radioactivity," said a leadership source close to DeLay and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Struck pedestrian has injuries, \$5 ticket

The Washington Post — A rain-slicked Connecticut Avenue N.W. collision, the witness said, caused Atherton to fly out of his shoes and left him crumpled on the road, bleeding from his head and nose after his head smashed into the windshield. Before paramedics rushed him to the hospital, police issued Atherton the ticket, which his family found among his belongings when they visited him at George Washington University Hospital. "He was issued a ticket be-

cause he was at fault. That's all I can tell you," said Lt. John Kutiwiewski of the police department's major crash investigation unit. DeLay said that Atherton caused the accident by crossing the street in mid-block. Kutiwiewski, who was not at the scene immediately after the 7:10 p.m. accident, said that officers later told him that Atherton was conscious when he received the summons. "If he's outside the crosswalk, he would be at fault," he said.

DeLay said that Atherton caused the accident by crossing the street in mid-block. Kutiwiewski, who was not at the scene immediately after the 7:10 p.m. accident, said that officers later told him that Atherton was conscious when he received the summons. "If he's outside the crosswalk, he would be at fault," he said.

Jobs

Continued from A1
Blaine County: Unemployment dropped by 2 percent and the availability of jobs looks strong, said Rogers. Weather problems have hurt tourism along the Gulf Coast and Caribbean, making skiing at the county's resorts more attractive, he said. The cost of living in Blaine County continues to be a problem, though. "They have a labor shortage, but they have a problem getting labor because of the lack of affordable housing," he said. The county's resident labor force is 14,584 people. Gooding and Jerome coun-

ties: At 2.9 percent these counties have lower unemployment rates than Twin Falls County. Jerome has benefited from light industrial and retail growth, he said. Along with Twin Falls County, the trio also have about 400,000 cows, also are the state's leading dairy producers. That industry has helped keep unemployment rates stable and low, Rogers said. They fluctuated more in the 1990s because of the influence of migrant seasonal workers at area farms, he said. But dairies needed a stable, year-round work force and a lot of those migrant workers took those positions. Many have become U.S. citi-

zens or full-time legal migrant workers, he said. In the 1990s, Gooding County ranked 33rd out of the state's 44 counties in personal per capita income. Today, it ranks 4th, he said. Mini-Cassia: These counties, with a combined workforce in November of 6,498, saw unemployment rise by 1.2 percent in the last year. The closing of the Nature's Best plant in October, which meant a loss of about 150 jobs, was a major cause, Rogers said. Times-News Business Editor Chris Baldus can be reached at 735-3259 or cbaldus@magicalvalley.com.

Bodies found in Ohio may be those of children slain in 2003

HUDSON, Ohio (AP) — Two bodies discovered in Ohio may be those of two New Hampshire children whose father confessed to killing them and burying them somewhere along a 700-mile stretch of the Adirondack 2.5 years ago, authorities said Friday. Police and the FBI said a dog that barked from its owner during a walk Thursday found a shallow grave containing both bodies wrapped in plastic near Interstate 80, also known as the Ohio Turnpike.

Scott Wilson, a spokesman with the FBI's Cleveland office, said he could not comment on the gender or age of the bodies, but added: "We're looking into the possibility the bodies might be linked to those missing kids." If tests confirm the remains are those of Sarah and Phillip Gehring of Concord, N.H., the discovery will end a long and frustrating search that ranged 700 miles across the Midwest. Sarah, 14, and Phillip, 11, were shot to death by their father, Manuel Gehring, as he fled across the country in July 2003. Gehring confessed to the slayings but strangled himself in prison before he could be held.

Road

Continued from A1
needs," said Federal Highway Administration division head Stephen Moreno in an interview. Washington Group didn't return phone calls from The Associated Press seeking comment on the controversy. Some legislators who supported Kemphorne's plan — to sell bonds to finance road building, then repay them with federal highway money the state expects to receive — say they're concerned this dustup could cast a pall on "Connecting Idaho" before it's even started.

The state Transportation Department has hired a Los Angeles law firm to defend it against Parsons Brinckerhoff's challenge. Members of the transportation board defended their decision. "No political considerations were used in making this decision," said Chuck Winder, the transportation board chairman. He conceded that those who opposed the project will likely use the contract dispute against it. "They're going to try anything they can to make it look bad."

Correction

Magic Mountain resort will open on Thursday. Magic Mountain Ski Resort, south of Hansen in the South Hills, will open Thursday. Its opening day was reported in error in our Saturday column. The Times-News regrets the error.

Upper Snake Reservoir System

Table with 4 columns: Reservoir, current acre feet, Dec. 1, 2005 percent of capacity, Dec. 1, 2004 percent of capacity. Lists reservoirs like Henry's Lake, Island Park, Grassy Lake, etc.

The Times-News NEW Information Line

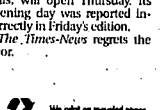
735-3350
Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away!

Lottery Information Press 2

Weather Information Press 3

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...or check out our website: magicalvalley.com

Alito reassures senators on abortion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito, an unbending opponent of abortion rights during the Reagan administration, relayed assurances Friday that he would put his private views aside when it came time to rule on the issue as a justice.

"I said that his personal feelings would not be a factor in his judicial decision," Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said after a private meeting with Alito that was hastily arranged after several days of abortion-related controversy.

Specter, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, also said Alito had indicated he would give weight to legal precedent in any abortion cases that came before the court. "It



Alito

says that when a matter is embedded in the culture, it is a considerable factor in the application of stare decisis," he said, using a term that means adhering to principles laid down in previous decisions.

President Bush named Alito, 55 and an appeals court judge, to the court on Oct. 31. It confirmed by the Republican-controlled Senate, he would succeed Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who has often cast the swing vote on

abortion, the death penalty and other contentious issues.

Specter, who supports abortion rights, declined to say whether he was satisfied with what he had heard in the privacy of his office. "I'm going to reserve judgment on the question as to whether Judge Alito can fairly judge an abortion case until he testifies," he said.

Specter has said repeatedly he will question Alito aggressively about abortion during confirmation hearings scheduled to begin Jan. 5. He told reporters that based on the appeals court decisions he had read so far, "his not been an activist judge... He's been very doctrinaire and conservative."

The chairman said he met with Alito as part of an attempt

to "keep the playing field level" in advance of the hearings.

"I'm concerned that we do not have a replay of what happened to White House counsel Harriet Miers, who was really sort of run out of town on a rail," he said.

Specter did not say so, but in Miers' case, it was ceaseless criticism from conservatives that forced her to withdraw her nomination in October without benefit of a hearing.

By contrast, the criticism of Alito has come from Democrats as well as women's rights and civil rights groups, who have increasingly raised questions about his views on abortion and his candor in responding to questions on a variety of issues.

Sept. 11 commissioners criticize security delays

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is still failing to enact many swift and strong security changes to prevent terror attacks, the former Sept. 11 Commission has concluded.

More than four years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the government has not done enough to stop nuclear proliferation, give emergency first responders adequate communications systems and ensure that homeland security grants are going to the most high-risk communities, former commissioners said Friday.

"We're taking small steps when we need a giant leap," said former Democratic commissioner Timothy Boemer, who is now president of the Center for National Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. "We're watching al-Qaida change and spread out like mercury on a mirror while our bureaucracies are still sometimes stuck in Cold War mentality and cultures."

Congress established the 10-member, bipartisan commission in 2002 to investigate government missteps that

led to the 9/11 attacks. It issued its findings — that the United States could not protect its citizens from the attacks because it underestimated al-Qaida — in a sweeping July 2004 report.

But since then, any sense of urgency by Congress and the Bush administration to safeguard key national vulnerabilities has dissolved or gotten tangled up in turf wars, the former commissioners said.

The group — now operating as the 9/11 Public Discourse Project — began a series of hearings in June to examine what it described as the government's unfinished agenda in the campaign to secure the country. It will issue a report Monday grading the government's overall response to its recommendations as well as assessing Washington's performance on each of a dozen potential problem areas.

Counterterrorism official says al-Qaida capability limited in U.S.

See page A4

Inmate is 1,000th to be executed

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A convicted murderer was put to death Friday in the nation's 1,000th execution since capital punishment resumed in 1977.

Kenneth Lee Boyd, who was convicted of killing his estranged wife and father-in-law, received a lethal injection and was pronounced dead at 2:15 a.m.

"The execution of Kenneth Boyd has not made this a better or safer world," his attorney

Tim Mpher said. "If this 1,000th execution is a milestone, it's a milestone we should all be ashamed of."

In his final words, Boyd asked his daughter-in-law to take care of his son and grandchildren and said, "God forgive me for the 1994 murder of a store clerk."

Boyd's death came after both George Mitchell and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to intervene and stop the execution.

About 150 protesters gathered at the prison in Raleigh, where prison officials tightened security. Police arrested 13 protesters late Thursday who sat down on the prison's four-lane driveway, officials said.

Boyd, 57, did not deny that he shot and killed his wife, Curry Boyd, 36, and her father, 57-year-old Thomas Dillard Curry. Family members said Boyd stalked his estranged wife after they separated following 13 stormy years of marriage and once sent a son to her house with a bullet and a threatening note.

During the 1988 slayings, Boyd's son Christopher was pinned under his mother's body as Boyd unloaded a .357-caliber Magnum into her. The boy pushed his way under a bed to escape the barrage. Another son grabbed the pistol while Boyd tried to reload.

The Supreme Court in 1976 ruled that capital punishment could resume after a 10-year moratorium. The first execution took place the following year, when Gary Gilmore went before a firing squad in Utah.

Boyd told The Associated Press in a prison interview that he wants no part of the infamous numerical distinction. "I'd hate to be remembered as that," Boyd said Wednesday.

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10 Marines die in bombing

Lives of activists threatened in video

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A roadside bomb killed 10 Marines and wounded 11 others on a foot patrol near Fallujah, the U.S. military announced Friday. It was the deadliest attack against American troops in four months.

The ambush occurred Thursday against Marines from Regimental Combat Team 8, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., a day after President Bush outlined his strategy for victory in Iraq.

Hours after the military announced its grim news, Al-Jazeera broadcast a videotape and statement in which the kidnapers of four Christian peace activists threatened to kill the hostages — two Canadians, an American and a Briton — unless all prisoners in U.S. and Iraqi detention centers are freed by Dec. 8.

The roadside bomb in Fallujah, the major insurgent headquarters west of the capital, was fashioned from several large artillery shells, the military said.

Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called the ambush a "very serious attack," saying "it appears that this group of Marines had collected — which is always a dangerous thing — in sort of one location."

The Marine unit has suffered some of the highest casualties of the Iraq war.

The military statement said seven of the wounded later returned to duty and that the rest of the team was conducting "counterinsurgency operations throughout Fallujah and the surrounding area" to improve security for the Dec. 15 elections.

The attack was the single deadliest against U.S. troops in Iraq since 14 Marines were killed Aug. 3 when a bomb destroyed their vehicle near Haditha, 140 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Also Friday, three U.S. soldiers from the 48th Brigade Combat Team were killed in a traffic accident south of Baghdad, and the military said an Army soldier assigned to the 2nd Marine Division died of wounds suffered the previous day when his vehicle was struck by a rocket in Hamadi, 70 miles west of the



U.S. Army soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division inspect the site of a car bomb in Samarra, Iraq, Friday. In a separate incident, 10 U.S. Marines were killed and 11 wounded by a roadside bomb.



capital.

Those deaths — 14 in two days — brought to at least 2,724 the number of U.S. service members who have died since the beginning of the war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

With at least 793 American deaths this year, 2005 appears on track to become the deadliest year since the U.S.-led invasion, where there were 846 deaths in 2004; and 485 in 2003.

U.S. forces have stepped up military operations throughout the Sunni Arab regions west of Baghdad to cut off the flow of weapons, ammunition and foreign fighters entering the country from Syria and to reduce insurgent activity.

As part of that campaign, the U.S. military on Friday launched a new offensive — Operation Shank — in Hamadi, capital of the insurgent-ridden Anbar province. About 200 Iraqi army soldiers and 300 U.S. Marines were taking part in the offensive, the fifth in Hamadi since Nov. 16,

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Deal Santa... Letters To Santa

Hey kids! Get into the Christmas spirit and send in your letters to Santa. Each letter will be printed in our Seasons Greetings section on December 22.

Don't forget to include your name and age on the letter! Please limit your letters to 50 words or less.

All letters must be received by December 15 to be printed. Send letters to: The Times-News, Attn: Santa Letters, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303

The Times-News
magvalley.com

NATION

Judge oks bag searches on subway

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge Friday upheld the police department's practice of randomly searching subway riders' bags, saying the intrusion on people's privacy is minimal while the threat of a terrorist bombing is "real and substantial."

Police tightened security in the nation's largest subway system in July after the deadly terrorist attacks in London's underground.

"The risk of a terrorist bombing of New York City's subway system is real and substantial," U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman said.

The New York Civil Liberties Union had challenged the searches, arguing that riders were being subjected to a pointless and unprecedented invasion of their privacy.

The judge cited the testimony of police officials who said the search policy might cause terrorists to choose a different target.

Al-Qaida lacks major capability in U.S., counterterror official says

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. counterterrorism agencies have not detected a significant al-Qaida operational capability in the United States since the 2003 arrest of a truck driver who was in the early stages of plotting to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge.

Nevertheless, al-Qaida's capabilities aren't clear and the group remains dangerous, the new deputy director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Kevin Brock, said in an Associated Press interview.

The uncertainty reflects the tension facing national security officials even though the country has gone four years without a domestic attack from al-Qaida.

Brock was the FBI's special agent in charge of the Cincinnati office that investigated the 2001 bombing of a train car in Pennsylvania. He is now serving a 20-year prison sentence for aiding and abetting terrorism and conspiracy. Faris, a Pakistani who became a U.S. citizen in 1999, was exploring whether he could ruin the Brooklyn Bridge by cutting the suspension cables.

Brock said the case showed him al-Qaida's weakened state following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Faris didn't strike Brock as someone who could carry out a sophisticated plot though he was ordered by a top al-Qaida leader now in custody, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, to handle complicated operations.

"Since the Lynan Faris case and other investigations, the FBI and other agencies are just not detecting an operational capability by the al-Qaida organization in the United States of imminent significance," Brock said.

Yet he and other senior officials say now is not the time to relax.

"We have to assume that they remain a very viable and very dangerous threat," Brock said. "You almost can't define al-Qaida just as an entity that you can put on an organizational chart. It has now expanded to an ideology that has gotten quite dangerous."

Brock presides over one of three daily teleconference calls on the latest terror threats in the U.S. and abroad. Sitting in the operations center's conference room, he and other officials from the CIA, FBI, Pentagon and elsewhere draw from more than two dozen U.S. networks and receive information on computer monitors that, with the push of a button, emerge from within a conference table.

Elsewhere, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said in a speech Thursday that there is no alternative to constant pressure in the anti-terror effort. "We are continuing, every day, to evaluate and employ existing laws and tools that can help us in this fight," said Gonzales, as he met with a group of lawmakers for renewing the Patriot Act.

Forty-five days after Sept. 11, Congress overwhelmingly passed the anti-terror legislation, but its reauthorization has been delayed this year by Republicans and Democrats who want to ensure there are adequate checks on investigative powers.

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NATION

Bush gives rosy view of economic future, tries to regain momentum

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eager to rescue approval ratings dragged low by the Iraq war, President Bush embraced an upbeat employment report Friday and pronounced the future of the U.S. economy "as bright as it's been in a long time."

A buoyant president strode into the White House Rose Garden where snow flurries swirled to welcome a new Labor Department report showing U.S. jobs rebounding from a beating delivered by the Gulf Coast hurricanes. Nonfarm payrolls grew by 215,000 in November, the strongest increase since July, according to the report.

"This economy is in good shape," Bush said with a smile. The White House has been searching for ways to reclaim momentum, planning several pointed speeches for the president to defend his strategy on Iraq and turning to the economy after the topic had been largely absent from his schedule. On Monday, he travels to Kernersville, N.C., to deliver an economic speech.

Two days later, he'll deliver a speech about Iraq's economy. With recent economic indicators showing strong growth, low inflation, productivity gains, lower gasoline prices, a strong housing market, and increases in consumer confidence and business investment — in addition to the good jobs report — the White House concluded the time was ripe to trumpet the string of good news.



President Bush arrives to speak to reporters in the Rose Garden of the White House on Friday, in Washington.

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

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10:00PM

With special musical guest
Jaime Thietten
And special Christmas message
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by Pastor Mike Kessler

Christmas Morning Celebration
Dec. 25 | 10:00AM

Valley Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1708 Heyburn Ave. E. • Twin Falls, ID 83301
733-3222 • Pastor John E. Babb

The Public is Warmly Invited to Share...

9:30 a.m. Bible Study each Sunday

Advent Services
11:00 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, 11, 18 & 25

Christmas Eve
Saturday, Dec. 24
7:00 p.m.

Christmas Service
Sunday, Dec. 25
11 a.m.

Calvary Chapel of Buhl
invites you to
"Country Candlelight Christmas"

Christmas Eve Services
December 24 at 8:00 pm
1004 Burley Ave.
(old Ridley Bldg.)
for more information call
543-9959

Welcome to Our World

a musical for Christmas
Presented by the Worship Machine and G.I.G. Choirs
Sunday, December 11 at 10:30am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
"Jesus and the Welcoming Committee"
Saturday, December 24 at 5:30pm

Christmas Day Service
"God's Presence in a Lonely World"
Sunday, December 25 at 10:30am

Twin Falls Reformed Church
Corner of Grandview Drive N and Pole Lane Road
www.trfc.org

Crossroads United Methodist Church

Dec. 3 9 a.m. Annual Christmas brunch and Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 4 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship Service
Dec. 11 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship Service
Dec. 12 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship Service
Dec. 18 10:30 a.m. Advent Worship Service

Dec. 24 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service - Marthaugh Community Hall
Special Music - Bart Haish
8 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service
Crossroads United Methodist Church in Kimberly
Special Music - Bart Haish
Dec. 25 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service - Scriptures & Carols

Everyone Welcome!

205 Madison St. E., Kimberly, ID
423-4311

Kimberly Christian Church

December 18 • 8:30 & 10:45am
The KCC Peace Team will present
The Gift Code CD
A Contemporary Christmas Musical

December 18 • 7:00pm
The KCC Sunday School will present
It Happened in the Country
a Christmas Drama

Christmas Eve • 5:30pm
Christmas Worship & Communion

Christmas Day • 10:45am
Christmas Worship & Communion

KCC is a Non-Denominational
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everyone is welcome

307 Madison E. (Across from the Post Office)
Kimberly, ID 83141
208 423 5324

"Fear Not Factor"
Children's Musical and Drama
Sunday, Dec 4, 9:00am & 10:45am
A wonderful Christmas celebration
where kids and adults can explore
their true purpose that is found
in Jesus Christ.

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday, Dec 18, 6:00pm
Join us for this traditional
carol of Christmas service
and learn the stories behind
some of these much loved songs.

Christmas Eve Communion Service
Saturday, Dec 24, 10:00pm
Celebrate the meaning of the
Christmas Season with family and
friends as we take the opportunity
to reflect on the birth of Jesus
and share in communion.

Christmas Worship Service
Sunday, Dec 25, 9:00am & 10:45am
Celebrate our Savior's birth and fill this
Christmas Day with meaning for
your entire family.

Twin Falls
First Church of the Nazarene
(west of CSI)
1291 Washington Street North
733-6610

Advent and Christmas at
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Pastor: Greg Linday • 300 Shoshone Street East • 733-3272 • Twin Falls, Idaho

December 17 • 5:15pm
All Church Caroling Party
Features Sunday School Players "The Crooked Lamb"

December 18 • 10:00am
"The Crooked Lamb" performance

December 24 • 7:00pm
Christmas Eve Family Service
9pm Candlelight Service

December 25 • 10:00am
One Service only
No Sunday School Today

Come enjoy all the special music in the spirit of Christmas!

"The Singing Christmas Tree"
Sunday Dec. 18
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Performances at
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Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
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Christmas Eve
7:00pm

and
Christmas Day
12:00pm

Both Services at ROPER AUDITORIUM

ALSO on Sunday, December 18th
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of Our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ

December 18th • 9am
Special music by our children &
Coral music by the adult choir

December 24th • 6:30pm
Candlelight Communion Service

December 25th • 9am
Family Style Christmas Service
Complete with carols

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Saturday 12/3 at 7:00 p.m. Magic Valley Gospel Opry
Special Christmas Opry

Sunday 12/11 at 6:00 p.m. Not a Silent Night
Kids & Youth Christmas Program

Saturday 12/17 at 7:00 p.m. Shine on Us
A Christmas Musical by the adult choir

Sunday 12/18 at 6:00 p.m. Shine on Us
A Christmas Musical by the adult choir

Thursday 12/22 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert
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Christian Worship
December 25th - 10:50 a.m.

Living Nativity
December 22, 23 & 24 - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Children's Program
December 24 - 6:00 p.m.

Jim Tubbs - Minister

CHEERS &

School officials act fast after downtown shooting

CHEERS: To school officials at Bickel Elementary, St. Edward's Catholic School and Twin Falls School District, for Tuesday's lockdown after a Twin Falls shooting.

When TUSD Superintendent Wiley Dobbs relayed a police call informing him about Tuesday's shooting near 6th Avenue East, Bickel Principal, Kelli Schroeder went into action securing the school. Schroeder and the teacher staff went through emergency routine plans to make sure students stayed inside while police searched the area for suspects.

in her seat and refused to join the meeting in protest.

Days later, Newcomb, R-Burley, issued a statement that frowned on closed caucuses for joint committees.

"I would like to make it clear as speaker of the House, that our policy is that no committee, standing or interim, have a session in which a subcommittee meets behind closed doors," Newcomb wrote.

JEERS: To another school bomb threat, this time at Twin Falls High.

Twin Falls faculty followed the school's established procedures by searching the entire school with the help of administrative and custodial staff. Students were out of class for about two hours before it was determined no bomb was in the school.

You may recall that bomb threats were made at Central Elementary and Jerome Middle schools earlier this year. No bombs were found in these cases; either, but students were sent home for the day.

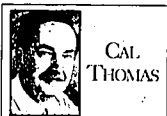
CHEERS: To Gary Stevens, the Idaho native who retired as one of the winningest jockeys in horse racing.

For those who don't follow the ponies, Stevens is the jockey who played George Woolf in the 2003 movie "Seabiscuit," but that was just one of his accolades. The Caldwell native announced his retirement last Friday after a 25-year career at the track and over 5,000 wins. Stevens mounts have won more than \$221 million in that span. Stevens, 42, won the Kentucky Derby three times, the Preakness twice, and the Belmont Stakes twice, most recently with Point Given in 2001 (which also won the Preakness). He was inducted into racings Hall of Fame in 1997.

Cheers and Jeers is a mix of compliments and quibbles from the readers' mail. Send your ideas and suggestions to Opinion Editor David Cooper, at dcooper@magicvalley.com

A tougher stance, but too late

President Bush has rediscussed illegal immigration as a political issue. After previously focusing on "welcoming" all who come to America by whatever means, the president spent most of his recent speech in Tucson, Ariz., sounding like Rep. Tom DeLay, a Colorado Republican, who has been the most vocal proponent of sealing U.S. borders to illegal aliens.

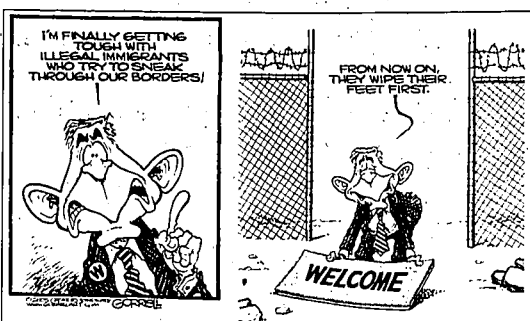


CAL THOMAS

Ninety percent of the speech was about the president's new "get tough" policy. The rest focused on his "guest worker" program, which is amnesty by whatever name he calls it. He says he wants to end the government's "catch and release" policy in which non-Mexican borderers have not been detained and then released, but that there aren't enough beds in detention centers to hold all of those apprehended. By some estimates, sufficient housing would not be available for at least six years.

