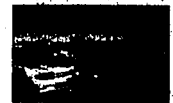


GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Mostly cloudy with slight chance of rain. High 46, low 31.
Page A2

COMING SUNDAY



Crashed

The five worst intersections in Twin Falls.

Miscarriage

The heartache, the coping, the effects.

WANTING ACTION

Developer gives Jackpot, Nev., an ultimatum: incorporate or else.

Page B8



Not EVERYBODY'S JESUS

The rest of the world's ideas about Christ are more different than you think.

Page C1

BATTLE FOR FIRST

The Shoshone girls played Dietrich Friday for the place in the Magic Valley Northwest Conference.

Page B1

TWO GENIES MOVED

Stanley is going to Sunday.

Page B8

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Job numbers fuel optimism

Unemployment rate drops again in Magic Valley

By Chris Balkin
Times-Herald writer

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley had much to do with Idaho reaching a record low unemployment rate in December. Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was a record 3.4 percent for December. That means 24,700 people were unemployed, the lowest number since July 1979, according to figures released Friday by Idaho Commerce and Labor.

The state's average annual unemployment rate dipped to 3.9 percent, the first time it's been below 4 percent.

"December was the best month and 2005 the best year I've ever seen for Idaho, and I believe 2006 will be even better," said Roger Madsen, director of Idaho Commerce and Labor.

National job growth slows.

See page B8

For the Magic Valley's part, the combined unemployment rate for Jerome and Twin Falls counties was 2.9 percent in December, meaning 1,499 members of the 51,278-member civilian labor force were unemployed. That's down a full percentage point from December 2004.

"In an economy of this size, that's really remarkable," said

Unemployment rates

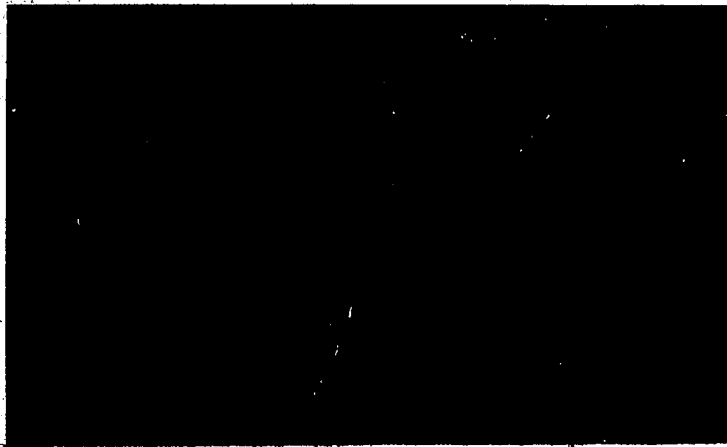
	Jan. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005
Blaine	13,814	2.5	2.4
Caracas	643	2.6	4.5
Castilla	9,494	4.2	5.0
Gooding	8,248	2.3	2.9
Jerome	10,749	2.5	2.9
Minidoka	8,975	5.5	6.2
Twin Falls	40,523	3.0	3.2

Greg Rogers, Twin Falls-based regional economist with Idaho Commerce and Labor. "Construction, retail hiring, the technology sector (and light industrial), all of those types of em-

ployers have done pretty well." Retail hiring was strong in the Magic Valley over the holidays and the number of construction

Please see JOBS, Page A2

SKY WONDERS



The last year of the farming can didn't see crops like a peak. Farmers, working as hard as ever, in a positive view of the future.

MICHAEL THOMPSON/The Times-Herald

Firms get nod for second time on road plan

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — The Idaho Transportation Board on Friday affirmed the selection of Washington Group International and CH2M Hill to oversee Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's proposed \$1.6 billion "Connecting Idaho" plan, the biggest construction project in state history.

Boise-based Washington Group and Denver-based CH2M Hill also were chosen by the board Oct. 27.

The board reconsidered after federal officials questioned that decision, concerned that board members used the companies' political ties to Idaho to justify their choice.