There are many "sounds good" proposals in the president's speech. One that remarks might have more credibility had he come immediately after 9/11. An unknown number of people crossing our borders have no intention of building homes; they wish only to destroy America's "home."

According to the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), of the 54 foreign-born terrorists who operated in the United States between the early 1990s and 2004 about two-thirds (59) committed immigration fraud prior to or in conjunction with their part in the terrorist activity. Of the 59 terrorists who violated the law, many committed multiple immigration violations. In 47 instances, immigration benefits sought or acquired prior to 9/11 enabled



the terrorists to stay in the United States after 9/11 and continue their terrorist activities. In at least two instances, terrorists were still able to acquire immigration benefits after 9/11.

The president acknowledged that, "securing our border is essential to securing the homeland." Absent from the speech were proposals to sanction those who knowingly hire illegal aliens. As long as there is a demand for cheap labor and insufficient disincentives, they will continue to come. It is why the government has had minimal success controlling illegal drug shipments. Demand products supply.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center and the Center for Immigration Studies, there are nearly 11 million illegal aliens in the United States, of which approximately 7 million are workers. In 2002, it was estimated that households headed by illegal aliens used \$10 billion more in government services than they paid in taxes. They cost California taxpayers \$10.5 billion in education, medical and other expenses.

There is another dimension to illegal and even legal immigration: the president did not mention. We have failed to make Americans out of many of them. This is part of a larger

cultural problem that tells immigrants they should "Americanize" by relinquishing their language, traditions and even loyalty to the country from which they originated.

The CIS sponsored a forum in Washington recently titled "Dual Allegiance: A Challenge to Immigration Reform and Patriotic Assimilation." John Fonte, senior fellow and director of the Center for American Common Culture at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C., noted that previously when immigrants became American citizens they took a solemn oath to "absolutely and entirely renounce" all previous political allegiances. They transferred their loyalty from the "old country" to the United States. Too many, he says, maintain dual allegiances in violation of the oath.

Immigrants need to be transformed into full Americans, not only by their citizenship, but also by their language (English), their allegiance, voting habits (for American candidates and not for candidates in the nations from which they emigrated) and by their attitude. This view, the result of earlier immigrants, who wanted to come to America to become Americans.

In recent years, certain elites have taken the view that there

is something better about other cultures. In this view, immigrants should keep their allegiance and cultural heritage and not assimilate. This is a strategy for the death of any culture. While a nation cannot cast "half slave and half free" in Abraham Lincoln's words, neither can it exist in a state that is culturally subdivided.

John Fonte believes, however, that Congress should exercise its undisputed authority in this arena and prohibit certain acts (e.g., voting in a foreign election) that indicate dual allegiances. The purpose of such legislation would not be to punish people who have acted in good faith in the past, but to establish clear rules for the future in order to discourage and restrict dual allegiance.

Along with a much stronger and enforceable border control policy and penalties for businesses that knowingly hire illegal immigrants, attention to fully assimilating the non-native-born population would go far to fulfilling our nation's motto: E Pluribus Unum — out of many, one.

Send mail to Cal Thomas at: Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207. Readers may also have e-mail at www.calthomas.com

Faith-based treatment center shows success

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, on the front page, *The Times-News* ran an article from the Associated Press in which Judge John Bradbury of the 2nd District Court was quoted regarding the cost of long-term mental health and drug addiction treatment centers in rural Idaho, as well as the responsibility for mental health treatment to the criminal justice system. It's a disgrace. (Note: drug addiction and mental health issues frequently go hand-in-hand).

The founders and board of Jubilee House agree. We are a nonprofit organization which has been working diligently for more than a year to establish a one-year residential, faith-based treatment center for addicted women and their young children here in the Magic Valley.

We have a program which has been proven to be 80 percent cost effective. With that rate of rehabilitation, we could greatly reduce the cost of repeated incarcerations of these women, decrease the need for foster homes for their children and see a decline in the criminal activity in this valley.

A number of caring people have committed to supporting this effort in various ways, but the need is great. At present, we have the offer of a piece of land, as well as a building which must be moved. We need the people of Magic Valley to come together to assist us in the necessary rezoning, moving, setting and adaptation of this facility.

We need a commitment on the part of all concerned citizens of Magic Valley. Do you care enough to help? **BREVEH VICKI ADAMS** Twin Falls

LETTERS

anyway. Get a clue! If you talk point is a "talking point" from BrevCo, chances are it's false or misleading. Manipulation is the name of the game; leave out the negatives, enhance or create some positives. Easy to do when you appear best of both worlds who are plucked from the very industries they're supposed to monitor. It's doubtful our nation will ever recover from their actions.

AIMEE NEW Gooding

County workers stand by their level of service

I guess a little thing as an extra day off can cause a lot of commotion.

Currently employed with Minidoka County, I personally would like to thank the commissioners for going to bat for us and allowing the continuation of the floating holiday. Mr. Schafer indicated in his letter that giving us that day was a waste of taxpayers' money.

Thank God for giving us employment and being able to get up each morning and go to work and just having a job is a great blessing. Second, I have worked with taxes and insurance and, seeing both sides of the coin, they are basically the same. I pay my insurance premiums because the law says that I can't drive without it, and the bank tells me I can't have a loan on my house unless it is insured. I sometimes feel my taxes are not well spent either because I have gone years paying my premiums monthly never to use it, but when I do need it, it is for me.

Taxes are the same way. We pay our property taxes year in and year out and think we are not benefiting from them, but there are many services we take for granted. We as Americans still have the right to choose what career we want, those who choose to own their own business do reap rewards but do have more responsibilities after hours. Others choose to work for bosses, which means their work week is 40 hours when they walk out the door.

both have their place because one could not work without the other.

We sometimes see things differently looking through stained glass windows, but walking in someone else's shoes shows us that is not what it seems to be.

It is open to the public to examine our work and workload at anytime. Do you offer that kind of service? Our wages and benefits are open to the public; do you allow us as patrons of your business to see how much money you take home and how your time is spent making our money work? It works in both ways, and we all need each other to make a community grow. Our judging and pointing fingers makes us equally worthless. We have all the facts.

I hope we all can have a wonderful holiday, even if that means an extra day off! **KARLENE KELLEY** Abhton

(Editor's note: Karlene Kelley is a commercial appraiser with the Minidoka County assessor's office.)

Sempra water transfers the key controversy

The objections to the coal-fired power plant are missing the big picture. Technology can reduce the air pollution, but the big problem is water.

We have spent years changing the desert to farmland. Now the Jerome County commissioners want to change the farm land back to desert. The most critical issue in the state of Idaho is the shortage of water for our farmers. I need it, it is for me. We are now going back to rob the underground water table for the benefit of an out-of-state business to generate power for mostly out-of-state sale. Look at what happened to the farmers in the Richfield area when underground water was transferred for the benefit of a cheese plant operation.

The county commissioners need to get their heads back on their shoulders. **BOB ANDREW** Shoshone

The Times-News

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

Getting in touch

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

Sen. Mike Crapo
In Twin Falls, call or write: Heather Tiedl, e-mail director 202 Falls Ave., Suite 2 Twin Falls, ID 83301 734-2615; Fax: 733-0414
In Washington: 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6142
e-mail messages can be sent via www.senate.gov/crapo

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathews, regional director 550 Fire Avenue, Suite 200 Twin Falls, ID 83301

734-6780, Fax 734-3905
In Washington: 520 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-2752
e-mail: http://craig.senate.gov/email

Rep. Mike Simpson
In Twin Falls, call or write: Charlie Barnes, agriculture field director 1201 Falls Ave., e, suite 25 Twin Falls, ID 83301 734-7219; Fax 734-7244
In Washington: 1339 Longworth Building Washington, D.C. 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5531 Fax: (202) 225-8516
Access Simpson's e-mail through his Webpage: http://www.house.gov/simpson

Write to us

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

with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office, mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

Job gap study just a start to big problems

Sandy Miller's Nov. 26 article, "Idahoans struggle to overcome job gap," depicts what our residents face in terms of a liv-

The Times-News football player of the year.

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

It feels like Groundhog Year.

Colorado coach Gary Barnett, after receiving the news that the Buffaloes were going to the Big 12 title game because Iowa State lost by a field goal in overtime for the second straight year

TRIVIA

QUESTION: In 1986, Rodney Peete led USC over UCLA and Troy Aikman, 31-22. What ailment put Peete in the hospital for two days the week of the game? ANSWER: below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

College MEN'S BASKETBALL: Shoshone College at CSI, 7:30 p.m. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Snow College at CSI, 5:30 p.m. High School BOYS BASKETBALL: American Falls at Declo, 7:30 p.m. Butte County at Richfield, 7:30 p.m. Glens Ferry at Community School, 6:30. Gooding at Valley, 7:30 p.m. Kimberly at Wendell, 7:30 p.m. Raft River at Dietrich, 7:30 p.m. Carey Holiday Tournament Bliss Invitational Tournament GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bull at Wood River, 7 p.m. Jerome at Mountain Home, 7:30 p.m. Kimberly at Gooding, 7:30 p.m. Shoshone at Hagerman, 7:30 p.m. Carey Holiday Tournament

IN BRIEF

CSI hosts winter hoops camp

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho men's and women's basketball programs will hold their winter junior basketball camp December 30-31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. The camp is open to boys and girls grades 8-8 and the registration fee is \$80. Participants will receive a camp T-shirt, a CSI poster, and an open ticket to any of the Eagles' remaining home games. The camp will be led by the CSI coaching staffs and players, and will provide participants the opportunity to interact with their favorite Golden Eagles players. For more information, call men's head coach Barrett Peery at 732-6496, women's head coach Randy Rogers at 732-6496, or athletic office manager Christi Ure at 732-6496.

CSI offers winter baseball camp

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho is holding its 23rd annual Southern Idaho Baseball Camp, Dec. 27-29. The camp will be held inside the 70,000 square foot Expo Center located on the CSI campus in Twin Falls. Instruction covers hitting, pitching, catching, infield/outfield skills and base running. CSI's staff combined with present and former professional players will provide a great learning experience to the participants. For more information, visit the Web site at http://www.csi.edu/SuAc/Athletics/baseball_camp.htm or call Skip Walker at 732-6650 or 734-6265.

KYA hoop signups are next Saturday

KIMBERLY — The Kimberly Youth Association will hold signups for boys basketball grades 3-6 from 5-11 a.m. Dec. 10 in the L.A. Thomas gymnasium in Kimberly. For more information, call Jamie at 423-6173, evenings. Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Measles.

2005 TIMES-NEWS AREA VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Shoshone High School senior Kallie Axelson was a critical member of the volleyball team that took the state championship title for the second year in a row.

The center of success

Shoshone setter Kallie Axelson huge reason for Indians back-to-back titles

By Nathaniel Garrabrاند Times-News writer

SHOSHONE — Looking back at the last four years of the Shoshone High volleyball program, you'd be hard pressed to single out any one primary factor in the Indians' remarkable success. Loyal parts good players, good coaching, and great chemistry made for a perfect recipe, culminating in back-to-back 1A state championships. It was an object lesson in team accomplishments, a feat greater than the sum of its parts.

But even so, there is a center to every team and for Shoshone that center was senior setter Kallie Axelson, whose accomplishment, skill, consistency, adaptability, and team focus earn her recognition as the 2005 Times-News Area Volleyball Player of the Year.

The 20-year-old setter in the Indians' 5-1 offense, she was, for lack of a better term, the quarterback. The offense ran through her or it didn't run at all, at least properly. As evidenced by a final season record of 33-2 and a two-year record of 67-1, the offense clicked.

"Kallie was pretty much everything," said middle blocker Katie Strunk. "If she had a

bad game, then we had a bad game. She was the one who set us up. I'd be lost without her. I think I can remember only two bad sets she had all year.

It was a reliability predicted upon not merely the obvious and undeniable talent Axelson possesses, but her emphasis upon a team and positive approach, an attitude reflected in the team as a whole.

"I knew what I was capable of doing," she said. "So that's what I did. I didn't try to do anything that was above me. So I made a lot less mistakes."

Perhaps the greatest testament to Axelson's ability was how she flourished within an unfamiliar system. This season marked the first time that the Indians had run a 5-1 in her four years as a varsity starter.

"At first I was really scared, because we had never really run a 5-1," she said. "But the fact that everyone trusted me to run the offense really helped. So I didn't really feel that much pressure because everyone else had the pressure to hit the ball and dig it up."

Making a departure from what had worked the year before, Axelson worked closely with Indians head coach Larry Messick. In the end it was one

2005 Times-News All-Area Volleyball Team

- Kallie Axelson, Shoshone, setter, Player of the Year. Kay Aftie, Shoshone, middle blocker. Katie Strunk, Shoshone, hitter. Haley Harris, Shoshone, hitter. Alison Ko, Filer, middle blocker. Abbe Reynolds, Buhl, hitter. Al German, Jerome, hitter. Lindsay Wood, Valley, hitter. Jessica Bond, Twin Falls, back row. Brittanie Toome, Gooding, back row. Nicole Darrington, Declo, back row. Whitney Peck, Carey, back row. Coach: Larry Messick, Shoshone.

Note: Honores determined by consensus of Times-News sports department writers.

he made with confidence. "I really liked her out of the picture as far as her being a passer because she's really tight at the top of the list as far as hitting power for us," he said. "She did a great job. We had never done that and we knew that she was capable of doing it. So we sat down and talked to her about it and she said, 'I'll do it,' and she did a great job right from the get-go."

The numbers Axelson amassed over the season are impressive: a 98-assists per game for the year, and more than 200 service points. But stat sheets tell only a small part of the story, neglecting such critical factors as leadership and desire.

"Right along with those other senior girls, she brings leadership first of all," said Messick. "And then that competitive desire to win. She just had to lose. And you have to have that as a setter. You have to hate to lose. And that car-

ried over to the rest of the team."

For Axelson, leadership derived from attitude. "Our whole team really always stays positive. So I stay positive all the time as well," she said. "That helps with leadership. You don't want someone who's yelling at you all the time, because it's not like people mean to make mistakes."

With the completion of her high school career, Axelson plans on taking her skills to college volleyball ranks, recently trying out with Blue Mountain Community College in Bend, Ore.

"I think she's going to be successful in anything she wants to do," said Messick. "But most importantly, she has had a genuine love for the game. And I've always said you've got to have a passion for the game and a passion for winning if you want to be successful. And she's overcome that passion that we all had for the game."

Indians holds off late rally

By Eric Larson Times-News writer

BULLH. — Bullh-se knows how to break in a new gym. The Indians boys basketball team opened up its new high school gym and new season on the right foot Friday night, defeating the visiting Middleton Vikings 57-45.

Despite a quiet first half by all-conference junior forward Matt Chivers and a fourth quarter rally from Shildleton, the 1-0 Indians built enough of an early cushion thanks to a solid man-to-man half-court press.

"We didn't have much of them play a little bit later than they wanted to," Indians head coach Ryan Bowman said. "We still have to learn to play under control, but that will come. The important thing is the kids competed. They were real aggressive tonight."

The Vikings looked to push the ball early and get out in transition, but played sloppy in their season opener, committing 22 first-half turnovers. The combination of the Middleton defense and two first-half limited Chivers to two points and two rebounds before half time, but the senior duo of Mitch Brunner and Idd Spencer part of the Indians with eight first-half points each. Brunner finished with nine points for the game, while Spencer's hard work on the offensive glass led to 12 points and nine rebounds.

"I think we had our strong moments and some defensive lapses here and there," Spencer said. "It was nice to have that first game and get the victory, but before Valley comes in here Tuesday."

Despite trailing 36-26 after three quarters, a Mid-Orion charged to within nine points of the Indians behind junior guard Tyler Okamura. Though listed at a very generous 5-foot-8, Okamura pumped in 11 of his team-high 19 points in the fourth quarter and grabbed five rebounds for the game. Senior post Blake Parker finished with 11 points, 11 rebounds and a tie-double for the Vikings, who are still seeking out their optimum style of play.

"We're a team that's trying to change the tempo of the way we play," Vikings head coach Brian Deatherage said. "We need to start games a little quicker than we did last year and we've had to develop an understanding of that now. We're coaching to our personnel and we think pushing the tempo will help."

"I think we did get going in the second half, six 11 points after the break on his way to a game-high 13. While the Indians know Chivers' scoring will come, they were glad to see a-

Please see INDIANS, Page B2

Bruin boys blow out Pocatello

By Nathaniel Garrabrاند Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Bruins senior post Brady Jardine took an alley-oop pass from guard Brandon Stokes and slammed it home over a Pocatello defender, whereupon things began going south for the visiting Indians.

It was the first bucket of the game. "Oh, it's just kind of fun, you know," said Jardine. "It's kind of a play we've got, a momentum swinger. It's fun, gets the crowd into it."

The dunk succeeded on all counts, setting the tone for an 87-53 rout of Pocatello during which Jardine scored a game-high 25 points.

But despite the entirely one-sided outcome, Bruins coach Matt Harr wasn't letting it go to his team's head as he felt it took a little long shifting out of second gear. "I took us a while to get going," he said. "We played a lot of crazy errors early. We need to take care of the ball. But I think we kind of were there down. I think they're still in football mode. That's not a bad thing."

"I thought my game was kind of off tonight," he said. "But I just kept trying to work hard. Come halftime we weren't doing that great of a job, but we weren't finishing well, hands were a little bad. We



Twin Falls High School forward Brock Harding (15) slams dunk the ball Friday night during the second quarter of their game with Pocatello in Twin Falls.

Not a number cruncher

Burley grad Jed

Thomas leads

Carroll into

NIAA semifinals

By Tom Cotton Helena (Mont.) Independent Record

HELENA, Mont. — Jed Thomas watches film.

He also watches the defensive tendencies of other teams. What he won't take a look at is the stat sheet.

Thomas, a junior running back for the Carroll College football team, says it is the little things like picking up a blitzing defender that mean the most. Numbers really don't hold that much sway over him. "I really don't judge a successful game by how many yards I get," Thomas said.

Just for the record, Thomas has piled up very impressive numbers this season, rushing for 1,030 yards over 12 games. He burned Montana Tech for 218 yards last weekend in the NIAA quarterfinals for two touchdowns. That effort came after he battled the flu for the night before and it was his career high in

yardage gained at either Burley High School or college.

The tech game was 0-0 his only highlight during this year's run through the playoffs. He also needed off a key 33-yard run against Dickinson State the week before, leading to a Carroll score that sealed a hard-fought 23-13 win over the Blue Hawks.

Thomas, however, doesn't grab the spotlight when asked about his success.

"The offensive line was getting in a playoff groove and they were making the holes," he said. "I was fortunate to run through them."

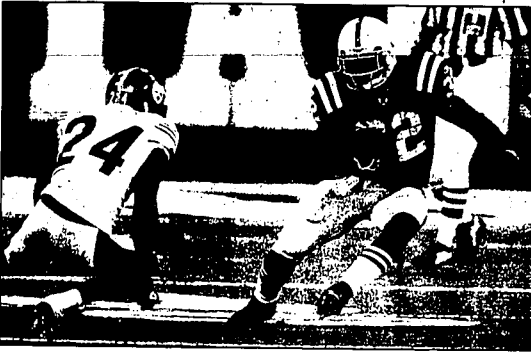
The Saints' offensive front opened a nice hole last week end against the Oreidgers. A block by All-American center Kyle Baker and running back 48-year touchdown run. He was escorted downfield by guard Bryson Pyle who took care of Tech defensive backs, Aaron Patton and Tyler Mazzana getting the way to the end zone.

Thomas is also good at making notes of his own, as he delivered punishing blows to Tech defenders throughout the contest.

"Sometimes people forget he can be a power back too," said Carroll College coach Mike Van Deusen. That effort came after he battled the flu for the night before and it was his career high in

Please see THOMAS, Page B2

SPORTS



Indianapolis Colts' Edgerrin James, right, runs past Pittsburgh Steelers' Ike Taylor during the fourth quarter in Indianapolis, Monday. Indianapolis defeated Pittsburgh 26-7. James finished with 324 yards rushing.

Colts season could hurt fantasy leaguers

Here's a perfect example of why gridiron purists get so annoyed with fantasy footballers: The best players on the NFL's best team are about to become a major liability in fantasy leagues.

The unbeaten Colts soon could sew up home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, probably resulting in statistical disaster in fantasy possession for resting stars Peyton Manning, Edgerrin James, Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne.

While sitting them makes perfect sense for a team more concerned with the Super Bowl than a historic quest for perfection, it would be a 2-by-4 to the forehead for fantasy players banking on Colts.

So, in that truly backward fantasy football fashion, Colts owners need to cheer for the team to take a couple of losses and fall back to the pack. They should also shore up the bench, considering what the Colts did once their playoff position was locked in last season.

That was when Jim Sorgi and other backups got in a nice scrimmage in the regular-season finale against Denver, after Manning threw two passes and James ran once for a 2-yard loss. Harrison and Wayne each struck around long enough to catch TD passes, but you wonder if they would do so much on the line this year.

As you prepare to cheer for and against your Colts, here's a look at some players to start in Week 13, some to avoid and a few long shots who could pan out.

QUARTERBACKS: A SAFE BET
Arizona's Kurt Warner looks like money in the bank against the 49ers. NFL-worst pass and defense. Warner has thrown for 600 yards and five touchdowns in his last two games.

Don't fret about all the interceptions by New England's Tom Brady last week. Three of those picks were tipped balls, and Brady's still the NFL's leading passer on a team with no championship game playing the flimsy stats.

Michael Vick is starting to look like a regular NFL quarterback, although a much faster one. He has two TDs in each of his last three games and an average passing rating of 98.2, which on the Manning scale is below Peyton but above Eli.

Minnesota's Brad Johnson should have some good numbers against Detroit. As an added bonus, you can actually

FANTASY FOOTBALL
John McFarland

see good games while monitoring Johnson's stats now that we're past the holiday that forces an entire nation to watch the Lions.

Washington's Mark Ingram has been quiet lately, but he faces St. Louis' No. 30 pass defense that was shredded by Houston's David Carr last week and has allowed an NFL-worst 23 TDs.

BACK AWAY SLOWLY AND NOBODY GETS HURT
Please, in the name of Gary Holtgoben, don't start these guys:

- Rookie Ivan Fitzpatrick is the likely Titans starter and a good free-agent pickup, but don't start him until he strings together a couple of good games. It doesn't take a Harvard man to know the Redskins defense is much tougher than the Texans.
- If your league awards assist points for setting up field goals, by all means start Philadelphia's Mike McMahon.
- Is Oakland's Kerry Collins reverting back to his old status-quo self? Check out his numbers the past three games: 3 touchdowns, 9 turnovers, 12 sacks.

RUNNING BACKS: ALL DAY LONG

- With four straight 100-yard games, the Chiefs' Larry Johnson is moving into the no-brainer category as a starter. Don't overthink it by benching him against Denver's NFL-best run defense (79.1 yards a game).
- It's time to pry Baltimore's Jamal Lewis off your bench for a surefire big game. He's coming off his first 100-yard game in 10.5 months and faces a Texans defense that's allowing an NFL-worst 164.5 yards a game and has long been flying the white flag.
- Brian Westbrook is the biggest non-kicker beneficiary of Houston McNabb's absence. He's coming off his first 100-yard game and he'll rack up points with dump-off passes if the Eagles fall behind the Seahawks.
- Nick with Cincinnati's Rudi Johnson despite the rugged Steelers' defense. He's on a roll with two TDs in each of his last two games, and he went for 123 yards and a score last year at Pittsburgh.
- Speaking of the Steelers,

Willie Parker hasn't done much since his 121 yards against the Bengals in October. He's in a crowded backfield behind a beat-up line, but only Atlanta, Buffalo and Houston allow more yards per carry than the Bengals' 4.5.