The panel is scheduled to finalize the decision Jan. 16. Stephen Moreno, the Federal Highway Administration's district manager in Boise, said he's satisfied the outcome is fair.

"I'm OK with it," Moreno said Friday. Washington Group and CH2M Hill will oversee an estimated 100 contracts to improve 258 miles of Idaho highways. The project calls for safety improvements to Highway 95 and a new bridge over the Snake River at Twin Falls. Idaho plans to sell bonds to finance construction now, then repay the debt with future federal highway money.

Kempthorne has staked his reputation as an architect of Idaho's economy on his "Connecting Idaho" program. He vetoed eight bills in April, stalling the Legislature until state

Please see ROAD, Page A2

Parents of slain son say they feel no anger

Missionary loved his work

The Associated Press

BOUNTFUL, Utah — When Mark and Kathy Young spoke to their son, Morgan Young, the Mormon missionary said they wanted to extend his time spreading the word of his faith rather than return home as scheduled in March.

"He didn't want to come home," Kathy Young said at a news conference Friday. "He's the very best we've had. I want to stay here. He wanted to extend his mission for another two years."

The 21-year-old was shot to



Kathy and Mark Young, the parents of slain Mormon missionary Morgan Young, speak to the media in front of their home on Friday in Bountiful, Utah.

death and his missionary companion, Joshua Heidebrink, 19, was wounded Monday night in Chesapeake, Va., where they were serving proselytizing missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Police are investigating the possibility the young men, who had been going door to door, were shot because they had witnessed another crime.

Speaking from their front yard — adorned with red wood-

en hearts by neighbors — the Youngs thanked those who have offered their prayers and support, particularly the people in Virginia who cared for them after they traveled there Monday night. Morgan Young died at a hospital at about 2 a.m. Tuesday morning, before his parents arrived, they said.

Mark Young said he's not angry at the man who has been charged in the shooting — "It's just sorrow," he said.

"The consequences of this are going to last for quite some time, and I think it's extremely unfortunate," he added.

James Rickey Boughton Jr., 19, was arrested Wednesday. He is charged with first-degree murder, malicious wounding, attempted malicious wounding and three counts of using a gun during the commission of these felonies.

Heidebrink's brother, Second, has said that Joshua Heidebrink and Young heard shots but started a man run up to them and started firing. The gunman fled.

Please see SLAIN, Page A2

Public favors Democrats in poll

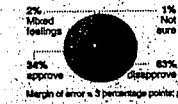
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In an ominous election-year sign for Republicans, Americans are leaning sharply toward wanting Democrats to take control of Congress, an AP-Ipsos poll finds. Democrats are favored 49 percent to 39 percent.

The poll was taken this week as Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty to tax evasion, fraud and corruption charges and agreed to aid a federal investigation of members of Congress and other government officials.

A majority of Americans disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job and 49 percent would like to see Democrats take control from Republicans.

Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Congress is handling its job?



SOURCE: Ipsos for AP

If the election for Congress were held today, would you want to see the Republicans or Democrats win control?



"If the Democrats had any leadership or any message, they could be poised for a good year," Bond said. "But in the absence of that, they have not been able to capitalize on Republican woes."

Congo suffering world's deadliest humanitarian crisis

The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — War-ravaged Congo is suffering the world's deadliest humanitarian crisis, with 38,000 people dying each month mostly from easily treatable diseases, a study published Friday in Britain's leading medical journal said.

Nearly 4 million people died between 1998-2004 alone — the indirect result of years of ruinous fighting that has brought on a stunning collapse of public health services, the study in the Lancet concluded.

The majority of deaths were due to disease rather than violence, but war has cut off or reduced access to health services for millions in the impover-

ished nation one-quarter the size of the United States.

Most deaths reported were due to "preventable and easily treatable diseases," the study said. Malaria, diarrhea, respiratory infections and malnutrition topped the list.

Major fighting ended in Congo in 2002 but the situation remains dire because of continued insecurity, poor access to health care and inadequate international aid. The problems are particularly acute in eastern Congo.

"Rich donor nations are miserably failing the people of (Congo), even though every few months the mortality equivalent of two suicides slanders

Please see CONGO, Page A2



IDAHO'S FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain showers. Lows in the 20s.

Monday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain showers and nighttime snow.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s.

Friday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s.

BOISE

Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the 40s. Lows in the 20s.

Temperature: High 45, Low 31

Precipitation: 0.00

Humidity: 65%

Barometric Pressure: 30.1

Sunrise and Sunset: Sunrise 7:50 AM, Sunset 5:31 PM

NORTHERN UTAH

Despite a chance of rain through week end, snowfall amounts are expected to be on the lighter side, but enough to put down some fresh powder for the slopes. Expect it to be a good weekend.

Temperature: High 45, Low 31

Precipitation: 0.00

Humidity: 65%

Barometric Pressure: 30.1

Sunrise and Sunset: Sunrise 7:50 AM, Sunset 5:31 PM

GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is no sin to attempt and fail. The only sin is to not make the attempt."

IDAHO'S FORECAST

City	High	Low
Boise	45	31
Idaho Falls	45	31
Malheur	45	31
Meridian	45	31
Moore	45	31
Shoshone	45	31
Twin Falls	45	31
Wendover	45	31
Yellowstone	45	31

REGIONAL FORECAST

City	High	Low
Boise	45	31
Idaho Falls	45	31
Malheur	45	31
Meridian	45	31
Moore	45	31
Shoshone	45	31
Twin Falls	45	31
Wendover	45	31
Yellowstone	45	31

NATIONAL FORECAST

City	High	Low
Boise	45	31
Idaho Falls	45	31
Malheur	45	31
Meridian	45	31
Moore	45	31
Shoshone	45	31
Twin Falls	45	31
Wendover	45	31
Yellowstone	45	31

CANADIAN FORECAST

City	High	Low
Boise	45	31
Idaho Falls	45	31
Malheur	45	31
Meridian	45	31
Moore	45	31
Shoshone	45	31
Twin Falls	45	31
Wendover	45	31
Yellowstone	45	31

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Microsoft Corp. shuts down Chinese blog that carried political content

BELLEVILLE, Mo. (AP) — Microsoft Corp. has shut down the Internet journal of a Chinese blogger that discussed politically sensitive issues, including a recent strike at a Beijing newspaper.

The action came amid criticism by free-speech activists of foreign technology companies that help the communist government censor the web. Microsoft said it was silencing dissent in order to be allowed into China's market.

Microsoft's web-hosting service shut down the blog of the Chinese government's request, said Brooke Richardson, group product manager with Microsoft's MSN online division company headquarters in Redmond, Wash.

Although Beijing has supported Internet use for education and business, it fiercely polices content. Filters block objectionable foreign Web sites and regulations ban subversive and pornographic content and require service providers to enforce censorship rules.

"When we operate in markets around the world, we have to ensure that our services comply with global laws as well as local laws and norms," Richardson said.

Richardson said the blog was shut down Dec. 30 or Dec. 31 for violating Microsoft's code of conduct, which states that users must be in compliance with local laws in the country in

which the user is based.

The blog, written under the pen name An Ti by Zhao Jing, who works for the Beijing bureau of The New York Times as a research assistant, touched on sensitive topics such as China's relations with Taiwan. Last week, he used the blog to crusade on behalf of a Beijing newspaper.

Reporters at the Beijing News, a daily paper known for its aggressive reporting, staged an informal one-day strike after their chief editor was removed from his post. The editor's removal and the strike attracted comments on Chinese online bulletin boards, which censors then erased.

Jobs

Continued from A1

Jobs has doubled to about 3,500 since last year, he said. The area also has added three new light-industrial employers in the last year: Hilco Poly Co., Jayco Inc. and Kleier Built LLC.