RED FLAGS
Apparently it was Steve Mariucci who couldn't run, block, throw or catch. On the off chance Detroit management was wrong about that, continue to bench Kevin Jones and all other Lions.

Huffalo's Willis McCalfee is playing like a man who's had major knee surgery, falling to his 70-yard mark in four of his last five games and scoring his last TD in mid-October.

WIDE RECEIVERS: THROW HIM THE DARN BALL!
St. Louis' Torry Holt will play at big numbers regardless of who's starting. He's caught 21 passes in 1950 yards and two scores in his last two games.

More evidence that the fantasy football world is backward: We'll all love some Cardinals receiver. Antonio Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald should have big fun against the 49ers' passive pass defense.

What's gotten into that Annoy Farmer? He has a touchdown in three straight weeks for the Giants and five TDs in his past eight.

Denver's Rod Smith is always solid against Kansas City. He has a TD in his last two games against the Chiefs, and check out his yardage against them since 2003: 80, 75, 76, 85 and 100. Besides, what are the chances of KC shutting down two straight quarterbacks?

- Kam-vis City's Eddie Kennison is also predictable in the series, with three straight 100-yard games.

SHOW HIM THE DARN BENCH
The shake-up in Detroit this week means Roy Williams will be lining up for uncatchable passes from Jeff Garcia, who will not be explaining their uncatchability to Dick Laun.

What happened to New Orleans' the Horn? His hamstring's all better. But he hasn't had a touchdown in 2.5 months.

Chances of Minnesota's Marcus Robinson having another three-TD game are slim, considering how Brad Johnson Vikings the ball around.

DEFENSES TO WATCH: Vikings, Patriots, Bears, Redskins, Ravens.

Turnaround season a new entry for O'Leary resume

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Less than three months ago, Central Florida was mired in the nation's longest losing streak and expected to finish at the bottom of conference USA.

Now, UCF is bowl bound for the first time. And George O'Leary's infamous resume is better than ever.

There's a reason Notre Dame hired O'Leary to coach its team four years ago — O'Leary knows how to coach. He's proved that again at UCF, which he's transformed over the last few weeks from a punch line to a postseason contender — one that will host the Conference USA championship game on Saturday against Tulsa.

For the Golden Knights, it's been a breakthrough. For O'Leary, it's been a rejuvenation.

There's nothing it can do about what happened at Notre Dame, O'Leary said. "A mistake was made. I paid a dear price for it. But, as my mom used to always say, God doesn't close one door, he opens another. I think this was a door that opened and I'm making the most of it."

UCF is 8-3 and 7-1 in league play. The school is in the midst of the second-biggest one-season turnaround in NCAA football history. Only Iowa's 1999 team, which improved 0-5 over its 1998 record, has exceeded what the Golden Knights have done this year.

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He got his dream job at Notre Dame in 2001, only to resign a week later after admitting to falsifying his academic and athletic credentials on his resume for decades. His claims of having a master's degree in education are false, but he may probably play at New Hampshire were



Central Florida coach George O'Leary, left, and quarterbacks coach George Godsey talk to quarterback Steven Moffitt, right, during the fourth quarter, Oct. 21 in Orlando, Fla. Central Florida beat Tulane 34-24.

ultimately proved untrue. But UCF had no reservations about giving O'Leary a five-year contract in 2003. Now, school officials feel like geniuses for putting their program in his hands.

"We didn't hire him because of how many letters he had at New Hampshire as a football player or whether he had a master's degree or not," said UCF athletic director Steve Orsini, a captain on Notre Dame's 1977 national championship team. "And he's more motivated than ever, both for himself to clear his record professionally, and to turn this program around."

This process has advanced faster than anyone — O'Leary himself — could imagine. Most preseason magazines ranked UCF near the very bottom of all the 119 teams in Division I-A football. The team's outlook is probably the most positive outlook, say-

ing the Golden Knights "enter 2005 hopeful to continue to lay the groundwork for a successful football program."

Hardly a ringing endorsement. And O'Leary's goal for the season? Six wins.

"I got a lot of twisted eyes looking at me when I said that," O'Leary said.

UCF's 17-game losing streak ended with a win over Marshall, starting a run of eight wins in nine games for the Golden Knights, who have only 10 seasons of Division I-A football history and are in their inaugural Conference USA campaign.

"It wasn't just a win, it was breaking a lot of bad records we had at the time," O'Leary said. "Continuous losses in the country. The first win with this staff, a new staff that was here. I told the kids, we're going to throw all that in the garbage pail, throw the lid on and keep it on."

Trojans try to clinch Rose Bowl berth

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The UCLA-Southern California game used to be a big deal, and not just because of its intense rivalry.

But it hasn't been the case in recent years. But it's a big deal now — a huge deal.

No. 1 USC (11-0, 7-0 Pac-10) needs a victory Saturday in the 75th game of the series to assure itself a trip to the Rose Bowl, where the Trojans would have a shot at winning an unprecedented third straight national championship.

No. 11 UCLA (9-1, 6-1) can claim a share of the conference title and perhaps a Bowl Championship Series bid of its own with an upset.

The teams are meeting for the 35th time with a berth in the Rose Bowl on the line for at least one of them — but it's the first since 1993 that the game has had that significance.

As USC coach Pete Carroll said, the game at the Los Angeles Coliseum could fill both that stadium and the Rose Bowl at the same time.

"All the hype is going to be there, everything from outside is going to be there for a great game," USC star Reggie Bush said.

"To beat USC is the ultimate goal," UCLA's Drew Olson said.

No. 11 UCLA
at No. 1 USC
TV: ABC, 2:30 p.m.

"More than anything else, beating USC would take this program to another level."

That will take some doing. The Trojans bring several significant streaks into the game, to be played before a sellout crowd of more than 90,000.

They've won 33 consecutive games overall, 26 in a row at the Coliseum, 22 straight against Pac-10 opponents, and six in a row over UCLA.

USC's explosive offense is the primary reason the Trojans are listed as 21-point favorites.

"They know how to win, that's why they're winning — 33 times," UCLA coach Karl Dorrell said. "They've been outpacing against the wall for 11 shots this season, and they've taken everyone's best shot and they have one more to take with us."

The Bruins are pretty amazing themselves until an unexpected 52-14 drubbing at the hands of unheralded Ari-

zona on Nov. 5.

Both teams have struggled at times on defense this season, especially UCLA. But the Bruins have performed much better on special teams, an area of weakness for the Trojans.

The respective offenses are two of the country's best — especially USC, which averages an unthinkably 571.3 yards in total offense and 212.6 yards per game, and is fourth in rushing (127.1). His average of 6.6 yards per carry is also No. 1.

Lenale White averages 99.1 yards per game and 6.3 yards per carry to give the Trojans the country's finest 1-2 rushing punch. White will play despite bruising his left shoulder in practice last Sunday.

UCLA has been vulnerable against the run, allowing 219.5 yards per game to rank 115th in the country. The Bruins hope the return of linebacker Justin Longino, who had been out with an ankle injury, will help.

LSU on the fringe of championship

ATLANTA (AP) — LSU will get a chance to do some score-board-watching Saturday, hoping against long odds that the Southeastern Conference championship game leads to the chance to play for an even bigger title.

A lot has to go right for the third-ranked Tigers to claim a spot in the Rose Bowl. Either No. 1 Southern Cal or No. 2, Texas must lose — and both are heavily favored. Also, LSU must look impressive enough against Missouri to jump third-place Penn State in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

Hmm, it all sounds rather improbable.

No wonder Les Miles doesn't want his team to get too caught up in all the possibilities.

"We really are focused on the task at hand," the LSU coach said Friday. "Georgia is very quality football team. I think the SEC title and the opportu-

LSU
SEC Championship
No. 3 LSU vs. No. 13 Georgia
TV: CBS, 4 p.m.

nity at that championship is a tremendous feat, and something that would mark this team as very special."

The Tigers (10-1) should have a good idea of their options by the time they trot onto the Georgia Dome turf Saturday evening.

The Big 12 championship game between Texas and four-touchdown underdog Colorado should end an hour or two before Georgia-LSU kicks off. Southern Cal, a three-touchdown favorite, will be well

into its traditional season finale against UCLA by the time the SEC game begins.

LSU may be left to wonder what might have been if not for an overtime loss to Tennessee earlier in the season.

"I don't think about it now," offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth insisted. "It's nothing we can control. We've got to focus on what's in front of us, and one of our goals is winning the SEC championship. That's what our focus is going to be on. After the season, maybe the guys will talk about that, but we're never going to change it, so what's the point in thinking about it?"

That one loss was excruciating — the Tigers squandered a three-touchdown lead at home and lost 30-27 in overtime. But, if it's any consolation, there's no guarantee that a perfect season would have put LSU in position to play for the national championship.

Texas puts it all on the line for Big 12 title

HOUSTON (AP) — To earn the same \$700,000 that every other school in the Big 12 will receive for the conference championship game, Texas has to work a little harder. The Longhorns must play a team they've already beaten to win a conference title they've already dominated.

Win, and a spot in the national title game is theirs. Lose, and those hopes take a hit. Suffer a major injury and well — that's one of the many issues that make conference title games one of the riskiest propositions in college football.

That No. 2 Texas (11-0), led by Heisman Trophy hopeful Vince Young, will defeat Colorado (7-4) seems like a good bet, at least if the 27-point line on the game or the Longhorns' 42-17 victory over the Buffs in October are reliable indicators.

But, as they say, there's a reason they play these games. They were put in there for money. Texas coach Mack Brown said, "That's what we got and there is no reason in talking about whether they are good or not. Indeed, it is the \$10 million or

Big 12 Championship
No. 2 Texas vs. Colorado
TV: ABC, 11 a.m.

so in extra revenue that the game creates that stands as the primary reason for these matchups. After some of the dough is taken off the top for expenses, travel and salaries and the like, the rest is distributed evenly among the 12 teams. Last year, each team — from Baylor to Texas Tech — received in excess of \$700,000.

Because the balance of power has been so lopsided in the Big 12 — with national title contender Oklahoma and Texas dominating the South Division and Colorado representing the midwest — North the past two years, talk of scrapping the title game or reformatting the way the teams get in has come up at league meetings.

In fact, coaches almost always vote unanimously against the title game, but athletic directors vote unanimously for it. "Clearly, there would need to be adjustments made in how we share money to accommodate for any format change," Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Whitton said. "And that's been, quite honestly, one of the primary issues that's come up when our members have talked about whether they should think about changing the format."

So while Texas surely won't reject the money coming its way, it comes with strings attached and risk aplenty.

A win and the Longhorns go to the Rose Bowl where they'll go for their first undisputed national title since 1969. The likely opponent would be No. 1 USC, which closes out the Pac-10 schedule later Saturday with a meeting against No. 11 UCLA. The Trojans don't have a title game on their state because their conference doesn't play one.

Meanwhile, a loss for the Longhorns throws the BCS into chaos.

The Times-News

Saturday, December 3, 2005

AROUND THE VALLEY

Memory tree celebrations today

TWIN FALLS — Holiday Memory Tree celebrations will be held at 7 p.m. today in two Magic Valley communities. Events will be held at the Buhl Senior Citizens Center parking lot on Main Street and Broadway, sponsored by Farmer's Funeral Chapel, and at Sunset Memorial Cemetery on Kimberley Road in Twin Falls, sponsored by Sunset Memorial Park, White Mountain and Reynolds Funeral Chapel. Both ceremonies will feature music, a short sacred service and refreshments. Memorial ornaments designed to honor deceased loved ones passed and members of the military, serving away from home may be purchased for \$5 each, at the events or through the Boys and Girls Clubs of Magic Valley. Members of the Twin Falls Decorative Artists will personalize the ornaments of designated loved ones. The ornaments will be placed on the Holiday Memory Trees and will be lighted throughout December. Proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Magic Valley. For more information, call the Boys and Girls Club at 735-7011.

Family Night at Herrett is Tuesday

TWIN FALLS — Family Night at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on Tuesday will include a free and low-priced family activities. "Mingle in the Jungle" starts at 6 p.m. in the rain forest exhibit. Reptile specialist Nick Peterson will feature Indi, the Herrett's largest snake. Longer than 13 feet and weighing 75 pounds, the Burmese python is not yet fully grown. Concurrent with the reptile show will be the family activities in the Herrett's Centennial Observatory. Beginning at 6 p.m., visitors can come upstairs to the observatory where the 24-inch telescope will seek out various sky targets if it's not cloudy. Families are advised that observatories are not heated, so warm clothing is necessary. Admission to the observatory is \$1 per person on family nights. The Faulkner Planetarium will feature live Christmas shows, "Season of Light" and "Steaming through the Holidays" at 7 and 8:15 p.m. Families of up to two adults and five children will be admitted for \$3. For more information, call 732-6655 or visit the Web site at www.csl.edu/herrett.

Holiday concert slated for Tuesday

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho Wind Ensemble will present a holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the CSI Fine Arts Auditorium. The concert will open with "C'est Noel" by French-Canadian composer Andre Juras, a setting of three familiar French Christmas carols. "It Is Born in the Holy Child," "Silent Night" and "Angels We Have Heard on High." Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" will be followed by the old English carol, "Greensleeves." The band will then play an arrangement of Miklos Rozsa's score to the film epic, "King of Kings." Two more Christmas songs will follow, Mel Tormé's "The Christmas Song" and music from the Walt Disney film, "Babes in Toyland." Admission is free, but contributions to the CSI Music Scholarship Fund will be accepted. For more information, please contact George Halsell at 732-6767 or ghalsell@csai.edu.

— compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Table with 3 columns: Watershed, % of Avg., % of Dec. 24. Rows include Salmon, Big Wood, Little Lost, Henry's Fork/Teton, Upper Snake Basin, Ovidley, and Salmon Falls.

A comparison of basin snowpack on this date with a 30-year average. An indicator of basin snowpack is an important component of water supply.

Martindale questioned, released

Twin Falls man not charged in fatal shooting

By Terry Smith Times-News writer
TWIN FALLS — A 19-year-old Twin Falls man, questioned by police about the fatal shooting of Jesse J. Naranjo, was not charged Friday in connection with the case and is not in police custody. Jay C. Martindale was located and questioned Thursday by Twin Falls police as he was one of two men sought as a



Jesse J. Naranjo

potential witness shortly after the shooting on Thursday afternoon. The other man, 32-year-old Juan Carlos Pina, was charged with accessory to murder on Wednesday and is being held in the Twin Falls County Jail on \$250,000 bond. Meanwhile, the Twin Falls Police Department on Friday referred media questions to Twin Falls County Prosecuting Attorney Grant Loeb, who said he could not comment as to whether Martindale is a suspect. Loeb said Martindale likely will be questioned further, along with other potential witnesses.

"There are many people out there they need to talk to before we have a solution to this case," Loeb said. Naranjo died Tuesday at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center after being shot in the abdomen with a shotgun carter in the day. He was found in the alley behind the home at 325 Sixth Ave. E., an address where Martindale lives. Funeral services for Naranjo, a former Heyburn resident, are scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday at Little Flower Catholic Church in Burley.

"She really enjoyed it and I thought it sounded great. I chose the library because it is quiet and it allows for me to get to know all of the students, one-on-one. I love it."

— Doris Tyree, a participant in the Foster Grandparent Program

Finding their niche

Program gives seniors an outlet for remaining active

By Blair Koch Times-News correspondent
BUHL — Doris Tyree has gained a special place in the hearts of students at Popplewell Elementary School in Buhl. Learning that she is affectionately known as "Grandma Tyree," that fact becomes all too obvious.



Doris Tyree, a participant in the Foster Grandparent Program at Popplewell Elementary School, hugs kindergarten Amber Reno Friday afternoon in the school library.

Foster grandparents needed!

To volunteer your time as Foster Grandparent of the Magic Valley call The College of Southern Idaho at 736-2122 ext.# 310.

Tyree participates in the Foster Grandparent Program of the Magic Valley. Her school day begins and ends in the Popplewell Elementary library, where she keeps a full schedule by assisting the students.

"It keeps me busy. They say to keep walking and I walk around the library all day, everyday," said Tyree. "But more than my work, I love the kids. And they love her right back."

"I like to hug her a lot and she's good at finding books," said student Christina Butler. "She's a pretty cool foster grandparent."

Thanks to Tyree, the third-grader found just the book she was looking for. This weekend, Butler will be reading a story about a girl that turns into a ghost.

Butler's friend, Brianna Sherman, said, "Grandma Tyree is really nice and I like seeing her every time we come to the library."

Tyree was alerted to the program two years ago by a friend who had been adopted by the youngsters in the West End Head Start program. "She really enjoyed it and I thought it sounded great," Tyree said. "I chose the library because it is quiet and it allows for me to get to know all of the students, one-on-one. I love it."

Program manager Georgia Dimick explained that the purpose behind the program was to help seniors reconnect their niche in the community.

"Older people think that there isn't a place for them in the world anymore," Dimick said. "We have to show them they do (have a place) and what a better way than with children. The children enjoy them as much as the grandparents enjoy the students."

"The program also offers a stipend to volunteers. Most foster grandparents put in about 20 hours a week and are paid a nontaxable \$2.65 per hour. They also get reimbursed for mileage incurred while traveling between home and the school.

"We are really experiencing a shortage," said Principal Helen Brown. "A couple of our grandparents got sick and the students really miss them."

"This way the money can help out some," Dimick said. She explained that the program — provided through The College of Southern Idaho — is available because of a federal National Senior Corps grant.

"The grant provides about \$200,000 for the Magic Valley area program," Dimick assures that they aren't doing it for the money.

"Our volunteers just really enjoy the opportunity this gives them to get out and enjoy life," she said.

All eight counties are accepting more volunteers.

"We are really experiencing a shortage," said Principal Helen Brown. "A couple of our grandparents got sick and the students really miss them."

The entire school benefits by them." The school's foster grandparents help implement fluency measures, such as counting the number of words or letters read by a student. Extra sets of hands and eyes help make the coordination of the testing go a lot smoother.

"The grandparents help out a lot with the reading program, when they aren't here you can tell," Brown said. But don't expect Tyree to be missing any days too soon.

"I put in my sick time last year," she said. "I wouldn't miss spending my days here for anything."

Blair Koch lives in Buhl. She can be reached by e-mail at blair_206@hotmail.com or by calling 316-2667.

WANTED in the Magic Valley

Name: Samuel Paul Strifless, Age: 23, Description: 5 feet 8 inches, 130 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes. Wanted for: Probation violation. Original charge: Grand theft by possession of stolen property, bond: \$10,000. The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office asks anyone with information about Strifless, whereabouts to call 735-1911 or Crime Stoppers at 732-5387. Informants may be eligible for a cash reward.

Thieves harvest wire from equipment

By Terry Smith Times-News writer
TWIN FALLS — With potato and sugar beet harvest at an end, thieves are harvesting their own cash crop as equipment sits idle at spud cellars and other unguarded places. The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office issued a bulletin this week urging farmers and produce companies to secure their heavy gauge wire, which is used to connect equipment to electrical outlets. Thieves are after the copper, which brings about \$1 a pound on the recycling

market, according to Sheriff's Lt. Don Newman. He said about \$20,000 worth of heavy gauge wire has been stolen in the county in the past few months.

Wire up to a few hundred feet in length is often attached to potato and sugar beet planters, sorters and other equipment that is continuously moved as cellars are filled and produce piles are formed.

Thieves are also victimizing pivot irrigation systems and pumps. The sheriff's office bulletin advises farmers to "watch for any suspicious activities and fires emitting

Former BLM boss condemns plan to sell public land

RENO, Nev. — The former top U.S. land manager for the biggest gold-mining state in the nation says a proposal in Congress to privatize public mining lands "would be catastrophic, both environmentally and economically."

Both Abbey, considered an ally of the mining industry before his retirement in June as the Bureau of Land Management's state director for Nevada, said the proposal by Republican Reps. Richard Pombo of California and Jim Gibbons of Nevada offers false hope to rural communities to attract new businesses. "There is nothing positive about this bill unless you happen to have ownership in a mining company," Abbey said.

"Having spent half my life managing the public's land and being a proponent of responsible mining, I assure you this legislation is bad for American taxpayers," he said in a letter first published Thursday in the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Gibbons, chairman of the House Resources subcommittee on energy and mineral resources, disputed Abbey's assertions Friday. He said the proposed changes in the 1972 Mining Law that are included in a budget bill headed for a House-Senate conference committee are needed to allow companies to buy — "purchase" — the federal land that housed their mining operations.

"The provisions currently before Congress will allow for the economic viability that mining operations have created for rural communities and continue after a mineral resource is being depleted," Gibbons said in a statement.

"Contrary to what Mr. Abbey would have you believe, current provisions of law are not sufficient to make sustainable development projects economically feasible," he said.

Nevada leads the U.S. and ranks third in the world in gold production, behind South Africa and Australia.

Abbey was a 25-year veteran of the agency including the last eight years as BLM's top official in Nevada, where the agency manages 48 million acres — an area about the size of Nebraska.

"The Pombo-Gibbons legislation will allow mining companies and other creative entrepreneurs to acquire public lands for less than market value wherever their interests have claims and can detect a mineral discovery," Abbey said.

"Mandating the wholesale transfer of public lands might play well with some constituencies, but it is poor public policy," he said.

Leaders of conservation groups who have opposed permits for gold mining operations in Nevada have little success with administrative appeals before the BLM and traditionally voted Abbey as a friend of the industry.

"It just shows you that most of us — and I think you have stated you had different positions over the years on how to manage public lands — are now converging in opposition to this bill," said Elissa Rosen, a senior policy adviser for the Great Basin Mine Watch based in Reno.

Abbey joins a list of ex-federal land managers opposed to the measure, including former Forest Service Chief Mike Conkley, Jack Ward Thomas and Max Peterson.

"His letter came in response to one by State Assemblyman John Marvel, R-Battle Mountain, who said the bill would provide much-needed relief to rural mining communities struggling ways to diversify their economies and increase the fragile private property land base. Combined with the U.S. military and the Forest Service, the federal government controls about 95 percent of Nevada so there is limited opportunity for entrepreneurship in rural areas," Gibbons said. Critics of the bill "apparently do not understand the plight of rural Western communities surrounded by miles and miles of public land," Marvel said. "Their assertion that this will precipitate a land grab is nonsense," he said. "Developers are already willing to make the substantial investments necessary to bring infrastructure to the rural West."

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

OBITUARIES

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

Anna Marie Hess Martin

"Together Again" Anna Marie Hess Martin has passed beyond the veil of this life to join her beloved husband, Mark, and her son, Bill. She passed away on Dec. 2, 2005, at the age of 72. She died in her home while surrounded by her children and grandchildren after a valiant battle with cancer.



Anna was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, having served in most of the ward auxiliaries. She and her husband served in stake missions and on a full-time mission in Atlanta, Ga. They also served as temple officiators at Seattle, Wash., and Logan, Utah. During the past 40 years, she has devoted much time and effort to compiling genealogical records for several thousand of their ancestors.

During this time of sorrow, we are comforted in knowing that she is finally free of pain and feeling great joy at the reunion with her loved ones who have passed before. We will miss her greatly.

Anna loved travel and learning. She was a voracious reader and studied and worked on genealogical records until the very end. She was also a loving mother and grandmother and enjoyed planning family get-togethers.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Mark W. Martin; her son, Bill H. Martin; her brother, Russell (Marshall) Hess (Denver, Colo.); and her parents.