"Given the fact that home builders are telling me they're booked through (the fall) and consumer confidence is high, all of these things make me think '06 is going to be a pretty good year," he said.

However, the continuation of drought conditions, which would hurt agricultural businesses, could settle the bill, he said. But he noted that he has far more than he can handle.

Last month was nearly three times more than average, making it the fourth-worst December on record, according to the National Weather Service.

One thing the low unemployment numbers indicate is that local economic development goals to diversify the economy are working, Rogers said. And continued controlled growth across all sectors of the economy may be the key, he said.

Jan Rogers, executive director of the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization, said her organization is working with several companies interested in the Magic Valley.

"We sort of anticipated that we might see a little bit of a slowdown, but that actually has not been the case," she said.

"What we have seen is companies were talking to now — will certainly blend into the industry, and we have here — are not going to suck up jobs from one sector or another," she said.

Getting more employees to the area will be the key to continued growth, she said. To that end, SIEDO is working with 13 local companies on a workforce recruitment campaign, she said.

percentage point drop in the unemployment rate here meant nearly 600 more persons were reportedly unemployed in December from November.

Camas: The percentage point drop in unemployment here is primarily the result of the 141 industry. "Most of those jobs are Soldier Mountain Ski Resort and the convenience stores that serve the skiers," said Greg Rogers, Camas county executive for Idaho Commerce and Labor.

Camas County, at 643 people, has the smallest civilian labor force here among counties in the state.

Gooding: Unemployment dropped 5.5 percent between November and December, giving this county the lowest December rate among Magic Valley counties at 2.3 percent. Stable cheese production and dairy numbers also strong retail hiring for Christmas were keys, Rogers said.

Jerome: Holiday hiring at Wal-Mart and the stable cheese factory jobs were factors in this county's rate. Dropping a percent from November to December. "We've had more holiday hiring than in the past," Rogers said. There have been mostly retail and service sector hiring.

Assailants kill Pakistani forces in rocket attack

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Assailants armed with rockets and assault rifles attacked a newly built checkpoint near the Afghan border in Pakistan before dawn today, killing all eight security forces, officials said.

The attack happened in a village near Miran Shah, the main town in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region where Waziristan has deployed thousands of

troops and security forces in an effort to flush out remnants of the Taliban, al-Qaida and their local allies.

All eight soldiers guarding the checkpoint were killed, said a senior security official on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Another security official in the region, who also didn't want to be named, told The Associated Press

by phone that the slain troops had moved to the new checkpoint hours before the attack.

The Pakistani forces were backed by helicopters were trying to track down the assailants.

The checkpoint was set up this week as part of Pakistan's effort to stop insurgents from sneaking into Pakistan or going back to Afghanistan, where U.S. forces have been trying to root out rebels.

Slain

Continued from A1

and Heldbrink, who was shot first, ran to a nursing home for help.

Heldbrink is now recovering at home in Greeley, Colo., his family said in a statement Friday.

"Even in their time of extreme grief, (the Youngs) expressed their concern for Joshua and helped him feel better about the loss of his good friend. Our hearts are broken for their loss," the statement said.

The Youngs' faith in missionary work is unshaken.

She said two of Morgan's siblings will be of missionary age in the coming year and a half and that she would send them on missions for the church.

"They now are completely

dedicated to going on a mission," she says here and ... are not going to suck up jobs from one sector or another," she said.

Getting more employees to the area will be the key to continued growth, she said. To that end, SIEDO is working with 13 local companies on a workforce recruitment campaign, she said.

County reports
Blaine County: The tenth of

Road

Continued from A1

House members approved the project intended to create hundreds of new jobs and speed over-the-road commerce.

The contract, worth about \$5 million annually, is also due to Washington Group and CH2M Hill. Washington Group CEO Steve Hanks and a top CH2M

ferent character when it became political, when it became the subject of news stories," Hanks said. "I wanted to get involved."