Anna was born on Dec. 9, 1933, in Paris, Idaho, the daughter of Milford and Marie (Hieder) Hess. She grew up in Southern Idaho, graduating from Filer High School in 1951. She attended Twin Falls Business College. She married Mark W. Martin, June 18, 1952, in Filer, Idaho, and they had their marriage solemnized in the Logan Temple on Sept. 29, 1959. Anna lived in Ithaca, N.Y., where her late husband, Mark, received his Ph.D. They then made a home in Logan, Utah, where Mark worked for the USDA. In 1967, they were transferred to Prosser, Wash., where they lived for the next 26 years. Upon Mark's retirement, they returned to Logan, Utah, in order to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Kathy (Hess) Truman of Hyde Park, Utah; son, Ron (John) Martin of Cedar City, Utah; son,

David (Denise) Martin of Orem, Utah; and daughter, Lisa (Dann) Bolling-bocker of Heyburn, Idaho; her sister, Hazel Bober (Twin Falls, Idaho); her brothers, Dean (Beth Hess Layton, Utah), Leslie (Esther) Hess (Twin Falls, Idaho) and Rex (Mary) Hess (Twin Falls, Idaho). She is also survived by 19 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mexico envoy's visit draws demonstration in SLC

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mexico's ambassador to the United States pressed for a political solution for the U.S. immigration problem in a visit Friday with Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman.

The diplomat, Carlos de Cea, endorsed a guest worker program for his countrymen and a fair resolution for the millions of undocumented workers already in the United States.

Building walls and fences is not the way to solve problems among neighbors," said de Cea, whose two-day visit ended with a demonstration by the Utah Minuteman Project outside the Utah Capitol.

Immigration flows between neighbors, for people to pretend to take the law into their own hands," said de Cea.

The immigration projects called for tougher border security and sanctions against U.S. employers who hire undocumented workers, and to do de Cea they evoked the "vigilante groups" adding enforcement to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Huntsman invited reporters and camera men into his ceremonial office at the outset.

"There is no place, managing

The meeting was expected to pave the way for a visit to Utah by Mexico's president, Vicente Fox, sometime next year, de Cea said. Huntsman visited Fox in July.

The ambassador emphasized the economic ties between Mexico and Utah, and said Mexico's economy was improving, though not enough to satisfy his countrymen, who are drawn to a U.S. economy that is

15 times larger and acts like "a big magnet," de Cea said.

Utah exports \$95 million worth of goods a year to Mexico, mostly minerals, ores and chemicals, while Mexico sells \$382 million worth of goods to Utah, his advisers said.

Utah companies can take advantage of more opportunities for trade, especially those in the software and information technology sector, de Cea said.

Outside on the Capitol plaza, a few dozen placard-waving demonstrators weren't impressed. They said foreigners who sneak into this country were breaking the law and that de Cea was avoiding the subject.

Jerry Owens, of Midway, Utah, said the United States needs to build a fence along the Mexican border.

"My children are going to be competing with illegal aliens for jobs," said Eli Cavley of Salt Lake City.

Skeleton of whale taken in '99 hunt on view at Makah Indian museum

NEAH BAY, Wash. (AP) — Six years after the Makah Indians renewed their ancient whaling tradition with the first kill in more than 70 years, that landmark animal's 30-foot skeleton has been cleaned and preserved, wired together and hung in the tribe's museum.

It was a labor of love for Neah Bay High School students and teacher Bill Monette, who took on the stinky chore of cleaning the 600 pounds of bones and cataloging them in preparation

for their assembly at the Makah Cultural and Research Center.

"To see it now in the museum is awesome," said Jeanie Thompson, 20, a museum employee who worked on the bones for two years while a student. "Cleaning it was a different experience, but I liked learning. I helped supervise the project by keeping track of who was doing what jobs along with cleaning and cataloging."

Legal challenges from animal-welfare activists, focused on oversight by the National Marine Fisheries Service, have tied up any future hunts in court.

Andy Noel, seeing the skeleton of the gray whale — taken May 17, 1999 — on display at the museum is a beginning, not an end.

"It's great to have our bones here. But we need more bones to add to them," said Noel during the installation Monday.

Joe Thomas Wadsworth

BURLEY — Joe Thomas Wadsworth, our sweet and compassionate father, returned home on Nov. 30, 2005. Joe spent his final days at the best place in the world, his home in Burley, surrounded by his loving family.



Joe was born April 25, 1922, in Clifton, Utah, to Alma Baker and Danie, Chester Wadsworth. He was born into a family of 13 siblings: Chet, LaVina, Vera, Bessie, Archie, Nathan, Meda, Ernie, LaGrande, Laura, Wes, Fran and Jenny. Hard work and a responsibility to lighten the load of others was the spirit in which Joe was raised, and continued to live throughout his life.

He married Adreane Taylor on Nov. 22, 1943. Joe and Adreane were blessed with six children, Vickie Lynn (Allen) Brashear of Surprise, Arizona; Pamela (Lanny) Edwards, Jeffrey Taylor Wadsworth and Kelly

William (Amy) Wadsworth, all of Burley; Robin Kay (Douglas) Kaukner of Twin Falls; and Melissa Kim (Vince) Bedke of Oakley. Joe counted his 23 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren among his greatest blessings. Many children not related in any way also called him "Grandpa."

Joe will always be remembered as a man that knew no strangers. His kitchen table was always open to a hungry mouth and his heart was open to all those in his presence. Hard work and honesty was a constant path for Joe and he handed down a legacy of, "An honest wage for an honest day's work." He was a man with a solid relationship with God and had unwavering faith. Joe was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Betty E. Watson, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, 624 Eveland Blvd., Caldwell. A dinner will follow immediately at Ten Davis Hall, corner of Gotsch and Ten Davis, Parma, Idaho.

Hailey, funeral at 1 p.m. today at Saint Charles Catholic Church, 311 First Ave. S., Hailey. (Wood River Chapel).

from 1:30 p.m. to the time of the service.

Steven Jay Cartwright of Gooding, graveside service at 1 p.m. today at the Hagerman Cemetery.

Leslie Sanford Abbott of Kimberly, funeral at 2 p.m. Monday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

William (Amy) Wadsworth, all of Burley; Robin Kay (Douglas) Kaukner of Twin Falls; and Melissa Kim (Vince) Bedke of Oakley. Joe counted his 23 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren among his greatest blessings. Many children not related in any way also called him "Grandpa."

Jerry V. Wilson

DUDLEY, N.C. — Jerry V. Wilson, 62, died Dec. 1, 2005.

Wilson of Dudley, N.C.; five stepchildren, Marty Jones of Dudley, N.C.; Robin Sapp of California; Brad Jones of Nevada; Teresa Parker of Montana and Mike Jones of Jerome, Idaho; sisters, Carol Washiek of Arizona, Jessie Hamilton and Jo Ann Wilson of Missouri; brothers,

Clarence Wilson of Maryland, Donald Wilson of Florida, Johnny Allen Wilson, Edward Wilson and for an honest day's work."

Wanda Larene Zahun of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 11 a.m. today at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome; visitation one hour before the service.

Joanne Tsuneko Kawamura of Bellevue, celebration of life at 11 a.m. today at the First Congregational Church of Christ, 302 N. Garfield Ave., Pocatello. (Wood River Chapel).

William Alfred Sandy of Hagerman, celebration of life at 11 a.m. today at the Hagerman United Methodist Church. Viewing and fellowship at 10 a.m. before the service. (Denary Funeral Service of Gooding).

He was a former resident of the Twin Falls area. Survived by son, Ronald E.

Pal Murray Stone

Pal Murray Stone was born April 14, 1936, in Texas and emigrated to his home in New Mexico, 2005. Pal succumbed to a massive stroke with his sister, Linda, at his side.

Pal struggled with an excellent mind, trapped in a brain whose wiring were unable to keep up with his thoughts.

He never wanted to be lifted, no task was beneath his dignity. Hard work was a labor of love for him and he would never hesitate to do whatever he could.

OBITUARY



During this Thanksgiving time, the family of Francis "Bob" Walker would like to express our thankfulness to our friends throughout the community who offered prayers and support, sent all the thoughtful cards, brought delicious meals, including a complete Thanksgiving dinner provided by the Rupert Police Department. Also, we're thankful for the veterans who did the flag ceremony at the cemetery, the Rupert Police Department for the escort, and their presence at the service, the contributions to the American Legion for the Veteran's Chapel Fund, and the kindness shown that were too numerous to mention. Dixie, Irvin, Ricky, Robyn, Loren and families

He was a former resident of the Twin Falls area. Survived by son, Ronald E.

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DEATH NOTICES

Larry Lamb

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2005, at her home.

Arrangements will be made by Farmer Funeral Chapel, Buhl, Idaho.

David Charles Haralson

January 30, 1950 to November 30, 2005.

Invest in your future

Read the Money pages in The Times-News

Helen Allen

TWIN FALLS — Helen Allen, 86, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 2, 2005, at Bridgeway Estates.

Jess J. 'Shorty' Belasquez

WENDELL — Jess J. 'Shorty' Belasquez, 85, a resident of Wendell, died Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Invest in your future

Read the Money pages in The Times-News

Elsie Irene Donovan

TWIN FALLS — Elsie Irene Donovan, 92, of Twin Falls, died

Wendell. Arrangements will be made by Denary Funeral Service, Wendell.

Invest in your future

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IDAHO/WEST

ISU official proposes med school

POCATELLO (AP) — Idaho should create a medical school at Idaho State University, ISU's president told the state Board of Education.

"ISU is charged as the lead institution in health and support sciences," Michael Gallagher told the board at his meeting Thursday in Pocatello. "We are thrilled to work with the board and the Idaho Medical Association, plus other institutions including the Legislature, to help define what the future of health and medical education should look like in Idaho."

Idaho has no medical school. It belongs to a program that al-

lows students from Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho to attend the University of Washington School of Medicine for the same tuition paid by Washington students. The program, known as WWAMI, encourages graduates to choose careers in family practice medicine and to work in the Northwest.

Idaho does not have enough physicians to serve its population, said Dr. Steve Coker, a Pocatello physician who spoke in favor of Gallagher's plan at the meeting. Coker said doctors tend to stay in communities where they did their residency or went to medical school.

"We are not doing a very good job as citizens of this state in providing physicians," Coker said. Coker added that it's more difficult for Idaho students to get into a medical school if they don't have one in the state.

Gallagher said ISU offers most of the courses that are required in the first two years of medical school. The school would have to hire two new faculty members to complete a program that would supply the first half of a medical school program. He added that Idaho already has family practice residency programs in Boise and in Pocatello.

"We've got it all right here

ready to go," Coker said. "We just have to come up with the plan and the steps and get everyone in the state to get involved in this."

The board, which governs Idaho's public schools and institutions of higher learning, has not discussed medical school recently, said board member Blake Hall. Hall noted he has heard the matter come up in other settings.

"We always been a bit perplexed in all 100 years on the board, this is the first time anyone's come to the board and mentioned the word 'medical school,'" Hall said.

Volcanic shelf collapses, exposing lava stream

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK (AP) — A massive section of volcanic shelf has collapsed at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, bringing down a section of sea cliff and sending molten rock and boulders into the air.

The collapse of 44-acres into the ocean Monday exposed a 60-foot cliff and a stream of lava 6 feet in diameter shooting from the cliff face 45 feet above the water. The glowing lava has since formed a ramp of new land as it continues to pour out into the ocean, sending up a tower of steam.

The collapse of solidified lava and sea cliff is the largest since Kilauea Volcano began its current eruption in 1983.

Jim Kauahoukua, scientist-in-charge of the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, said a warning of possible collapse was issued in June because the shelf had become very large, formed cracks

and was located in an area where other large collapses had previously occurred.

The National Park Service restricted access to the area along the coast, where visitors to the park commonly gather to view the lava entering the water.

Monday's collapse took about 4.5 hours, beginning at 11:10 a.m. and had been anticipated by geologists because of seismic rumblings.

But even at that relatively slow pace, the effect was spectacular.

"The cliff just caved away like a glacier. It just sheared off that old wall. There's this gigantic steam plume and you see the red just falling down, an incredible fire hose display," said Jim Cade, chief of interpretation for the park.

The collapse sent out globs of lava and head-size boulders. Thin strands of volcanic glass known as Pele's hair and sheets of volcanic glass called limu o Pele, after the Hawaiian goddess of fire, were found 1,800 feet inland.

Ban on dance style sparks controversy

LEWISTON (AP) — Freaking has gotten the boot.

But high school students here aren't letting that stop them from partying in the sexually explicit dancing.

Dances put on after football and basketball games by the Youth Activities Club have been canceled as a result of a student boycott following the ban on freaking. With fewer students, the YAC didn't have enough money to hire DJs and pay security and chaperones.

That has put an end to the dances that had been held at Lewiston's community center since the 1940s.

Freaking, or "rumping," the term favored by Lewiston Parks and Recreation Director Lynn C. Moss, was banned because of its suggestive nature. The Parks and Recreation Department sponsors the student-run YAC and told students to tone down the dances.

"When a girl bends over and grabs her ankles and a young gentleman grabs her from behind and they are very graphically simulating sexual intercourse, they crossed that line of respectability," Moss told the Lewiston Tribune.

After the ban, attendance dropped from more than 350 students from area high schools at each dance to about 50. Now, students head to privately sponsored events at various places put on by Tyler Young, 19, of Lewiston, who said people are overreacting.

"It's a dance style," he said. "It's more classy than what people expect it to be."

So far he's put on three dances at various rented facilities. He collects \$4 from each person attending, provides a DJ, security and chaperones. Dancers who leave aren't allowed back inside.

Food and drink is not sold or allowed to be brought in. Water is provided.

Kayla Carr, an 18-year-old senior at Lewiston High School, is on the YAC board and disappointed with the decision to cancel YAC dances.

"I really didn't want it to happen but I completely understand why they did," she said. She said she didn't think the dancing was too sexually suggestive, but in the eyes of the adults and parents, yeah.

EASY SLIDER



Marchelle Crisostomo, 12, tries to stay on a sled as she and some friends slide down a hill near Bremerton, Wash., on Thursday.

Spokane mayor asks for second chance

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Mayor Jim West, facing recall next week in an abuse-of-office sex scandal, acknowledged in a newspaper advertisement Friday that he made mistakes but asked voters for a second chance.

In the half page ad in The Spokesman-Review, West describes his office for personal gain, or committing illegal acts and asks voters to say "no" when they mail ballots for the special recall election Dec. 6.

It was the first time West has placed an ad in the newspaper he accuses of violating his privacy and misleading readers about his conduct.

"I have made personal mistakes, and ask forgiveness for those but I have never done anything to harm any city," West states in the "Dear Friends" ad in the newspaper that ousted him as a closeted gay politician last May.

West has led a low-key campaign to fight the recall, saying he was too busy running the city to wage a traditional political campaign.

The recall charge of abuse of office is based on the newspaper's coverage of his Internet activities: offering a City Hall internship to someone he thought was an 18-year-old male he met in a Gay.com chat room.

"The mayor's ad suggests 'maybe all that you've read and

heard is not the full and honest story."

"The newspaper invaded my privacy. Their actions were misleading, deceptive and extremely harmful to the city," West wrote in the ad.

Spokesman-Review Editor Steven Smith said West's attack on the newspaper that made public the mayor's secret life was not unexpected.

"We stand fully behind our journalism without qualifications," Smith said.

"This is the predictable litany of lies, misrepresentations and half-truths which have been the hallmark of this discredited politician's desperate campaign."

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The Ultimate in Intimate

WORLD

Most tents not winter-ready in quake zone, aid workers say

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Aid officials warned on Friday that almost all of the hundreds of thousands of tents distributed to quake survivors in Pakistan will not protect against the harsh Himalayan winter.

Pakistan's army said it was constructing 5,000 shelters a day out of corrugated metal for the 3.5 million left homeless amid fears of a second wave of deaths as conditions worsen in the coming weeks.

An estimated 87,000 died in the Oct. 8 tremor, which caused devastation across a vast swath of Pakistan and India, mostly in Kashmir, the disputed Himalayan region divided between them. Winter started last month, and hundreds stream into hospitals every day for cold-related ailments such as pneumonia.

In Islamabad, Darren Boisvert, spokesman for the International Organization for Migration, said 420,000 tents have been distributed in Pakistan but 90 percent are not winterized.

"Winterized tents are expensive, they are hard to procure, and must be shipped from overseas," he said.

Boisvert said relief efforts have focused on the highest mountain villages, rather than the hundreds of thousands of tents in non-winterized tents in refugee camps lower down. He said 5,000 tents that are adequate for winter have been distributed to those above the snow line, and another 5,000 will be distributed by Dec. 12.

Jan Vandemoortele, the U.N.'s top aid coordinator in Pakistan, acknowledged a "colossal job" remains.

"The first snowfall last week gave us a taste of what the future will be," he said at a news conference in Islamabad. "The situation remains very difficult."



Kashmir earthquake survivors gather around a fire to warm them up from the freezing cold of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistani Kashmir, on Friday.

Vandemoortele said many villagers are choosing to stay put despite the hardships, and said no one will be forced to leave their homes. But he added that as the weather deteriorates, the number of people flowing into camps is expected to grow.

"We remain on a knife's edge," he said. "It may get worse before it gets better."

Rain and snow have hampered aid operations, which still rely on helicopters to ferry supplies to communities in isolated mountains. Some roads have been closed and others declared unsafe.

On Thursday, a moderate aftershock was felt in northwestern Pakistan, Islamabad, and some areas of Kashmir, according to Pakistan's meteorological department.

Strong winds and colder-than-normal, subfreezing

temperatures were forecast again for the weekend. The cold was expected to get particularly severe in the higher mountain villages.

The army said in a statement it has constructed about 30,000 shelters for quake survivors out of corrugated iron sheets, and is building 5,000 more each day. Thousands in quake-affected areas have built additional shelters with the assistance of aid agencies, soldiers and volunteers.

Pakistan's top relief official, Mohammed Farooq Khan, urged countries to send more winterized tents and corrugated iron sheets.

He said reconstruction activities would begin only after the completion of a survey to determine what areas are safe, probably in another few weeks.

Palestinians let militants back into Gaza; Israel threatens sanctions

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians have allowed up to 15 militants wanted by Israel to return to the Gaza Strip in recent days, officials said Friday, in what Israel said was a violation of U.S.-brokered deal for securing the border.

The dispute over the entry of the Hamas militants — including one of the group's founders — through the Rafah terminal on the Gaza-Egypt border threatened to undermine the biggest diplomatic breakthrough since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

Palestinian security officials acknowledged that wanted men entered Gaza through Rafah, but said anyone with a Palestinian identity card can come into the coastal strip. They said Israel was making demands that are not part of the crossing accord.

Israel closed the Rafah passage — Gaza's main gateway to

the outside world — shortly before withdrawing from the strip in early September. The crossing reopened last week after months of wrangling over security procedures.

Israel said it might allow arms would flow into Gaza through Rafah, but agreed to let the border reopen after the Palestinians accepted the presence of European monitors and installed security cameras and Israel monitor the crossing to let



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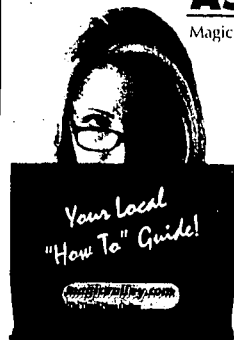
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New EU data retention anti-terror plan reached

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — European justice and interior ministers agreed Friday on plans binding telecommunications companies to retain records of phone call and e-mails for a minimum of six months for use in investigations into terrorism and other serious crime.

"It is an essential tool for law enforcement and against criminality, and that's why it's so important," said Britain's Home Secretary Charles Clarke, who chaired the meeting.

He said the majority deal among the 25 European Union nations allowed governments to decide how long telecom companies in their nations should retain the data, as long as it was between six and 24 months.

"We have agreed to a system which gives flexibility to member states who want to go further," Clarke told a news conference.

Chinese official resigns following chemical spill

DAIJIANHE, China (AP) — The head of China's environmental protection administration resigned Friday, following a chemical spill that has polluted a major river and embarrassed President Hu Jintao's government.

Xie Zhenhua, director of China's State Environmental Protection Administration, was replaced by Zhou Shengdian, former director of the State Foreign Administration, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

It gave no details or reasons for the resignation.

A Nov. 13 chemical plant explosion in the city of Jilin spewed cancer-causing benzene into the Songhua River in China's northeast, causing running water to be shut down in towns along the banks.

The spill Friday was lengthening and slowing down as it flowed toward Russia, a key diplomatic partner and source of oil for China's energy-hungry economy.

Odyssey 8 Theatre

Jennifer Aniston Clive Owen
DERAILED (R) Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Pride and the Prejudice
(13) Daily 7:00 - 9:35
Sat - Sun 12:00 - 2:00 - 7:00 - 9:35

Usher In the Mix (13)
Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Can You Make the Cut SAW 2 (R)
Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Johnny Cash Story Walk the Line (13)
Daily 7:00 - 9:35
Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:35

New York Doll (13)
Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Sometimes the last person on earth you want to be with is the one person you can't be without

Keira Knightley
PRIDE & PREJUDICE
Marianne Nicholson, David Miller, David Threlkeld, Alexander Siddons
Now at the Odyssey 6 PG

Charlize Theron
The Future is Flux
AEON FLUX
PG-13
Now at the Twin Cinema

He Loves her. She Loves him not.
Ryan Reynolds Anna Faris Amy Smart
just friends
Now at the Twin Cinema

He Was a Rebel -- The Man in Black
He was Johnny Cash
Joaquin Phoenix Reese Witherspoon
walk the line
PG-13
Now at the Odyssey 6 and the Jerome Cinema 4

The End is Near!
CHICKEN LITTLE
Walk Disney's
Now at the Twin & Jerome Cinema

Interstate Amusement

Twin 18 Cinema

Charlize Theron Aeon Flux (13)
Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Ice Harvest (R) Daily 7:15 - 9:00
Sat - Sun 1:15 - 3:15 - 5:15 - 7:15 - 9:00

Antonio Banderas Catherine Zeta-Jones
The Legend of Zorro (PG)
Daily 8:45 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Fantastic Family Fun for All Ages
Wait Disney's Chicken Little (G)
Daily 7:15 - 9:00
Sat - Sun 1:15 - 3:15 - 5:15 - 7:15 - 9:00

Kurt Russell **Dreamer (PG)**
Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

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IN THE MIX
Now at the Odyssey 6

Orpheum Theatre

Jake Gyllenhaal Jamie Foxx
JARHEAD (R) Daily 7:00 - 9:20
Sat - Sun 12:00 - 2:00 - 7:00 - 9:20

Jerome 4 Cinema

Daniel Radcliffe Rupert Grint
Harry Potter Goblet of Fire (13)
Daily 7:00 - 7:30 - 9:00
Sat - Sun 12:00 - 12:45 - 3:00 - 3:30 - 4:00 - 8:00 - 7:00 - 1:30 - 9:00

Joaquin Phoenix Reese Witherspoon
Walk the Line (13)
in Stereo Surround Daily 7:00 - 9:35
Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:35

Wait Disney **Chicken Little (G)**
in Stereo Surround Daily 7:10 - 9:00
Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:10 - 9:00

Yours, Mine and Ours (PG)
in Stereo Surround Daily 7:10 - 9:00
Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:10 - 9:00

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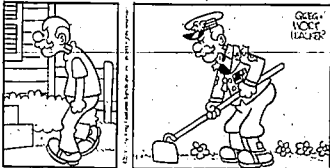
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Harry Potter
AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
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Boetie Bailey



By Mort Walker



Blondie



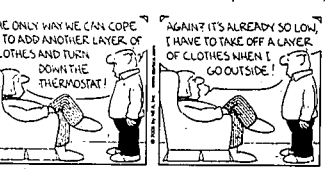
By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Bom Loser



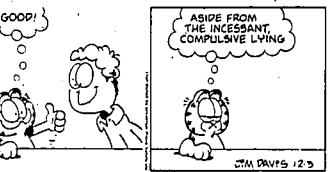
By Art Sansom & Chip



Garfield



By Jim Davis



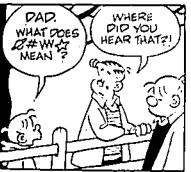
Hagar the Horrible



By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois



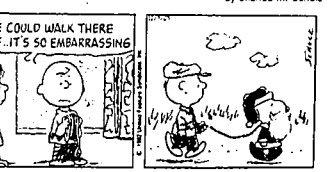
By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



Dennis the Menace



By Hank Ketchum

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-3
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"I bumped the top of my head all the way through my hair!"

Smoking mother turns deaf ears on pleas to quit

DEAR ABBY: My mother, "Adele," never misses your column. So I'm hoping this will get her attention. She has smoked for most of my 28 years of life, with the exception of when she "quit" from 2000 to 2003. (Her mother died of lung cancer.) I beg her not to smoke around me or my 3- and 4-year-olds. My daughter has even told her she smells bad and asked her to put out her cigarette.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

Adele claims she shouldn't have to go outside to smoke because of "cancer" fumes, and although you can see and smell it, there are no chemicals left in the air to hurt us. Adele says the reason she doesn't want to quit is she read somewhere that quitting "cold turkey" increases your chance of complications from smoking. She refuses to believe she's hurting anyone.

Would you please let her that not only is it inconsiderate and selfish to "tell" us to leave a house or get out of the car if we don't want to breathe in the smoke, it's also hurting her and putting her grandchildren at risk?

— CAN'T GET THROUGH, OZARK, ARK.

DEAR CAN'T GET THROUGH: Your mother is severely addicted to tobacco and in a state of denial. It's common knowledge that secondhand smoke is harmful. That's why some states have outlawed smoking in the workplace and public buildings.

I don't know where your mother got the notion that quitting smoking cold turkey could have a negative impact on her health. For years, doctors have said that it's the most effective way to stop. For smokers who can't face the challenge of sudden withdrawal from nicotine, there are now gums, patches and cessation programs to help people break the habit. Your mother's problem isn't that she's ignorant; it's that she's so wedded to her addiction she doesn't want to quit.

As much as you love her, you are now a mother yourself. It is your job to protect your children from anything that could harm them, and that includes secondhand smoke. From now on, do not take them to your mother's home; instead, entertain her in your smoke-free home. If she insists on smoking in her car, you will have to be the one to provide the transportation. And for your own sanity, when the time comes for your mother to pay the piper as her own mother did, do not grieve that you didn't have more time with her. She lived her life the way she wanted.

DEAR ABBY: I am in my freshman year of college, living in the dorms. I have been baby-sitting for the same family for about four years. Their three children are all under the age of 5 yet I am being paid only \$6 an hour — a dollar more than when I first started baby-sitting the first two children as a high school student.

The average baby-sitting rate for a college student is much higher than I have been charging. I have a friendly relationship with the mother, but I still feel hesitant to tell her that I'd like to be paid more. How do I go about this?

— ANNA IN WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y.

DEAR ANNA: Because you have a friendly relationship with the mother, call her and let her know that you'll be raising the price for your services. Do not apologize for doing so. Explain that the cost of living (gas, etc.) has increased since she first hired you. In addition, your qualifications have improved.

In the workplace, many women older than you have a problem with speaking up and asking for a raise to which they are entitled because they were raised to believe that "good girls" are modest and shouldn't brag. That kind of thinking can be a real handicap in the business world. So start now. This will be good practice for when you are older.

First heart transplant occurred today

This day in history: On Dec. 3, 1967, Dr. Christian Barnard transplanted the heart of a 24-year-old woman into the chest of a 55-year-old man. It was a historic first, but the man died 18 days later.

Look around your office or office. According to a study, about half of all Christmas shopping is done on company time.

Even ancient humorists liked to make up words. Consider Aristophanes, who lived circa 456-390 B.C. In "The Ecclesiazusae," he coined "topidotemachoselachogaleokrakiepsimofinibysostimthe atosiphonaparatoskatakaktyemienokielkipoksyphrattopiperisteralektryompekiephaliokeplodieliojeio isiridaphie," a tragicompierygon," which he defined as "a hash



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTINESS
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

composed of all the leftovers from the meals of the last two weeks.

Most dollhouses come in a 1:12 scale. Sounds complicated, but it's pretty simple: the distance would equal an inch in our world would be one foot in the dollhouse people's world.

Of the known 450 paintings by Vincent Van Gogh, more than two-thirds of them were painted after he began to lose his

mind. Of those, only two sold in his lifetime — both sales arranged by his brother Theo.

The Bloody Mary — tomato juice and vodka — got its name from Mary I, the Catholic Queen of England who ruled from 1553-1558. Her execution of more than 300 Protestants earned her the nickname.

Credit the daughters of the Duke of Beaufort, England, for adapting the game of badminton from an Indian game known as Poona. The badminton court got its size from the dimensions of the room where they first played in the 1840s; its name, from Badminton, the Duke's country estate.

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

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DENNIS SAID HE WAS TIRED AND TOLD ME TO TAKE THE NIGHT OFF."

WORLD

'THANK YOU'

Patient who received partial face transplant utters first words

LYON, France (AP) — A woman who underwent the world's first partial face transplant regained consciousness 24 hours after the groundbreaking operation and her first words were "thank you," one of her doctors said Friday.

Dr. Bernard Devauchelle, one of the surgeons leading two teams who operated on the woman, said there were no post-surgical problems and she was doing fine.

The 38-year-old woman, a divorced mother of two teenage daughters whose name has not been disclosed, was mauled by a Labrador in May, leaving her with severe facial injuries. She underwent the transplant Sunday at a hospital in Amiens, northern France. The donor was a brain-dead woman.

Devauchelle told a news conference that after the woman woke up, she put a finger on the tracheotomy tube in her throat and said, "Merci." Behind him were projected images of the portions that were transplanted — a section of the nose, lips and chin.

Devauchelle said that in terms of matching the skin color and texture of the donor and recipient, the results of the surgery "surpassed our hopes."

The woman's injuries had made it difficult for her to speak

and eat, her doctors said. However, since the surgery, she has eaten strawberries and chocolate, and drunk coffee and fruit juice, her doctors said.

Video released by the hospital showed the brown-haired woman from the back, sitting in a chair with a bundle of red knitting and needles on her lap while a doctor examined her injured face. The footage also showed the woman being wheeled out of surgery on a bed, her new lips, chin and nose in place.

Hospital director Philippe Dorny said the surgery was required because "we are in an exceptional situation that required an exceptional response."

Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard, the other lead surgeon in the operation, acknowledged he had initial reservations in the planning stages of the surgery, but added that given the extent of the woman's disfigurement, "I no longer hesitated for a second."

He denied a French media report that the woman was attacked by the dog after she had passed out from having taken pills in a suicide attempt. Instead, he said the woman had taken a pill to try to sleep after a family argument and was bitten by the dog during the night.



French surgeon Bernard Devauchelle, left, points to a sketch Friday during a press conference in Lyon, France, to discuss the world's first partial face transplant. Surgeon Jean-Michel Dubernard sits at right.

Reports: Russia to sell \$1B worth of missiles to Iran

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia has agreed to sell more than \$1 billion worth of missiles and other defense systems to Iran, Russian news media reported Friday, a move expected to draw a heated reaction from the United States.

The Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agencies cited unidentified sources in the Russian military-industrial complex as saying that Russian and Iranian officials had signed contracts in November that would send up to 30 Tor-M1 missile systems to Iran over the next two years.

Interfax said the Tor-M1 system could identify up to 48 targets and fire at two targets simultaneously at a height of up to 20,000 feet.

The news agency quoted its source as saying the two countries had reached a deal on modernizing Iran's air force inventory, as well.

The deal was also reported in the Vedomosti newspaper, which cited an unidentified manager at a military-industrial enterprise as saying Russia would provide Iran with 29 Tor missile systems that had originally been manufactured on

Israel tests defense system

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Arrow missile defense system intercepted and destroyed a missile similar to Iran's long-range Shahab-3 during a test Friday, prompting Israel's defense minister to declare it an effective shield against a possible future Iranian nuclear threat.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said that in light of Iran's recent threats against Israel and efforts to develop non-conventional weapons, Israel needs an effective shield.

The state arms export agency, Rosobornexport, said it had no information on the reported deal.

No Iranian officials were immediately available for comment Friday, a weekly holiday in the country. There were no reports in the Iranian media about the deal.

Police question suspects in Bangladeshi bomb attacks

GAZIPUR, Bangladesh (AP) — Police on Friday questioned 58 suspected Islamic militants in bombing attacks outside government buildings this week that killed at least nine people and wounded scores of others, authorities said.

Police said they also discovered and defused nine bombs that were left in plastic bags Friday near government buildings in the city of Khulna in southwestern Bangladesh and the central town of Sirajganj.

The suspects were detained as part of a nationwide hunt for members of a banned Islamic group, Jumlat Mujahideen Bangladesh, which has been blamed for bombings across Bangladesh this year, an Interior Ministry official said on condition of anonymity because of official policy.

None has been charged with any offense, the official said.

A bomber disguised as a tea vendor exploded a bomb Thursday outside a complex housing the chief government administrator's office and a courthouse in Gazipur, north of the Bangladesh capital, Dhaka. The blast killed one and wounded at least 29 others, authorities said.

On Tuesday, three bombs exploded outside a Chittagong court, killing the alleged suicide bomber and two police officers. The same day, a bomb killed five people, including the suspected suicide bomber, inside a library near a courthouse in Gazipur. More than 60 people were wounded in those attacks.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blasts, but police said they discovered leaders for Jumlat Mujahideen Bangladesh on the suspected bomber in Thursday's attack. He was wounded and captured.

Haiti kidnappers release 14 children

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Gunmen released 14 children who were abducted along with their bus driver on their way to school, but an American missionary kidnapped in a separate incident remained in captivity, police said Friday.

The gunmen released the children and the driver Thursday night, said police Commissioner Francois Henry Doussous, chief of the country's anti-kidnapping unit.

Haitian radio reported that an unspecified ransom was paid, but Doussous said the gunmen received no money. He said they released the children and driver because of intense police checkpoints prevented the kidnappers from returning

with their hostages to their base in Cite Soleil, a slum on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince.

There were no arrests. "Mercifully, the gangs didn't manage to bring them to Cite Soleil," police spokesman Franz Lerebours told The Associated Press.

The children, aged 5-17, were kidnapped the same day that Phillip Snyder, 48, president of Zealand, Mich.-based Glow Ministries International, was abducted while driving on a road north of the capital.

The kidnappings came five weeks before national elections to restore democracy to the troubled nation, which has seen a sharp increase in kidnappings and the chaos following the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand

Aristide in February 2004. Doussous said police were working to secure Snyder's release.

"We have strong hopes that we will get him released today, that's our goal," Doussous said. The kidnapped missionary's wife, Amber Snyder, 38, said in an interview with the AP from Zealand that she received a brief telephone call from her husband Thursday afternoon, in which he told her that he had been kidnapped and shot. "He sounded strained," she said. "He told me he wasn't being hurt."

Amber Snyder said the Red Cross was able to examine her husband. His car's windshield contained several bullet holes. It was being guarded Friday by U.N. peacekeepers.

She said a boy, about 7 or 8 years old, may have been kidnapped along with her husband. She said the father of the boy, who was being taken to obtain a medical visa so he could have eye surgery, may have been kidnapped and released.

She said that one of the couple's sons, who lives in Haiti, was negotiating with the kidnappers.

Doussous said police spoke by phone with Snyder's kidnappers, who said they wanted \$300,000 in ransom. The kidnappers also put Snyder himself on the phone with the police commander.

"We do not consider these kidnappings to be politically motivated," said Doussous. "This is purely criminal activity, the gangs need money."

Torture down in China, but abuses still widespread, U.N. envoy reports

Knight Ridder News Service

BEIJING — Public security agents appear to resort to torture less than in the past, but mistreatment of prisoners still widespread in China, a senior U.N. envoy said Friday.

Manfred Novak, the U.N. special rapporteur on torture, exhorted China to abolish hard labor camps and the use of psychiatric hospitals as prisons, and called on the nation to reveal how often it applies the death penalty each year.

Novak said he'd visited nine prisons in China during a two-week trip in which security agents regularly sought to "obstruct or restrict" his fact-finding efforts.

Nonetheless, the trip marked a historic concession by China, which had rebuffed requests by the United Nations since 1995 to allow a senior U.N. envoy to probe charges of pervasive torture and degrading treatment.

Novak, an Austrian law professor, said the use of torture varied widely and was more common in rural areas.

"I would recognize a certain decline in the level of torture in recent years, but nonetheless torture remains widespread in the country," he said.

Much abuse results from "great pressure" on public security agents to extract confessions from criminal suspects, he said, adding that high levels of govern-

ment have taken limited steps to punish those found using torture.

"It is my well-founded belief that the authorities have taken measures to combat torture," he said at a news conference, noting in a supplemental written statement that 1,595 civil servants were investigated in 2004 for coercing confessions and abusing detainees, among other acts.

Among the types of torture allegedly used in China, Novak's statement said, are electric shocks with batons, hooding, beatings by fellow prisoners, constant use of ankle shackles, submersion in sewage, stress positions and prolonged exposure to cold and heat.



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10:00	Dr. Wayne Dyer: The Power
11:00	John Denver: A Song's Best Friend
1:00	
2:00	
3:00	
4:00	
8:00	(8:30) Rick Steves' European Christmas
9:00	A Lawrence Walk Family Christmas
9:00	Awfully Towers Revisited

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BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Nine vying for chamber board

TWIN FALLS — Nine candidates are on the ballot for four seats on the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors.
Ballots were mailed this week. Member meetings and need to be returned by Friday, Dec. 9. The candidates are: Don Olson of Sonna Restaurant Inc., Wayne Bohm of All-Rite Siding & Construction, Mike Pohanka of Idaho Power Company, Ryan Morsley of Itel's Trading Post, John Piz of Twin Falls County Fair, Bari Fedale of Zouzouzou Realty, John Fitzgerald of Mollat, Thea H. Fields, Chid. Frank Eckrote of Auto Pile and Brad Hurd of The Times-News.

Gun immunity law no help in New York

NEW YORK — A federal law designed to give the gun industry broad immunity from lawsuits filed by crime victims and violence-plagued cities does not apply to a pending suit by the city of New York, a federal judge ruled Friday.
Upheld, the ruling would raise questions about the effectiveness of the federal legislation, which was championed by the National Rifle Association and signed into law by President Bush in October.
U.S. Judge Jack B. Weinstein said in a 97-page opinion that the legislation contained an exception wide enough to allow New York's claim to go forward.
In a victory for gun makers, however, Weinstein also rejected the city's argument that the law was unconstitutional.

Panel rules ADHD patch safe for humans

WASHINGTON — A federal advisory panel determined Friday that the first skin patch to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children is both effective and safe, bringing the patch a step closer to regulatory approval.
However, the panel of independent experts voted to recommend to the Food and Drug Administration that the patch label encourage its use as an alternative treatment for children with ADHD — in effect, saying doctors should prescribe it only if taking pills is too difficult for a child.
The unanimous vote by the FDA's Psychopharmacologic Drugs Advisory Committee, saying the patch was acceptable, came after a formerly critical FDA reviewer reversed his opinion about the patch.
The agency will now decide whether to approve the patch. It usually follows the advice of its advisory committees but is not required to.

Technical employees OK Boeing contracts

SEATTLE — Boeing Co.'s engineering and technical employees in the Puget Sound region and three other states approved new three-year labor contracts, the union and company announced.
Voters were counted on two contract offers. The contract for the Professional Unit, covering 12,115 engineers, was approved by 85 percent of the members voting. The contract for the craft unit was approved by 71 percent of the members voting.

ATM fees are on the rise

ATM fees are on the rise — ATM is throwing away more than \$800 a year, said Greg McBride, senior financial analyst at Bankrate.com. Although, McBride said, Americans will pay \$4.3 billion in withdrawal fees in 2006 for using what he calls "strong" ATMs.
Consumers using ATMs that don't belong to their own bank are usually charged twice: once by their bank for using another institution's machine and once by the bank that owns the machine. Bankrate.com did last survey when the fee a consumer's own bank charges has risen, on average, from \$1.45 to \$1.47, and that fee charged by the bank owning the ATM has gone from \$1.40 to \$1.54.

Money talks, cheese company walks

By Renee Wells
For The Times-News

BURLEY — Hilmar Cheese, the world's largest single-site producer of cheese and first products, is building its very first satellite plant in Dalhart, Texas, not Mini-Cassia.
Hilmar officials joined with Texas Gov. Rick Perry to announce Wednesday that the company will build its new plant in the small Texas town located about 20 miles from Amarillo, according to a news release on a Hilmar Cheese Web site.
Mini-Cassia's economic development officials said they were extremely disappointed to lose the bid for the Burley-Heyburn industrial park, which had eyed the Burley-Heyburn industrial park, but they are encouraged by the fact that only Dalhart and Burley were on the company's short list.

"We had a great deal to offer the company at our industrial site in the view of infrastructure and facilities, and that is what made us a runner-up in the bid," said Mini-Cassia Economic Development Director Bob Shepard. "We just could not compete with the monetary incentives which were extended by Texas and the communities surrounding Dalhart."
Shepard said the economic development commission and Boyer Company, which manages the industrial park, which is providing for the Texas Enterprise Fund, Texas Capital Fund, the city of Dalhart and Dallam County, according to the news story.
"Yes, Amarillo helped with a great incentive package," said Aaron Graves, editor of The Dalhart Texas newspaper. "There are a lot of people in Amarillo who are upset that the city put up that kind of money, but they don't see the whole picture."
Economic development officials predict the new plant will bring more than 4,000 permanent jobs and \$570 million in expenditures in the next 10 years to Amarillo alone, according to economic impact data presented to city and county officials.
"We didn't meet all the criteria they required, but that doesn't mean that we won't be what someone else is looking for," said Boyer's local manager Mark Maier. "Companies are always looking for opportunities to expand and we have a great deal to offer. That was shown in the fact that we were one of two Hilmar was considering."
"It's all a learning experience," he said. "We take this and learn from it and find ways to make our incentive package look better to the next company."

Shepard said, "Hilmar was very impressed with our waste treatment facility and what we had to offer, but a story from an Amarillo newspaper indicated that the community had put up \$5 million to help entice Hilmar to Texas."
A story published on the Web site of the Amarillo Globe-News said the money incentive was "a difference-maker in Hilmar's decision."
There also were incentives provided from the Texas Enterprise Fund, Texas Capital Fund, the city of Dalhart and Dallam County, according to the news story.
"Yes, Amarillo helped with a great incentive package," said Aaron Graves, editor of The Dalhart Texas newspaper. "There are a lot of people in Amarillo who are upset that the city put up that kind of money, but they don't see the whole picture."
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Dress and Dance Dora is one of many Dora the Explorer products available for purchase. The dolls sell for \$31.99 on shop.nick.com.

Hispanic TV characters are big sellers

Knight Ridder News Service.

MIAMI — Suddenly, Hispanic kids' TV characters are hot. The merchandise is rolling out in store shelves and right into toy boxes nationwide. From Nickelodeon's "Dora the Explorer" to new entries like Scholastic's "Maya and Miguel," retailers expect other toys and products of other genres emblazoned with these characters to be among their biggest sellers this holiday season.
Clearly, retailers want to tap into the increasingly strong Hispanic buying power. Hispanics spend double the amount of money on kids' products than other buyers.
"Hispanics are a strong target market," said Jonathan Breiter, senior vice president of Toy Play, which holds licenses for 25 "Dora the Explorer" products.
Hispanics tend to outspend the rest of the nation in some categories such as children's clothing. Said economist Jeffrey Humphreys, however, a large percentage of the Hispanic population is young.
But there is more. With Dora leading the way, these popular characters are reaching beyond their original media sources. Surprising even the show's creator, Dora ranks as the most recognizable 7-year-old in the world, with estimated retail sales of her merchandise at a staggering \$3 billion. Her show regularly rates No. 1 for preschoolers, and was a pioneer in its storyline that helps teach Spanish to children.

Introduced by Nickelodeon four years ago, Dora, the animated Latina girl, embarks on adventures with a backpack and monkey. In each episode, Dora teaches a Spanish word or phrase to the viewers and then asks them to use it to solve a problem.
Well aware of Dora's success and the demographics, television networks now find cultural diversity too attractive to ignore.
Broadcasters in preschool programming are launching more bilingual shows or introducing Hispanic characters into some TV favorites.
"Maya & Miguel," an animated series created by Scholastic for PBS, is about the adventures of 10-year-old twins, their abuela, bilingual parrot and obnoxious neighborhood.
It's in its second season, a franchise more than 4 million kids a week and ranks in the top 10 programs for children 6 to 11 years old.
McBride did extensive research to create characters that would help Latin children feel comfortable with their heritage and catch the eye of non-Hispanic "strong" ATMs.
Figueras, Scholastic's project director for "Maya & Miguel,"

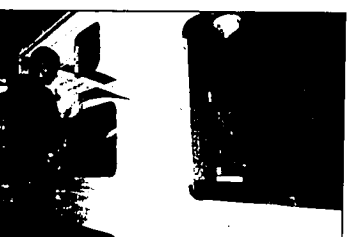


Sal Sayasanthorn puts the finishing touches on the inside of a Jay Flight 20 foot bunk-house model trailer Friday morning at the Jayco factory in Twin Falls.

Jayco expands production in T.F.

By Chris Baldus
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — More than 100 people are making campers on the south side of Twin Falls. They attach wheels, string wires, install plumbing, and staple walls just to get started. Above that, they assemble cabinets and slip them down while slides to the assembly lines. The four types of Jay Flight travel trailers they're producing have 476 parts, give or take some bolts or staples, said Jayco Inc. Plant Manager Walt Woolfe.
The Jay Flight has been the number one selling travel trailer in the country for over a year and a half now, said Eric Waldner, the plant's engineering manager. "We're building them as fast as we can and the dealers are still screaming for them. The market is good."
Which certainly contributed to the company expanding operations.
The plant had about 20 employees when its first travel trailer, a 27-foot Jay Flight, rolled off the assembly line in February. It now has 120 assembly lines and about 130 employees, with plans to hire up to 75 more by June, said Dave Yoder, general manager.



Lacy Dinan, left, puts tape details on the side of a Jayco trailer Friday morning as Lanny Felder installs appliances to the unfinished trailer in the assembly line at the Jayco factory located in Twin Falls.

in being part of the community and providing the community with jobs," said Yoder.
Jayco Inc. is now among the larger employers in the area, said economist Greg Rogers of Idaho Commerce and Labor. It's arrival about a year ago is one of the reasons Twin Falls County's unemployment rate dropped from 4.1 percent last year to 3.2 percent now, he said.
Jayco's impact goes beyond employment.
"We really take a lot of pride

"We've picked up a great deal of the suppliers out here," said Waldner. "Out of those 476 parts about 40 percent are Idaho produced."
"We're continuing to try to find more locally, or closer to us," said Woolfe. "That saves on shipping and freight."
Closer suppliers are able to be more reliable, too, said Waldner.
The plant's frame supplier, based in Michigan, has set up shop at Steel Corp. in Twin Falls. "They're right across the street from here and they just have a few people over there that are doing nothing but holding our frames right now," Waldner said.
Jayco Inc., based in Middlebury, Ind., makes camping trailers, travel trailers, fifth-wheel campers, sport utility trailers and small motor homes under a variety of brand names. It renovated the former Norco Windows building at 621 Washington St. S., and began production in January of this year. The plant makes four sizes of Jay Flight travel trailers, ranging from 20-29 feet in length.

Times-News business editor Chris Baldus can be reached at 735-3259 or cbaldus@magicalrly.com.

BANKRUPTCIES

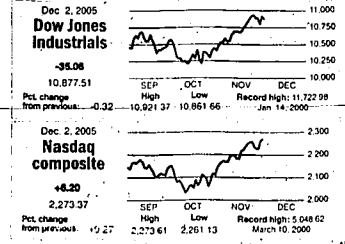
Chapter 7, nonbusiness, under \$150,000
• Sean Whitesides, 1805 Briarcliff Drive, Twin Falls, individual, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-42876.
• Sandra Vazquez, 676 All St., Burley, individual, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-43019.
• Joshua Jac Denton and Masina Shari Denton, P.O. Box

239, Heyburn, individual, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-43218.
• Becky Norris, 420 Arizona St., Gooding, individual, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-43463.
• Stephen Carlson, P.O. Box 2351, Ketchum, individual, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 05-43478.
Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$100,000
• John Dixon and Roberta Dixon, 608 Quincey, No. A, Twin

Falls, individual, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000. Case no. 05-42762.
• Charles Brewer and Kim Brewer, 10204 St. August, individual, 16-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000. Case no. 05-43224.
Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$500,000
• David Robert Oviatt and Ross Ann Oviatt, 2099 Canyon Trail Way, Twin Falls, individual, 1-15 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 05-43716.

By Susan Harrigan
Newsday
Desperate for cash, strapped for time and tempted to use that automated teller machine that belongs to a bank where you don't have an account? Be careful — the cost of such a convenience is rising. A survey released Thursday by Bankrate.com, a research organization that tracks rates, found that the average cost of using an ATM owned by a bank where you're not a customer has hit an all-time record of \$2.91 per transaction, compared to \$2.75 six months ago.
Making two withdrawals each week from another bank's

MONEY



Stocks end mixed as rate worries persist

NEW YORK (AP) — Solid employment data failed to extend Wall Street's rally Friday as renewed interest rate concerns weighed on the market...

Payrolls grow by 215,000 in November

By Jeannine Averis Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — America's payrolls snapped out of a two-month hurricane-induced funk in November and grew by 215,000, the most since July...

The fresh snapshot of the jobs situation by the Labor Department on Friday suggested that employees were feeling much better about hiring now that energy prices have retreated from record highs...

The pickup in employment in November came after two dreary months, where hiring tumbled as a result of the devastating storms.

In October, payrolls grew by just 44,000, even less than the 100,000 first reported in that month...



Senate Majority Leader Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., right appear during a news conference on Capitol Hill, Friday to discuss jobs and the economy.

report, they were forecasting a gain of around 210,000 jobs. They also predicted the unemployment rate would stay at 5 percent.

maintained in the coming months. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues, at their Nov. 1 meeting, maintained that the hurricanes had only a temporary depressing effect on employment and production...

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like AIG, AIGP, AIGS, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary tables for NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and GAINERS/LOSERS.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

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CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes categories like Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, and various oil products.

POTATOES

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various potato grades and contracts.

MARKETS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil, and other agricultural products.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various metal prices and exchange rates.

SUGAR

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists sugar prices for various grades and origins.

NEW YORK (NY) - Futures trading on the

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists NY futures prices for various commodities.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists livestock prices for various types of animals.

NEW YORK (NY) - Handly & Herman

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists NY prices for various commodities.

NEW YORK (NY) - Futures trading on the

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists NY futures prices for various commodities.

NATURAL GAS

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists natural gas prices for various regions.

BEANS

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various bean prices.

GRAINS

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various grain prices.

CHEESE

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various cheese prices.

Bankruptcy judge asks Delta to keep negotiating

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York bankruptcy judge on Friday pressed Delta Airlines Inc. and its pilots union to keep negotiating, marking the third day of hearings on the airline's effort to throw out a collective bargaining agreement so it can cut costs.

Delta has maintained it needs \$225 million of wage cuts from pilots as part of \$3 billion in cost cuts it plans to make to offset its bankruptcy.

The code contemplates the parties should continue to negotiate, she said. "I have never had much luck with mediation."

The airline and its pilots last met formally in mid-November. The two sides have stayed in contact informally since then.

Next week, the federal bankruptcy court will ask for what we want. We are required under section 1113 of bankruptcy law to only ask for what we need only.

On Friday, a Wall Street investment banker testified that Delta, which filed for bankruptcy in September, has been a key player in the industry.

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Overstock.com up; CEO purchased 60,000 shares

CHICAGO (Overstock.com) — The stock of Overstock.com Inc. rose Friday, a day after it filed forms showing that its chief executive purchased 60,000 shares.

Shares of online outlet store rose \$2.22, or 7.8 percent, to close at \$30.43 on the Nasdaq Stock Market. The shares are down 40 percent so far this year.

A filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission show that CEO Patrick Byrne bought the stock on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Byrne now controls about 6.6 million shares of the Salt Lake City-based company.

FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists fossil fuel prices for various types of oil and gas.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Fund Name, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various mutual fund performance metrics.

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HONORING VETERANS



Photo courtesy of DAR

On Veterans Day, the Twin Falls County commissioners joined members of the Daughters of the American Revolution and guests to lay a wreath at the DAR's World War I memorial at the county courthouse. The DAR members expressed support for all veterans, including their Revolutionary War ancestors. Pictured are, from left, front row: Patricia Ruschettl, Betty Pastor and Marian Russell; back row: Diane Greene, Commissioner Bill Brockman, Lola Rohay, Commissioner Gary Grindstaff, county veterans administrator Cheryl Ringenberg, Billie Jeanne Townley and Cole Townley Jr. Not pictured is Joseph Ruschettl.

SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU

To announce a birth Send a copy of the birth certificate to:
Jami Whitel
The Community Page
The Times-News
P.O. Box 548
Twin Falls, ID 83303
Or fax to: 734-5538
Deadline: Noon Tuesday for Sunday's paper; and noon Friday for Tuesday's paper.
More information?
Call Jami at 735-3278

Need of volunteers to visit residents in skilled nursing and residential care facilities, be their advocates and help improve their care. Training and mentoring will be provided.
Call Mary Edgar or Laurence Trostel at the College of Southern Idaho Office on Aging at 735-2122.

Fundraiser help — Safe Harbor is in need of volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up for the Christmas Memories fundraiser Dec. 9 at the Twin Falls United Methodist Church.

Hans of nurses will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the banquet and entertainment at 7:30 p.m. Names, home states and branches of any family or friends serving the military will be recognized in a military tribute during the banquet. To volunteer or send military information, contact Safe Harbor, Attn: Phyllis Berg, 269 Filer Ave., Twin Falls, ID 83301 or call 735-8787.

Medicare volunteers — The College of Southern Idaho Office on Aging is in need of volunteers to help senior citizens enroll in the new Medicare prescription program. Training is provided. The enrollment period is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, Nov. 15 through May 15. Call 736-2122.

Drivers — The College of Southern Idaho Office on Aging needs drivers, age 55 and older, to transport clients to doctors and grocery shopping throughout the Magic Valley. Drivers are reimbursed mileage and covered by excess insurance. Call Edith at 736-2122, ext. 320, or Kitty at 878-0725.

KEY KIWANIS

Minico High School's Key Club Officers presented the program at Kiwanis on Oct. 4. Members explained all of their service projects planned for the year. They also thanked the Kiwanis members for their support.



Photo courtesy of Minico High School Key Club

The board members who presented the program were, from left to right, Caitlin Reddington, Joella Poteot, Sadie Eames, Ashley Bossire, Karez Jurgensmeyer, Stacy Tarbet and Malley Hansen.

LOTS OF MARRIED YEARS



Photo courtesy of JANE GRIFF PHOTO

years; Roger and Margaret Vincent of Twin Falls, 55 years; Les and Charlotte Jones of Twin Falls, 59 years; and Norm and Eunice Pearson of Salem, S.D., 55 years. The couples parents are Ron and Carol Jones, and Ron and Janie Griff, all of Twin Falls.

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Burley brothers both complete degrees

Danled Dowdle, son of Mark and Terri Dowdle of Burley, will graduate with a master's degree in communications from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, in December. He completed a 2003-04 internship with a pharmaceutical company in Tokyo and works in Las Vegas, Nev., with Mountain

West Travel, a firm specializing in Japanese corporate events. He graduated from Burley High School in 1993, received an associate degree from Boise State University and studied in Osaka, Japan, as an exchange student. At the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, he received a degree in linguistics with a Japanese emphasis and served a mission with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints to Hiroshima, Japan. He is married to Amber Curry of Blackfalls, Alberta, Canada, who is a graduate of Utah State University in Logan, and who earned a master's degree in social work from Eastern Washington University in Cheney. His brother, Brian Dowdle, graduated from Columbia University in New York in May with a master's degree in east Asian

languages and cultures. He is working on a doctorate program in Asian languages and cultures (Japanese literature) at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He graduated from Burley High School in 1995. After attending Boise State, he served an LDS mission to Fukuoka, Japan, and then studied at BYU. He is married to Becky Blauer, daughter of Wayne and Nancy

Blauer of Burley, who is also a graduate of Burley High School and earned a bachelor's degree in geography from BYU in 2001. She was part of the Blackpool Championship BYU Ballroom Dance Team that competed in England and performed throughout Scandinavia with Brian on the tour and technical team. Brian also attended Nagoya University in Japan, and Becky taught English.



Daniel and Brian Dowdle

Brian graduated from BYU in 2003 with degrees in Japanese and Asian Studies. They have a 2-year-old son, Joshua.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

T.F. library adds story time to schedule

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Public Library, 201 Fourth Ave. E., is adding a story time to its December schedule. "Snuggle-Up Story Time" will start at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The program is for preschoolers and their families to share stories, songs and rhymes. Japanese are welcome.

"Rhyme Time" will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 7, 14 and 21. The program is for toddlers, ages 1 to 3, and preschoolers, ages 4 to 6. "Story Time" is at 10:30 a.m. Friday, and Dec. 9 and 16. "Hurry Santa," a puppet adaptation, will be held at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 17. The public is welcome to the free programs.

For more information, call 733-2964, ext. 110.

BJ Duplicate Bridge Club announces winners

RUPERT — The BJ Duplicate Bridge Club has announced the results of American Contract Bridge League-sanctioned open pairs play for Nov. 27. North/south: First, Lois Stephenson and Jackie Brown; second, Trudy Carver and Nancy Gibson; third, Harry Warnke and Bill Novasek; and fourth, Vera Mai and Nannette Woodland. East/west: First, Peggy Payne and Dona Kusan; second, Lila Hurman and Marian Snow; third, Warren and Pam McIntire; and fourth, Pat Adams and Marlene Temple. The club plays bridge at 1

p.m. Tuesday at the Rupert Elks. Refreshments are served. The club invites all area duplicate players. For more information, call 878-3997.

Four Leaf Clover Club hosts Christmas dinner

ALBION — The Albion Four Leaf Clover Club Christmas dinner for members and their guests will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in the Albion Grange Hall at the northwest corner of Main and North streets. There is no cost to attend. This annual tradition will be a catered dinner followed by a program of Christmas music and group caroling. For more information, call Lorna Calouette, president, at 673-6292.

Albion American Legion holds Christmas party

ALBION — The Albion American Legion Post and Auxiliary Christmas Party will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Albion Grange Hall at the northwest corner of Main and North streets. There is no cost to attend, but each member should bring a gift to exchange and a toy or game for the Mountain States Lumber Institute Toy Barn at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise. This annual tradition will include a dinner prepared by auxiliary members and wives of Legion members with the Legion furnishing the meat. For more information, call Don Gunderson, Legion adjutant, at 673-5359.

Church invites boys to Scout reorganization

RUPERT — The Rupert United Methodist Church invites families with young boys of Cub Scout and Boy Scout ages to attend a reorganization meeting of the Rupert United Methodist Men's sponsored Boy Scout troop and Pack 46 from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday in the fellowship hall of the church, 605 11 St. Boys will be registration for their adult orientation, information on the skills being taught and discussion of a Pinewood Derby. Activities planned for the evening are under the supervision of John P. Johnson, Institutional Scout representative at the Minidoka County Fairgrounds, 85 E. Baseline Road. For more information, call the church office at 436-3354 between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Identity theft seminar planned for Tuesday

RUPERT — A free seminar on guarding against identity theft will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the McGregor Center at the Minidoka County Fairgrounds, 85 E. Baseline Road. The seminar will be taught by Lyle Hansen, Extension educator in financial management with the Jerome County Extension office. It will cover what identity theft is, how it occurs, how to guard against it and determine if a person is a victim of

identity theft, and what to do if a person becomes a victim. To pre-register, call the Minidoka County University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Office at 436-7184.

Kimberly senior center serves luncheon

KIMBERLY — The Ageless Senior Citizens center, 310 Main N., will serve a Sunday dinner from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children younger than 12. Pork chops, potatoes, gravy, dressing, vegetables, salad, hot rolls, dessert, coffee, tea and milk will be served. The public is welcome. For more information, call 423-4338.

Idaho Central Credit Union collects toys

TWIN FALLS — The Idaho Central Credit Union will hold its drive for Toys for Tots from now through Dec. 23. Local businesses and people can drop off new, unwrapped toys in bins at the credit union office at 619 Pole Line Road. The toys will then be distributed to needy children in the community. For more information, call 733-4777.

Gastric bypass group meets in Magic Valley

RUPERT — A gastric bypass support group is starting in the Magic Valley area. The group is a safe, encouraging environment for anyone

who has had surgery, anticipating the surgery or gathering information about the surgery. The first meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the conference room of Minidoka Memorial Hospital, 1224 Eighth St.

M.V. New Neighbors hears about Oregon Trail

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley New Neighbors Club luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Jerome County Club, 649 Golf Course Road. Mary Inman will speak about the history of the Oregon Trail. For more information, call 731-2082.

Gingerbread contest benefits learning center

TWIN FALLS — A Gingerbread Village contest will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 10, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N. Admission to the display is free. There will be professional, commercial, amateur and quilt divisions; gingerbread cookie decorating a reading corner; and spectator favorite awards. The event will benefit the Southern Idaho Learning Center, which provides educational services to children. The professional entries will be auctioned. There is no cost to enter. Blank contest entry forms are

available at the center, 564 Shoup Ave. W.; at Ruder's, 147 Main Ave. W.; or by calling 734-3914.

American Mothers meeting scheduled

TWIN FALLS — The monthly meeting of the American Mothers Inc. of Magic Valley will be held at noon, Wednesday in the Great Room at BridgeView Retirement Center, 1828 Bridgeview Blvd. For more information, call Joy at 733-5133.

Filer High School Travel Club holds garage sale

FILER — The Filer High School Travel Club will have a benefit indoor garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in the school cafeteria.

Head Start centers have openings around valley

RUPERT — South Central Head Start has immediate openings in the fall, spring and year options at the following centers: Rupert, Burley, Buhl, Jerome and Twin Falls. This option is for families that are employed, in school or job training. Applications will be accepted for children that were age 3 to 4 by Sept. 1, 2005. For more information, call the local center or the central office at 736-0741, or in the Mini-Cassia area, call 679-8411. For anyone outside these areas the toll free number is 1-877-736-0741.

Target missed without Salvation Army

Salvation Army bell-ringers taking their place across America, which raises a provocative question: Is Target wrong to ban the bells and red kettles from in front of its 1,400 stores? Or is the retail giant right to say there are other ways to reach out to the needy during the Christmas season of great hope and growing need? To ring or not to ring?



The questions have seethed since early 2004, when Target notified the Salvation Army that it would no longer enjoy an exception to the company's no-soliciting policy. Bell-ringers were allowed to seek contributions outside Target during the 2003 Christmas season, opening the door for other groups to do so for the same privilege.

Target closed it. Spokesperson Paula Thornton-Greear said from headquarters in Minneapolis that the company goal is to offer a "distraction-free shopping experience for our guests."

But that doesn't mean Target doesn't care. The company has set up an online partnership with Salvation Army in which people can visit www.target.com and make donations to help fulfill holiday wishes nationwide. Also, the company will continue giving more than \$2 million a week to communities where it does business.

But for some who view the bells and kettles as a symbol of Christmas compassion, the ban by Target rankles — especially after Katrina and the other disasters to which the Salvation Army has responded. The debate is also deepened by the fact that other retailers, such as Harris Teeter, welcome the Salvation Army to their front doors.

Charlotte's Susan Chaffin started ringing bells for the Salvation Army and a warmliner to retailers, in a letter to the editor after Katrina. "To deny their traditional places and opportunities is to deny their efforts and contributions to these and other needy people in America. So just remember, no bell-ringers, no me."

But if I am Target, I'd let the bells ring. In fact, I'd let every legitimate charitable group that wants to raise money stand outside my store, so long as they keep the entrance clear, don't get too pushy and always smile.

If I led a company that depends on community support, I'd be that much to my community. And as persons of good will, I realize, and appreciate, that Target and many other businesses find quieter ways to do their part, whether by writing a check or doing a link to their Web site.

They should still do that. But they should also let the bells sound forth the love we have for our neighbors at Christmas and all year round.

Ken Garfield is the religion editor at The Charlotte, N.C., Observer-Writer in him at The Charlotte Observer, 500 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28232.

Got a favorite Advent story?

The Times-News is preparing an article about Advent-season memories and would like you to hear from readers about their celebrated Advent — the four weeks before Christmas — as children. Or how they celebrate it now.

If you'd like to share your story, call Steve Crump at 735-3223, or write to him at scrump@magcvalley.com



Narnia

God's 'Harry Potter'

Christian evangelicals embrace Disney's movie

The Orange County Register

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Tom Holladay is bringing an army to the aid of a magical lion at war with an evil witch winter in a spell-cast winter realm.

Holladay, a teaching pastor at Saddleback Church in Orange, Calif., congregation of his Lake Forest, Calif., congregation to view a special advance screening of the new action and fantasy movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" on Thursday, one day before the film opens nationwide.

As with Mel Gibson's 2004 blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ," thousands of churches across the country — through advanced sales, sermons and study guides — are preparing to flock to a movie that many perceive as Christian-themed.

In doing so, church groups may also show a frosty standoff with another magic kingdom: the Walt Disney Co.

Disney, the studio behind the \$150 million movie, has been the target of censure by some evangelical Christian groups incensed with the company's gay-friendly policies.

Disney may now heal that rift by bringing to the screen a series of legendary children's books laced with subtle Christian imagery and written by the devout Christian theologian, C.S. Lewis.

"I'm thrilled that Hollywood is doing something," Holladay said. "It's a great story that's affected so many people's lives. It has the power to impact a person's heart."

"The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," the first in the seven-part "Chronicles of Narnia" series, tells the story of a Christ-like lion named Aslan who dies and is resurrected in order to create paradise on earth.

Lewis, who once described his writing style as "sneaking the gospel past the watchful dragons" of the secular world, wrote his Narnia series as a straight adventure story but later said the religious theme "entered of its own accord."

Studio executives emphasized

Opens Friday

"The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" will be screened starting Friday at the Twin Cinema Century Cinema in Burley and the Jerome Cinema.

that the film, which features fantastical locations and magical creatures such as giants, centaurs and fauns, can be enjoyed without an understanding of the Christian subtext.

Church officials like Holladay say they hope the opposite proves true.

"When something like this happens, the truth about Jesus' love becomes a topic around the water cooler in the office," Holladay said. "It becomes a personal conversation."

Saddleback booked 13 theaters for a special screening of the movie one day before its Dec. 9 opening. Church members are encouraged to come and to bring "unchurched" friends.

Saddleback pastors will spend the previous two weekends preaching about the religious allegories hidden within the Narnia books, and will distribute a three-week "Beyond the Wardrobe" video study series to more than 3,000 small groups. And — as with "The Passion of the Christ" — Saddleback's pastor Rick Warren mentioned "Narnia" in his weekly "Ministry Toolbox" e-mail sent to 180,000 pastors nationwide, according to the church's Web site.

The religious rush to the "Wardrobe" is being repeated across the nation.

Hundreds of thousands of churches were distributed to churches and other groups across the country for similar advanced "Narnia" screenings by the Christian organization The Barna Group. The screening is the first of many that Barna plans to offer to churches and other groups as part of a new initiative to make religious-themed movies more available to the public.

Christian faith and lobbying groups, such as Focus on the Family and the National Association of Evangelicals, have

endorsed the "Narnia" film. The Southern Baptist Convention — whose leadership previously condemned Disney for its decision to provide benefits to the companions of gay employees — featured the film on its Web site. The layman ministry Catholic Outreach started a "Narnia Outreach" Web site and advertised for church and community workers to promote the film in 150 cities across the country.

More than 1,400 pastors and religious leaders were invited to "Narnia" preview events in New York, Denver and other places, where they viewed exclusive clips, received free gift bags full of outreach material and met Doug Gresham, C.S. Lewis' stepson and co-producer of the film. A small group of pastors was invited by Disney to preview a rough-cut of the film in October.

Disney is issuing three different versions of the film's music, including an "inspirational" soundtrack featuring Christian artists.

Disney also hired Native Marketing, the public relations firm that helped usher millions of Christians into movie theaters and generate more than \$600 million for "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004.

In targeting Christian groups, Disney must walk a fine line of not distasteful secular audiences.

"The film reaches to everybody," said Dennis Rice, senior vice president of publicity for Disney Studios.

Rice expressed frustration that media attention has focused on the studio's Christian outreach, which he said was just one of many marketing strategies aimed at a wide variety of potential audiences, including libraries, schools, and Hispanic populations.

He said the studio distributed about 300,000 study guides to educators, gave "Narnia" posters to libraries and attracted corporate tie-ins from McDonald's, General Mills, Virgin Atlantic and Kodak, among others.

Rice said that "Narnia's" faith-based outreach was bigger than past film marketing efforts only because the film's budget was bigger, and he downplayed concerns that such outreach might prejudice non-Christians.

C.S. Lewis: The curious journey of a complicated man

The Associated Press



During the 42 years since his death, the prolific C.S. Lewis has never failed to lure hordes of fans through his writings — nor has the Oxford and Cambridge literature scholar ceased to rouse antipathy from religious skeptics.

Now next week's release of the lavish Disney-Walden Media film "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," based on the first of Lewis' seven children's novels, is creating a new round of Lewismania.

Beside parallel marketing blitzes for religious and secular audiences, new editions of Lewis' works have been published, as have numerous books and articles about him and the film. There are new study guides, lectures, Internet chatter, audiotapes, music CDs, games, — and one legal threat.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has informed Florida Gov. Jeb Bush that he offered the U.S. Constitution by choosing "Lion" for his state's annual student reading campaign because it's "laced with allusions to Christianity."

True enough, the lion of "Lion" is a Christ figure and the other novels are filled with biblical themes — though like many young readers, Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling says she "adored" Lewis' stories and only grasped their Christian inspiration as an adult.

The Narnia series, published from 1950 to 1956, originated while Lewis was suffering from physical exhaustion and caring for his alcoholic brother, Warren, and the ailing mother of a deceased Army buddy.

The books have achieved permanent stature as children's classics, with 85 million copies sold. That far outpaces the still-steady readership for his more overtly Christian titles, including "The Problem of Pain," "The Screwtape Letters," "The Great Divorce," "Miracles" and "Mere Christianity."

At least modest movie success seems assured, considering the box office for good-vs.-evil fantasy epics like the Harry Potter movies and the "Lord of the Rings" series, based on books by J.R.R. Tolkien.

Tolkien and Lewis were close Oxford colleagues whose friendship eventually cooled. Lewis was a "Rings" enthusiast while Tolkien loathed the Narnia books. Yet Narnia probably wouldn't exist without Tolkien.

As a young man, Lewis was a thoroughgoing skeptic who dismissed Christianity, in part, because it resembled ancient pagan myths about dying-and-rising deities.

In 1931, the devoutly Roman Catholic Tolkien and another Christian scholar spent a long evening with "Jack" Lewis arguing religion. Lewis wrote a friend that he had convinced him "the story of Christ is simply a true myth: a myth working on us in the myth. Please see LEWIS, Page E3

The Lewis file
C.S. Lewis' series of children's books has sold more than 90 million copies since 1950. The series in part grew out of a slight talk with "Lord of the Rings" author J.R.R. Tolkien about mythical tales and the nature of God.

- "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" (1950)
- "Prince Caspian" (1951)
- "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" (1952)
- "The Silver Chair" (1953)
- "The Horse and His Boy" (1954)
- "The Magician's Nephew" (1955)
- "The Last Battle" (1956)

Source: Orange County Register



The upcoming release of a lavish Disney-Walden Media film "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," based on the first of Lewis' seven children's novels, is creating a new round of Lewismania.

RELIGION

Presbyterian Women hold brunch

TWIN FALLS — The Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church of Twin Falls will hold their annual Christmas brunch at 10 a.m. today in the fellowship room at the church.
The brunch will be served by the circle groups of the Presbyterian Women. Dorothy Fry will speak on "Angels Among Us." Christmas music will be provided by Susan Waters and Melanie and Simon Halsecl.
All church members, including men and children, and their friends are invited. Other Presbyterian churches in the district are welcome.

Christmas opry will take place today at 7 p.m.

TWIN FALLS — A special Christmas opry, "Christmas is the Nextest Time of the Year," will be presented at 7 p.m. today at the Magic Valley Gospel Opry at the First Assembly of God Church, 189 Locust St. N.
Special guests include Tim Starnes, Bryon Hildreth, April Dieter and Samantha Hilde, and the Magic Valley Gospel Opry team — Dave and Lorraine Kay Bolster, Dave and Bev Bennett, Lorraine Gilson, John Stevens and Carol Stone — will perform a selection of traditional Christmas songs.
The opry team is adopting four families from the community that might otherwise have a bleak Christmas and providing them with decorated trees, Christmas dinners and gifts for each family member. Those attending the opry are asked to bring nonperishable food items, a treasurment or an unwrapped gift, if possible.
The opry family attending tonight's opry will receive a

Church news

"Live at the Opry" CD.
For more information, call 733-5349.

T.F. church will celebrate Holy Communion Sunday

TWIN FALLS — Holy Communion will be celebrated during worship at 10:10 a.m. Sunday at the Rock Creek Community Church, 131 Grandview Drive.
Don Richards will provide special music, and Pastor Dale Metzger will speak on "Communion is Rejoicing in Christ's Return" from 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 and 1st Corinthians 10:16-17.
For more information, call 734-5268.

'Paths to Peace' will be topic for worship

HOHLISTER — The Rev. Rev's Turner will speak on "Paths to Peace" during worship at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Hohlister Community Presbyterian Church, 2461 Central Ave. Scripture reading is Luke 1:68-79.
Refreshments will be served after worship. Visitors are welcome.
The church women will be assembling Christmas baskets after worship. Everyone is invited to help bring a sack lunch and basket items.

Methodist women hold annual Christmas bazaar

WENDELL — The women of the Wendell United Methodist Church will hold their annual Christmas bazaar from 11 a.m.

to 5 p.m. Sunday at the church, 175 E. Main.
Many homemade items such as dish towels, afghans, knitted scarves and hats, lilies, candy bread, nutreads, cookies and cakes will be available for purchase.

The bazaar is being held in conjunction with the first Sunday of the month luncheon. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will feature homemade noodles with turkey salad and desserts. Cost is a freewill offering.
The public is invited to both events. For more information, call Bendell Lesneski at 536-6561.

Agape Interfaith Lunch scheduled for Tuesday

GOODING — The Agape Interfaith Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Basque Center on University Avenue.
A special Christmas program, "Through a Child's Eyes," will be presented with music by Kathy Gilbert.
Cost for the luncheon is \$6 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Carolyn Herzinger at 934-5700 by today. Those who want to attend the program only may come at noon at no cost and without reservations.
All are welcome.

Ascension Episcopal will hold prayer practice

TWIN FALLS — The monthly Centering Prayer practice session will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Ascension Episcopal Church, 371 Eastland Drive N.
This session will continue the topic of "Forgiveness." Through

the "Prayer of Forgiveness," participants will explore forgiving themselves, forgiving others and forgiving institutions. They will learn what makes forgiveness difficult and why God's presence cultivated in contemplative practice is what enables people to forgive. An experience of the Prayer of Forgiveness and a Centering Prayer practice session are included.
Anyone interested in Centering Prayer practice is invited. Admission is free. For more information, call Jamie Kelly at 734-9499 or Joyce Ballard at 733-8881.

Methodist will hold candlelight brunch

HEROME — The Jerome United Methodist Women will host a Christmas candlelight brunch at 10 a.m. Dec. 10 at the church, 211 S. Buchanan.
Nancy Gossi and Catherine Daley of Chapman will present a program, and a Christmas message will be given by the Rev. Elke Sharma.
Sharma is a graduate of the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., and pastor of the Gooding, Shoshone and Hichfield United Methodist churches. She lives in Gooding with her husband and son.
For more information, call 324-4185 or 324-3785.

The Times-News welcomes news of church events. Send information to Ellen Thomason, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83403, or Twin Tegen, South Idaho Press, 230 E. 1st St., Burley, ID 83418. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday for publication on the Saturday religion page.

CONSEQUENCES OF VATICAN POLICY



Thirty-one new priests lie on the floor of St. Peter's Basilica during a prayer as part of their ordination ceremony in this file photo.

Will ban on gay priests 'make closet bigger'?

St. Petersburg Times
Within hours of issuing a document that bars openly gay men from entering the Catholic priesthood, the Vatican was defending the new policy, saying that homosexuality is a "sexual tendency not an identity."
Conservatives say this new policy may help reverse the "gay culture" of many U.S. seminaries, while liberal critics say the restrictions will create morale problems among clergy and lead to an even greater priest shortage in the United States.
"I'm afraid all it will do is make the closet bigger in the church," said Father Steve Roszcwzski, a gay man who officiates services at the Holy Spirit Ecumenical Catholic Church in Largo after being dismissed as parish priest at a church in St. Petersburg, Fla.
The Rev. Len Plazewski, director of vocations for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, said he believes the Vatican document reflects standards already in place in most U.S. seminaries.
"The expectation to be a priest is that one has to fully and completely embrace a chaste, celibate life," he said.
"Even before this instruction, if someone was living an active homosexual life, that person would not be a suitable candidate to the priesthood," he said.
The official "Instruction" from the Congregation for Catholic Education was released a week after an Italian Catholic news agency posted a leaked copy on its Web site.
The document has been in the works for years, but its existence came to light in 2002 at the height of the clergy sex abuse scandal in the United States. A study commissioned by U.S. bishops found most abuse priests since 1950 were adolescent boys.
Experts on sex offenders say homosexuals are no more likely than heterosexuals to molest young people, but that did not stifle questions about gay seminarians.
The instruction said men "who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called 'gay culture'" cannot be admitted to seminaries. The only exception would be for those with "transitory problems" that had been overcome for at least three years.
Plazewski said the Holy See determined it is difficult "to live out to the fullest what priest-

hood is supposed to be" for gay men who see themselves as gay.
Bart Coyle of Bradenton, a 58-year-old gay Catholic who is a member of Dignity USA, said he thinks the Vatican's directive is short-sighted and just plain wrong.
"From our perspective, just like the Vatican doesn't recognize Dignity, we don't really recognize their authority," he said. "It's no secret that there are plenty of gay priests out there."
Dignity USA, a national organization for gay and lesbian Catholics, was formed by a gay priest 25 years ago. Coyle and his partner attend Catholic services held at a Unitarian Church in Sarasota.
Like many gay Catholics, Coyle distanced himself from his faith for decades, unable to justify the church's stance on homosexuality. But when his mother moved in with him and his partner — and when Catholic parishioners came to help and comfort her — Coyle had an awakening.
"I really got to see true Christianity at work," he said. "And I realized there are people here who want this Catholic service."
The Rev. James Martin, a U.S. Jesuit who has written on the issue, said American theologians, canon lawyers and other Roman Catholics will "hope that the document won't really mean what it says." But he believes it's clear the Vatican wants to keep gay men from being ordained — even if they're committed to celibacy — and hopes bishops and seminary rectors will act accordingly.
Martin predicted "a slow, silent attrition among celibate gay men who cannot accept the idea of staying in an organization that condemns their existence in the priesthood."
Roszcwzski of St. Petersburg said he has tried to balance his Catholicism and his homosexuality.
The two are not mutually exclusive, said Roszcwzski, who said the Vatican's new policy decided to keep men with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies from becoming priests will only alienate more Catholics — both gay and straight.
Roszcwzski and many other critics say the document is a campaign to blame gay men for the clergy sex abuse scandal.
"Let's be clear: this is a knee-jerk response for the pedophilia crisis," Roszcwzski said.

Pope reins in the Franciscans of Assisi

The Washington Post

ASSISI, Italy — Imams, rabbis, Buddhist monks, Hindu holy men and followers of Confucius have strolled the chalky white and pink stone courtyards of the massive basilica here. Anti-globalization activists, Communist party members, Communist atheist and Marxist leaders have conversed with gentle Catholic monks.
Peace marches and conferences on the environment, development, bioethics and many other topics have unfolded, all under the auspices of the Franciscan monks who control the Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi, the much-beloved and colorful founder of the Franciscan order.
Such gatherings, particularly a pair of interfaith meetings between world religious officials and Pope John Paul II that drew wide media attention, some drew heated controversy, such as a 2003 visit by Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister at a time when the United States was gearing up to invade his country. Aziz, a Christian, lit a candle in a church.
Vid struck the pope each of this month. Pope Benedict XVI put the future of such varied — some would say free-wheeling — events in question, according to Roman Catholic observers, both those favoring Franciscan activism and those who oppose it.
In a decree published Nov. 19, the pope placed the Franciscans of Assisi under a threefold control of a new local bishop, the Italian Bishops Conference and a yet-to-be-named papal overseer. The edict overrode autonomy granted in 1969 by Pope Paul VI that in effect made the Franciscan ambassadors to peace movements and to outside cultural and social groups.
"From initiatives with pastoral aspects," the Franciscans "will have to request and obtain the consent" of Assisi's bishop, who will in turn "hear the opinion of the Umbria regional bishop conference and the Italian conference," Benedict's decree declared. The future papal delegate will "cooperate" with his spiritual authority, the decree says of communion "between the Vatican and the sacred places in memory of Saint Francis."
A Vatican spokesman said that under church law, pastoral activities such as the various Assisi events are "always" un-



An edict from Pope Benedict XVI revoking the autonomy of the Franciscan monks of Assisi is seen as a reaction to their interfaith activities, but the Rev. Vincenzo Coll, custodian of the St. Francis Basilica complex in Assisi, Italy, says, 'This is not an order to 'obey or else.' ... In theory, there is no problem. In practice, we will see.'

control of the local bishop. Reimposed that Paul VI had granted the Franciscans special autonomy, the spokesman replied: "The Assisi decree renews globally. The actions of the Franciscans in Assisi affect not only the diocese but all Italy and even the world. It is necessary to coordinate things in a way that they work as well as possible."

Reaction to the Vatican's move was strong across Italy. "The stronghold of dialogue has fallen. Now the Franciscans have their hands tied and can no longer be a bridge between the church and society," said Luca Tureo, a member of the largest party in Italy's opposition coalition, the Democrats of the Left.
"It's about time," bishop Sergio Goretti, the retiring bishop of Assisi, told La Repubblica newspaper. He complained that the monks had created "an autonomous enclave."
"Sometimes, I only found out what the monks were doing when I read about it in the newspapers," he said.
The Franciscans reacted diplomatically, a caution appro-

“We are not rebels. We will think of ideas, and if they are rejected, we will come up with something else.”

— Franciscan priest Vincenzo Coll

appropriate for an order that at its 8th-century birth was critical of hierarchy but has driven under papal authority. "This is not an order to 'obey or else,'" said the Rev. Vincenzo Coll, custodian of the monastery that surrounds the basilica that houses Saint Francis' tomb, speaking in an interview. "This is done, I believe, in the spirit of collegiality. In theory, there is no problem. In practice, we will see."
Benedict's decree is a benchmark in the evolution of his seven-month-old papacy, many church observers say. So far, his reign has been an exercise in the tightening of practice to match church doctrine as he sees it. The new pope has taken the offensive against Catholic politicians who tolerate abortion and gay marriage, moved to bar homosexual men from entering seminaries and admonished bishops who fail to promote "the certainty of the fullness of the Church's faith."
In the view of critics, few places within the church challenged Catholic certainties more flamboyantly than Assisi. In particular, interfaith meetings held in the hilltop town appeared to them to be a kind of food court of dangerous relativist thinking.

More we learn, less religion will divide us

There has always said advancing things that are true is one of the greatest things a man can do. Most people will believe everything they hear or read unless they know better.
The people in the Bible were

very superstitious, for they knew very little about the world they lived in. Learning what causes natural disasters takes away a lot of the superstitions of these people had. Learning what made the oil and coal in our plans is also education.
The more we learn about our

world, old fables will fade away and religions will no longer divide the people.
Jesus also spoke a lot about truth, for it is not good for man to believe things that are not true.
WILLIAM HAFNER
Twin Falls
The Times-News welcomes

letters on religious topics of 200 words or less from readers. Letters should include the writer's signature, mailing address and telephone number. Letters considered libelous, obscene or in bad taste will be rejected, and The Times-News reserves the right to edit all letters.

RELIGION LETTER

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RELIGION

How accurate is the Bible as history?

The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — Down the slope from the Old City's Dung Gate, rows of thick stone walls, shards of pottery and other remains of an expansive ancient building are being exhumed from a dusty pit.

The site is on a narrow terrace at the edge of the Kidron Valley, which curves away from the Old City walls in a cliffside that the Bible describes as the seat of the kings of ancient Israel.

What is taking shape in the rocky earth, marked by centuries of conquest and development, is as contested as the neighborhood of Arabs and Jews encircling the excavation. But the Israeli archaeologist Eliat Mazar believes the evidence she has uncovered during months of excavation and biblical comparison points to an extraordinary discovery.

She believes she has found the palace of King David, the post-warrior who the Bible says consolidated the ancient Jewish kingdom around the 10th century B.C. and expanded its borders to encompass the Land of Israel. Others are doubtful.

There is sometimes a reality, a very real reality, though maybe not all true, described in the Bible, Mazar said. "This is giving the Bible's version a chance."

Mazar's find is emerging at the intersection of religion and politics, volatile forces that have guided building, biblical scholarship and war in this city for millennia. Even before the findings were heavily analyzed in a scientific paper, the discovery is prompting new thinking about when Jerusalem rose to prominence, the nature of the early Jewish kingdom, and whether the Bible can be used as a reliable map to archaeological discovery.

Only a small fraction of the site has been excavated, but it is yielding new clues to the early development of Jerusalem, long debated within Israel's university archaeology departments.

Some archaeologists believe Jerusalem was no more than a tiny hilltop village when it served as David's capital. The discovery of a palace or other large public buildings from David's time would strengthen the opposing view that he and his son, Solomon, presided over



Israeli archaeologist Eliat Mazar stands by a Jerusalem dig site that is prompting new thinking about the nature of the early Jewish kingdom.

a civilization grander than the collection of rural clans some historians say made up the early kingdom.

Whether David was a tribal chieftain or visionary monarch matters deeply to the Jewish historical narrative — the story of a single people, once ruled by kings, and later dispossessed of its homeland until the modern state of Israel was created nearly 2,000 years later following the horrors of the Holocaust.

Palestinian leaders, who also claim Jerusalem as their capital, dismiss the ancient story as politically useful fiction. But given the palace's location on land Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war, its discovery could be used to bolster the Israeli claim to the East Jerusalem neighborhoods and increase Jewish settlement in the area.

The excavation, on land owned by a private organization that has been moving Jewish settlers into the Arab neighborhood, is being funded by a Jerusalem research institute that promotes policy to

strengthen Israel's Jewish character and by a wealthy American Jewish investor.

Prof. Israel Finkelstein of Tel Aviv University's Institute of Archaeology said Mazar's interpretation should be understood as the latest in a series of "messianic eruptions" designed to bolster the image of David as a ruler of an important civilization, an idea that has lost currency in recent years in part because of Finkelstein's writing against it.

"That is why you are seeing this interpretation, to counter that momentum against it," said Finkelstein, co-author of the book "The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts."

"It's an important find, and I'm not understating it," he said. "But from what she has found to the palace of David is a big distance."

For two centuries, historians in Germany, the United States and Israel have debated the value of the Bible as an authentic record of events. Biblical

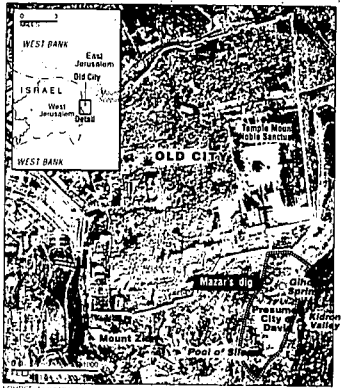
archaeology emerged as a way to explore the Old Testament through discoveries on the ground. It attracted renowned scholars and adventurers to the Holy Land, but also a number of evangelical Christians and religious Jews who appeared intent on proving the Bible true.

Those who draw on the Bible, such as Mazar, argue that it should play a central role in archaeological discovery because it is the only document from that time. But in recent decades the most accepted view has been that the Bible is more myth than history, particularly its books recounting events that happened centuries earlier, like those relating to David.

The Bible's rich account of David's life has made him one of its most identifiable figures. Slaver of Goliath, a pious and treacherous king, author of psalms, David consolidated the northern kingdom of Israel and Judah around the year 1000 B.C. into a single political state under his rule. After defeating the Jebusites, he made his capi-

Excavating History

Israeli archaeologist Eliat Mazar says she has unearthed parts of the palace of King David, using the Bible and previous excavations as a guide. But critics say her find, while important, is more recent and not the palace.



Some archaeologists believe Jerusalem was no more than a tiny hilltop village when it served as David's capital. The discovery of a palace or other large public building from David's time would strengthen the opposing view that he and his son, Solomon, presided over a civilization grander than the collection of rural clans some historians say made up the Jewish kingdom.

tal in Jerusalem, at the time a walled settlement of about a dozen acres.

Although excavations in the West Bank have produced important finds dating to that time, Jerusalem has yielded relatively little evidence of its importance, and rapid development has overwhelmed much

of the city's rich buried history. "This place was always thought of as being a lost cause," said Amihai Mazar, a renowned Hebrew University archaeologist and Mazar's second cousin, who is working closely with her. "Now we see there is a chance for new evidence."

Lewis

Continued from E1

same way as the others, but with the tremendous difference that it really happened."

Earlier, in 1929, Lewis had come to believe in God, though not Christ. As his autobiography recounts, "I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed; perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."

Conversion unleashed creative powers that made Lewis a celebrated champion of orthodox Christian belief. Bryan Burgess of Boston University's divinity school thinks Lewis has few rivals as an intelligent and serious exponent of Christianity with broad popular appeal.

Lewis' explicit message will draw new readers to the explicitly religious books as well as the Narnia tales, with their Christian undertones.

While Narnia appeals to believers and nonbelievers alike, reactions to Lewis as a religious thinker often depend on the beholder's attitude: The author's ecumenical but strongly traditional form of Christianity attracts some and repels others.

Alan Jacobs of Wheaton College in Illinois observes that Lewis inspires rarely extraordinary levels of devotion. He can also inspire extraordinary levels of hostility "from the likes of fantasy author Philip Pullman, whose works are often regarded as anti-Christian."

Meanwhile, Narnia fans are extraordinarily defensive. Jacobs says he's been greeted with harsh reactions from some fellow evangelicals because his "The Narnian: The Life and

Imagination of C.S. Lewis" (Harper/SanFrancisco) raises questions about "Saint Jack."

J. Stanley Mattson of the C.S. Lewis Foundation recalls a liberal British priest telling him, "You realize, Lewis was the most hated man in Cambridge." Yet a nonreligious professor remembered Lewis as "one of the most delightful men here."

Today, Americans are more interested in Lewis than his fellow Britons are.

It's telling that Jacobs' college, not Oxford or Cambridge, sponsors a study center devoted to Lewis and his friends, while Mattson's California-based foundation bought Lewis' Oxford home for a shrine and sponsors Oxford and Cambridge seminars about him.

"Why? The English side has become so secularized ... They're just not interested in the subject," says Episcopal priest Clair McPherson, who is delivering Lewis lectures at New York's Trinity Church.

Lewis, many mainline Protestants have moved beyond Lewis' robustly conservative brand of belief, Jacobs says, so excitement about Lewis' Christianity is largely a function of the evangelical and conservative Catholic worlds. But those are big worlds.

Admirers appreciate Lewis' skill with rational arguments on behalf of the faith, but Jacobs thinks his greater achievement is in "making holiness and the Christian life attractive, beautiful and relevant" for both adults and the delighted youngsters who explore Narnia.

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Sunday.....4 pm Friday
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Wednesday.....2 pm Tuesday
Thursday.....2 pm Wednesday
Friday.....1 pm Thursday
Saturday.....1 pm Friday

100 Announcements

200 Employment
300 Financial
400 Education

500 Real Estate For Sale

600 Real Estate Rentals
700 Agriculture
800 Merchandise

900 Recreation

1000 Transportation
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2500 sq. ft., 4 bdrm., 2 bath w/ hot, mature landscape. \$159,000. 733-9004 or 490-0426

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5.25 acres located at 3634 N. 1100 E. Horsehead property, includes home, apartment, shop, 2 outbuildings. \$285,500. Shown by appt. only 530-869-2798

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Nice country home, 3 bedroom, 1 bath with shop and garage. \$175,000. No pets. \$136,900. + deposit. 208-366-2711 or 208-429-6176

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3		2			
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	4	6			3
			8	1	2
6	8				
	5				9

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2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2140 sq. ft. open floor plan, formal dining. \$203,000. Call 735-4192

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HARD #25

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for todays puzzle on page E-11.

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Custom 4 bed room, 4 bath home, 3900+ sq. ft., colored stamped patio, 18 high ceilings, cherry wood cabinets, granite countertops, intercom plus 7 acres with water and corrals. Much more to see!

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 • Gooding location
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 The home is perfect in every way. The floor plan 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, landscaped, fenced, sprinkler 2 car garage. Location one of the best in Twin Falls!
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 Will be happy days in this beautiful 3 bedroom manufactured home that has all been replaced in place for you. Great location with 2 car garage and sprinkler system.
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"COUNTRY ELEGANCE"
 Only begins to describe the many features of this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath family home. Custom floor plan, primary spacious rooms, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances. Formal dining room, sunroom, 2 car garage, custom hardwood floors, spectacular fireplace in a family room, large garage, master suite and more!
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NEED LOTS OF ROOM? HERE I AM!
 Large family home with over 2,400 sq. ft. Fourth level is unfinished for further expansion. Nice family room with wood burning fireplace. Four bedrooms and two baths eat in kitchen and good sized living room. Large corner lot in cul de sac. Near schools, future landscaping, sprinkler system, partially fenced, also room for RV parking
 \$140,000 ML#89219443
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-Good communication
skills.
-Ability to handle
multiple tasks,
work in a high en-
ergy environment
while managing
multiple deadlines.
People skills
include:
-Ability to work with
a variety of customers.
-Maintaining patience
and professionalism
while providing excellent
customer service.
-Bilingual a plus!

SALES and Business
Development
Manager. Launch your
career with the
leading direct
response of beauty
products. The ultimate
responsibilities
are to grow &
sustain profitable
sales by meeting sales
plans. MANAGER
will be key to im-
plementing AVON
field strategy which is
critical to the
achievement of
direct selling excel-
lence. They im-
plement AVON
strategies by re-
cruiting, motivating &
training AVON
Representatives &
in doing so, achieve
sales objectives.
They help the Rep-
resentatives
achieve personal &
career goals. AVON
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plus quarterly and
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-Benefit Plan
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Interested candidates
should email their
resumes to sales_@
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Reference 1F

BLACK ANGUS (1/2)
large framed, solid
mouth, bred to calve
Feb. 15" \$1,450
each. Scott 318-2988
BLACK ANGUS pro-
gram hollers, bred to
black bulls. Brown
Ducks Co. 934-5161
DUCKS (11)
live, \$8.00 each
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SALES
Full-time
Needed for busy
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Willing to train an
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We offer Excellent
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Join Our Team.
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WAREHOUSE Local
Delivery, FT. Join our
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Offering benefits, ad-
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wages. Must have a
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DOT/air medical card.
Please bring current
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HEIFER 1 1/2 years.
Good for bulcher.
Organically grown.
\$2.00 lb. 359-0983.

SALES
South Idaho Press
has an opening for a
Qualified Sales
Representative.
Full-Time, base plus
p/k commission,
Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm.
Job Requirements:
-H.S. Diploma req.
-Minimum typing
speed-45 wpm.
-Excellent computer skills.
-Accurate spelling
-Good communication
skills.
-Ability to handle
multiple tasks,
work in a high en-
ergy environment
while managing
multiple deadlines.
People skills
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ESTABLISHED Body
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\$25,000. Call 208-
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401 School Instruction
CLASSIFIEDS
It pays to read the
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Call The Times-News
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701 Livestock/Poultry
ANGUS 5 head of
registered cows, 2-
6 years old. A.J.
208-734-4861
Jen. Call 208-539-
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BLACK ANGUS (1/2)
large framed, solid
mouth, bred to calve
Feb. 15" \$1,450
each. Scott 318-2988
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PRODUCE
Jerome 324-4345
Advanced
Conignment
Tue., Dec 6th 05
450 head 500-
700 4 weaned
yearlings all ages &
sexes included.
100 head light
300-450 5 steers &
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100 head med 350-
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BUSHEL GRAIN BIN
20,000. Delivered to
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BIRDS SINGING \$400,
Green Cheek parrot,
\$300. Med size parrot
\$200. All with cages
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CORRALS for rent.
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in the beautiful Heger-
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Lots of space for hay
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703 Horse and Tack
4 FOOT SHOENING
Accepting new clients.
Will trim miniatures
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CYRSEDALE gelding
pl. 3 year old, broke,
excellent color and
markings. Must see
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HORSE - BOARDING,
covered run with ac-
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Have cattle and buffal-
lo. Call 208-324-5129.

HORSE TRAILER '94
WV, straight load 2
horse, good condition,
\$1,400. 208-366-2584

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Ready 12/14 \$350 ea.
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solid white, shots,
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\$4,980	\$7,880	\$8,980	\$9,980	\$12,980	\$18,980	
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\$6,780	\$7,980	\$8,980	\$10,980	\$14,980	\$20,980	
2000 FORD ESCORT 4DR SE AUTO • POWER WINDOWS • 4 CYLINDERS #1234U	2000 FORD WINDSTAR VAN THIS IS A NICE ONE! • ONLY 72,000 MILES! #1234V	2002 SUZUKI VITARA 4X4 4X4 4 CYLINDERS • AUTOMATIC • CD • TRUCKS 1500 #1234W	2000 TOYOTA COROLLA CE AUTO • AIR • SUPER NICE! #1234X	2004 TOYOTA COROLLA LE AUTO • 4 ALLOY • 1500 • 4 ALLOY • CD • TRUCKS 1500 #1234Y	2000 MERCEDES E 320 SEDAN LEADER • 4X4 • 4 ALLOY • CD • TRUCKS 1500 #1234Z	2002 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 4X4 • AUTO • 4 ALLOY • CD • TRUCKS 1500 #1234AA
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\$6,880	\$8,990	\$9,980	\$11,880	\$16,980	\$26,980	

*Prices Plus Tax, Title and \$125.71 Dealer Doc Fee. Vehicles Subject to Prior Sale. Specials End 12/05/05.

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Sudoku Answers:

3	4	1	8	7	2	9	6	5
5	2	6	1	3	9	4	8	7
8	7	9	4	5	6	3	2	1
9	5	2	7	1	3	6	4	8
6	1	3	9	4	8	7	5	2
7	8	4	6	2	5	1	9	3
4	9	5	3	8	1	2	7	6
1	6	8	2	9	7	5	3	4
2	3	7	5	6	4	8	1	9

821 Variety Foods And Services

BUFFALO ready for butcher, all natural no antibiotics. 324-5129.

822 Wanted To Buy

WANTED Any old ovens, pottery, pictures, Indian items, Lewis, horse tack, jewelry, quilts, tools, toys, and tokens. 208-324-4721 or 538-4721.

WANTED good used couch or sectional. Call 208-208-0589.

WANTED Kawasaki motorcycle, 750HZ, 500HP, (3) 1989-1975. Top price paid. Also finders fee. Call 208-208-0929

WANTED Old gas pumps or gas station items. Top money paid. Tony 208-866-0274

WANTED To buy a hat with Blue Lakes Spring Goods on it. Call 208-738-0870

WANTED TO BUY any Kawasaki 750 H2, Kawasaki 500 H1 or Kawasaki 400 S3 running or not. 208-326-4070 or 208-420-7547.

WANTED TO BUY books! I pay cash for old books, Western History, Children's, Literature, LDS, Military, etc. I travel to buy. Call 800-823-9124.

WANTED to buy Duck and goose leg bands. Will pay \$10 each. I will pick up. Call 208-934-5832 in message.

823 Medical Supplies

CPAP MACHINE RESMED S7, lightweight carrying case, 1" face mask, 1 nozasmak. Like new! \$750. Ask for Rick, daytime 404-1639, oves 324-0479

LIFT CHAIR Pride large size like new, dark beige. \$300. Call 208-733-9638.

824 Guns & Rifles

BENELLI auto, Super Black Eagle, 200, barrel 5, choice like new. Call 208-308-0317.

Why keep it when you don't need it. Sell those unwanted items in the Classifieds today. 733-0001

824 Guns & Rifles

BROWNING SS synthetic, 7mm, Remington mag. 45 ACP. Also findsers fee. Call 208-738-4576.

GUNS Randall auto 45ACP, stainless 5575, S&W 12 gauge, OUI \$600. Auto Quinrance M1911 ALI competition 45 ACP \$625, Desert Eagle 44 mag. \$900. S&S 7.25 Remington black and ammo \$400. D.U. Bonelli Nova new \$300. Call after 2:30pm 208-733-8924

REVOLVER like new, Dan Weston 357 mag, Interchangeable cylinders, 6" barrel included, \$400/offer. Call 208-490-1826.

REVOLVER, SW, K22, 6", blue, excellent. \$650. 208-734-3279.

825 Sporting Equipment

POOL TABLE Bricol, 5'x9' tour-nement, \$2,400/offer. Call Grant 731-9040

826 Garage Sales

2nd Annual (Holiday Gifts Unlimited) is here! Dec. 2nd & 3rd. Fri & Sat, 8am-3pm Between Costco & Evertson's off Poleline 1848 N. Harrison. Uniquely crafted items, scrumptious goodies and recycled treasure. Just waiting for you.

JEROME Fil & Sat, 8-5. Moving sale lots of everything. Antiques, bookshelves, kitchen items, furniture. Uniquely crafted items, scrumptious goodies and recycled treasure. Just waiting for you.

KIMBERLY Sat only 9am-1pm Indoor sale! Saddles, tack, toys, clothes, furniture & misc. 5 miles east of K-Mart, house on left.

TWIN FALLS Fil & Sat, 10am-4pm Christmas craft sale. Camp in where it is warm to find an assortment of wreaths, ornaments, arrangements and more. 297 Monroe Pl.

FILES

Indoor Filer Flea Market December 3rd (9am-5) December 4th (11am-4) Twin Falls Fairgrounds. 50 cent admission. Call 312-4900 Unique Christmas Gifts.

828 Garage Sales

TWIN FALLS Fri, Sat and Sun, 8-5pm. Huge, Heated garage sale! 4500 Hwy #19. 429 Locust St.

TWIN FALLS Sat, Dec. 3 9am-4pm. Indoor garage sale. Clothes, toys and misc. Lot for everyone! 801 2nd Ave. N. Magic Valley Fellowship Hall

001 ATVs

YAMAHA '87 4 new tires, 5 speed with reverse, electric start and shaft drive. Great condition, \$1,400. Call 208-543-5676.

002 Motorcycles

HONDA '94 CR500, exc shape, plus all the gear, \$1500. Call 208-731-7939.

KAWASAKI '02 KX65 Pro Circuit type and silencer, flambal bars, and twin air filters. Call 208-324-7148

SUZUKI '95 RMK 250. GREAT CONDITION. Pipe, new tire, low hours, \$1700, take it home for Christmas. Call 208-731-2139.

WANTED Kawasaki (3 cyls.), Suzuki (31750), Honda (81500), Yamaha (1950) 1975. Top price paid. 208-280-0929

YAMAHA '04 YZ85 Pro Circuit type and silencer, flambal bars, triple clamps, twin air filter & Yamaha '00 YZ80 FMF type & silencer. Call 208-324-7148

003 Boats And Accessories

BASS TRACKER '85 17 ft., Now 60 hp Mercury, new accessories, \$3,000 or best offer. 208-423-5203.

BOAT 14' aluminum, with accessories \$500. Call for more info 731-2353 or 326-6578 leave message.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

"No gentleman has soup at lunch."

— Lord Curzon

Julian Potage's "Win the Big Match" (available from www.sterlingpub.com) is a worthy heir to Hugh Kelsey's challenge matches. If you can crack his problems, you should feel pleased with yourself.

West's opening bid and her lead of the spade six against your three-no-trump contract tell you that West has the two high hearts and the diamond ace. So, if you win the first trick with your spade queen and play a heart (best), West will win and knock out dummy's spade king. You are then down to one spade stopper while West still has two aces left as entries.

Another idea would be to duck the first trick if spades were 6-1. East would presumably switch, probably to a diamond, and if you could guess who had the jack, you would be safe.

However, assuming West would lead the spade jack from J-10-9, do not run the opening lead to your hand. Instead, win the first trick in dummy. Now when West gets in with a heart, she can do no better than to play a spade no-bid, and you allow East to win the trick.

When East shifts to the diamond nine, you rise with the king, a play that gains if West has both high diamonds and loses only if West has ace-third of diamonds. As the cards lie, you will lose just one diamond if you guess the suit correctly, thus bringing home nice tricks. The point is that West has only one heart entry left, but two spade honors to knock out.

NORTH 12 A

▲ K 4
♥ J 9 7 3
♦ 10 7 3
♠ A K Q 2

WEST

▲ J 9 7 6 2
♥ A K G 2
♦ A J G
♠ 10 5

SOUTH

▲ A Q 8 5
♥ Q 10 5
♦ K Q 5 4
♠ 8 3

Vulnerable: North-South

Dealer: West

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	1♥	1♠	Pass
2♠	3NT	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Spade six

BID WITH THE ACES

12 3 4

South holds:

▲ A Q 8 5
♥ Q 10 5
♦ K Q 5 4
♠ 8 3

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass

ANSWER: Jump to four spades. Your partner's three-club bid is a try for game, typically based on club length and asking you to evaluate your hand in the context of the auction thus far. Here you have decent values, good trumps, and a useful doubleton club, so bid game.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bbbw@willtoyota.com or call 733-0001.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

NEEDS SOME SUGAR

SWF, 48, loves walks, picnics, hot tubbing, cuddling on the couch, seeking SW/MH, 36-54, Hollister #294241 @ SemiSuite

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

SF, 39, mother, loves easygoing, soft-spoken, likes camping, fishing, family times. Looking to meet a light-hearted, child-friendly man who wants to share friendship, fun times, and a possible LTR. Burley #272646

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

SWF, 55, N/S, now to the area, likes to ride bikes, read, swim, wants to meet kind, considerate, honest SW/M, 58-70, N/S, Hollister #773734

SEEKING SPECIAL SOMEONE

I'm looking for that special person to be with me. Like the outdoors and someone to cuddle up with. Someone who isn't shy, likes to go dancing and movies. Hollister #037364 @ casu78

SEEKS FUN AND MORE

SWF, 51, outdoorsy type, was doing out dancing, laughs. Seeking a nice guy, 45-60, for romance, fun, maybe LTR. Albion #210168 @ DebWYhobop1

SLEEPLESS IN TWIN FALLS

SWF, 40, seeks educated, athletic, intelligent, kind, humorous, emotionally/financially secure gentleman for LTR. Must be communicative, enjoy outdoors, horses, dogs, animals, family life. Kimberly #2506711

SEEKING GOOD FRIEND

Attractive SF, 49, 5'4", 130lbs, Cancer, likes dancing, seeking open, honest SM, 45-55, to boyfriend and develop a relationship. #268667

HARD TO FIND A GOOD ONE?

Independent SWF, 28, N/S, hard-working, mother of one, N/S, fun-loving, likes to dance, ride dirt bikes, try new things. Seeking a real SW/M, 26-40, for dating, maybe more. Greenwood #248845 @ crackr27

CHRISTIAN LADY

Very fit SWF, N/S, loves working out, the Lord, going to Mass on Sundays, nature, animals. Would like to meet an open-to-rental gentleman, 53-63, who enjoys similar things. Hollister #539733

ARE YOU THE ONE?

SF, 27, 5'8", Leo, smoker, blond/hazel, seeks man, 18-30, smoker, who really needs a friend. Hollister #292003

REAL FUN

DWF, 29, N/S, new to area, loves road trips, camping, sports activities. Looking to meet a motivated man, 30-45, for friendship, maybe more. Hollister #280734 @ draya

BORED IN TWIN FALLS

SWF, 48, looking for someone who knows how to treat a lady. I like camping, walking, fishing, gardening, movies, tennis, BIOD, etc. Seeking SW/MH, 37-55, Hollister #77799 @ ScoopieBunny57

INTERESTING & INTERESTED

SWF, 50, well read, outdoors gardening, like day hikes, hot springs, picnics, movies, your cooking and conversation. Seeking SW/M, 47-55, non-smoker. Burley #272256 @ katy543

WAITING 4 THE PERFECT GUY

Fun SWF, long blonde hair, big green eyes, loves the outdoors, camping, fishing. Looking to meet a SW/M, 28-38, who's sexy and fun, to share good times, possibly LTR. Hollister #752014 @ bawd002

CAN'T WANT 2B WITHOUT U

SWF, 38, very active, lifestyle! but appreciate quiet times, love kids of all ages, snowmobiling, camping, traveling, heart-to-heart talks. I'm a caregiver to a family I love to be loved. Hollister #269531 @ skidooahhoo

LOOKING FOR FRIENDS

Someone who enjoys the things I enjoy, like country western music, blue jeans, horseback riding, spending time with kids and grand kids. I'm laid back, out spoken and independent. Hollister #2802581 @ 730993

ONE WOMAN MAN

SWM, 58, 5'10", 150lbs, clean-cut, N/S, easygoing, hardworking, likes movies, dancing, Country music, outdoors, camping, seeking fun SWF, 48-58, slender, for friendship maybe more. #2651957

LOOKING!

SWM, 53, kid-at-heart, laid-back, enjoys drives in the mountains, thunder storms, fishing, hunting, gardening, snow dancing, fun. Seeking SF, 40-55, N/S, to share my interests together. Poppon #264038 @ wlye

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

SWM, 54, enjoys outdoors, hikes, bike riding, exercises, doing about anything. Seeking SF, 47-57, to share same activities. Hollister #247528 @ onthevernee

BURLEY MAN

SHM, 21, Leo, N/S, loves to fish, camp, and play video games. Seeking an attractive woman, 18-29, to have fun with. Burley #2654545

HOW ABOUT ME?

SWM, 62, hard-working, lives the outdoors, enjoys riding, snowmobiling, occasional nights out. Seeking happy, sincere lady who loves animals and the great outdoors. friendship/relationship. Murtaugh #743399

A BLAST TO BE AROUND

SWM, 38, likes rodeos, sports, loves to make people smile, would like to meet similar SF, 24-38, who is independent, attractive, and smart. #2675115

DISNEYLAND DAD

Malo, 32, 6'1", 170lbs, fairly attractive, very busy, with 2 sons, seeks woman, 18-35, for dating or more. Fairfield #2781403

MAKE IT HAPPEN

SWM, 21, 5'11", average build, Sagittarius, N/S, seeks WF, 18-30, N/S, just as a friend. Curry #2756992

LET'S HANG OUT

SWM, 20, looking for SF, 18-24, who enjoys walks, outdoors, snowboarding, video games, dancing, eating out, and trying new things! Hollister #247697 @ skulld466

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU

SWF, 20, looking for SF, 18-24, who enjoys the same, for late dates, friendship and more. Hollister #2650460

NOT THE SAME OLD...

song and dance SHCM, 35, taller of 5, Scorpio, N/S, enjoys dining out, playing drums, and barbequing. Seeking woman, 20-29, N/S, for possible LTR. Kimberly #2610669

TIRED OF GAMES, ETC?

SWM, 39, very romantic, like to cuddle and give massages, do not lie, cheat, or play games. I enjoy the outdoors, listening/playing music, going out. Seeking SF, 18-45, Hollister #264717 @ twinfallemans3301

CALIFORNIA TRANSPLANT

Health-conscious SM, 25, student, likes music, 4-9, street bikes, family time, horseback riding, acorn movies, and more. Seeking an outgoing, open, commitment-minded female who has a good time. Hollister #792121

LOVES LONESOME!

I love the outdoors, dining and movies. I want a companion for social activities and someone to help with. Hollister #280258 @ orphanednwin

WAITING FOR YOU!

I'm a young athletic male, I love to watch sports, fishing, hunting, and more. I'm an older woman, but knows what she wants. I'm down-to-earth and outgoing. Hollister #26266 @ ba11s

AVAILABLE 4 U

SWM, 49, 5'10", N/D, N/S, 160lbs, self-employed, easygoing, outdoors, love to barbecue, seeks SF, 40-52. Call me we may have something in common. Appleton #232547

TRY SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN

SM, 43, likes country music, camping, nature, laughing, going around, having a good time. I love my son, my country, and my life. Seeking SF, 25-35. Hollister #778506 @ Draker

LOCAL TRUCK DRIVER

W, 62", 165lbs, likes fishing, camping, cooking, the mountains, quiet times at home and time with a significant other. Seeking WF, 35-55, for dating, more. Looking to LTR. Hollister #263262

WORTH A TRY

SHM, 28, 5'10", 160 lbs, likes dancing, having fun, walks, family times. Seeking child-friendly lady who likes camping, nights out, good talks and fun, to share lasting friendship, possibly more. Gooding #249116

SEEKING ATTRACTIVE FEMALE

SM, 41, father of one, easy-going, moves, good conversation, seeking attractive SF, 30-35, w/ great personality, who is not afraid to speak her mind. Hollister #23276 @ Gerolim01

SEEKS PRETTY CF

WM, 52, 6'4", weightlifter, enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, church, animals, cruising in my muscle car. Seeking pretty Christian lady, 30-50. Twin Falls #265620 @ jay

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND

Simple, easygoing, affectionate SWM, 45, likes fishing, hunting, snowglobe, laughing, BIOD, etc. Seeking similar lady to share friendship, fun, special times, possible LTR. Hollister #2818128

OWNER NOT A FIGHTER!

SM, 30, like kids but not a fighter! want them, enjoys sports, outdoors, taking drives, seeking pretty lady, 25-35, to spend time with. Gooding #2638290 @ bigstrapper042003

A GOOD MAN STILL EXISTS

SM, 32, hard-working, active, enjoys simple times, golf, stock car, no mall shopping, simple times. Seeking similar child-friendly woman who knows how to enjoy life. Fairfield #2742631

PRETTY OPEN

Kind-hearted WM, 37, 180lbs, brown/blond, likes camping, fishing, outdoors, working out, hanging out with friends, BIOD, etc. Seeking similar outgoing WF, 18-36. Burley #2643856

WORTH YOUR CALL

Employed SM, 39, 5'8", 165lbs, brown/hazel, Leo, scroun, socially likes camping, fishing, long trips, cuddling, driving movies, sports, NASCAR. Seeking outgoing, spontaneous SF, 25-46, similar interests. Hollister #2634722

MR. WONDERFUL

Easygoing SM, 19, laid, handsome, dark complexion, enjoys working out, seeking outgoing SF, 18-19, who will treat me with respect and meet. Appleton #745020 @ J. town tiger

MAYBE IT'S YOU

Easygoing good-hearted, affectionate SM, 29, 5'7", long brown hair, nice smile, 170lbs, likes fitness, camping, fishing. Seeking kind, open-minded, loving SF with like interests. Burley #2767893

LET'S HAVE FUN!

I love outdoors, low camping, fishing, golf, bowling or a game in the mountains in the country side. I can be comfortable in the kitchen cooking a gourmet meal. Appleton #725132 @ artramer58

WORTH A CALL

SWM, 38, employed, easygoing, enjoys country living, looking to meet down-to-earth female who enjoys the outdoors, fishing, hiking, camp, 4-wheeling, to share and explore life with. Gooding #771773

TRY THIS ONE

Health-conscious SM, 25, student, likes music, 4-9, street bikes, family time, horseback riding, acorn movies, and more. Seeking an outgoing, open, commitment-minded female who has a good time. Hollister #792121

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LET'S TALK

SM, 21, 5'10", 210lbs, out going, fun, works construction, likes dancing, walks, camping, more. ISO active lady who enjoys the same. Hollister #2904445

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

Easygoing DWH, 60, 5'7", 140lbs, self-employed, N/S, likes country music, fishing, traveling, driving out. Seeking active SWF, 40-60, N/S, looks unimportant, must be honest, genuine and true. Friendship first, maybe LTR. Twin Falls #2016430

LOOKING 2 MEET NEW PEOPLE

I'm looking to meet current/new friends. Wanting to have fun, hang out and doing things together. Any interest contact me. Hollister #262945 @ hello 777

WORTH A CALL

SWM, 20, outgoing, caring, loves boating, fishing, looking for company, more. Seeking romantic, fun, spontaneous, loving, beautiful lady to share talks, quiet walks, friendship, and much more. Curry #2604576

WORTH A CALL

SWM, 29, 5'9", blond/brown, very muscular, attractive, looking for company, easygoing, adventurous female confident and independent, who loves life and knows how to live it to the fullest. Gooding #2822613

WORTH A CALL

SWM, 25, quiet personality, sincere, likes the outdoors, camping, mountains. Looking to meet a woman, 18-30, for friendship and maybe more. Burley #2814082 @ look 11c me

WORTH YOUR CALL

Employed SM, 39, 5'8", 165lbs, brown/hazel, Leo, scroun, socially likes camping, fishing, long trips, cuddling, driving movies, sports, NASCAR. Seeking outgoing, spontaneous SF, 25-46, similar interests. Hollister #2634722

PRETTY OPEN

Kind-hearted WM, 37, 180lbs, brown/blond, likes camping, fishing, outdoors, working out, hanging out with friends, BIOD, etc. Seeking similar outgoing WF, 18-36. Burley #2643856

WORTH YOUR CALL

Employed SM, 39, 5'8", 165lbs, brown/hazel, Leo, scroun, socially likes camping, fishing, long trips, cuddling, driving movies, sports, NASCAR. Seeking outgoing, spontaneous SF, 25-46, similar interests. Hollister #2634722

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