Parsons Brinckerhoff also made another pitch, and again failed to win the contract.

The companies were scored based on overall experience, qualifications and their management plans.

Parsons Brinckerhoff's South Carolina-based operations manager, Jim W. von Loben Sels, said the company would abide by the board's decision.

"We disagree with the outcome," von Loben Sels said, but "we feel the process was fair and open. We had a chance to make our presentation and answer questions."

The company has withdrawn its lawsuit.

Congo

Continued from A1

summit, says that the country is backed by about 45,000 A.I.N. peacekeepers. Congo's government is struggling to re-establish law and order across the country later this year, the first in decades. Militiamen still roam huge swaths of the east, formerly controlled by several rebel groups whose leaders have been allotted top government posts.

The study was based on a survey of 19,500 households in the country of 60 million between April and July 2004. Health Ministry workers and staff of the Congo International Rescue Committee conducted the interviews.

The results showed Congo's monthly mortality rate was 40 percent higher than the average for sub-Saharan Africa — 21

deaths per 1,000 people, or the equivalent of 1,200 fatalities per 100,000 people, an astronomical average of 1.5 deaths per 1,000.

Mortality rates were highest in Congo's eastern provinces, which have been wracked by fighting and lawlessness for a decade. There, death rates were 93 percent higher than the sub-Saharan average, and the rate remains grossly inadequate, the report said.

"The survey is the fourth of its kind conducted in Congo, Africa's third-largest nation. The International Rescue Committee conducted three earlier surveys, the last of which in 2004 found that the death toll had claimed 3.8 million lives."

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NATION

Amid grief, investigators must wait for air in mine to clear

TALLMANVILLE W.Va. (AP) — As the victims' families made plans for the funeral, the mine-safety officials worked Friday to purge the Sago Mine of poisonous gases and allow investigators to determine what sparked the blast and how the miners spent their final hours.

Workers began drilling three ventilation holes into the mine. But International Coal Group chief executive Ben Hatfield said it could be days before the first investigators go in.

"There are so many things we don't know about what went wrong," Hatfield said. "We don't want to put any more people at risk until we know answers."

The Mine Safety and Health Administration appointed an eight-person team to investigate Monday's blast that killed one miner immediately and left 12 others trapped more than two miles inside. Only one mine was alive when they were found nearly 42 hours later, huddled together behind a plastic curtain excited to keep out deadly carbon monoxide.

Investigators said they are looking into all possibilities, including suspicions that lightning ignited naturally occurring methane gas or coal dust. Even before the blast, those were areas of concern at the mine, which had been cited for violations in 2005 regarding the ventilation plan to control dust and explosive gases.

The accident took place after the mine had been closed for the holiday weekend; the explosion was believed to have originated in an unused section of the mine.

Mine safety experts said gas can build up in a mine after just one day of idled operations, especially in the winter, when the barometric pressure drops. Also, the metal casings of abandoned natural gas wells above a mine can conduct an electrical current into the ground.

"If this is in fact a strike of lightning onto a well, gas or air that sits above an abandoned section of the workings, that well should have had a substantial barrier to avoid this," said David McCreer, who oversees MSHA during the Clinton administration.



Patil Gilberti, right, holds her daughter, D'orsi Gilberti, Friday in front of the Sago Baptist Church in Tallmansville, W.Va. They came to the church to pay their respects and make a donation to the families of the coal miners who died after a mine explosion.

"We've had lightning strikes cause accidents in mines, and they're very disconcerting because they do just what they go down and blow the seals out."

A federal report in 2001 documented at least seven instances in the 1990s alone of methane or coal dust being ignited by lightning, three of those in one mine in Alabama.

"I've heard those theories, but we have no concrete evidence one way or another," said Bob Friend, MSHA's acting deputy assistant secretary of labor for mine safety. "Nothing has been dismissed."

The investigation will involve interviews with dozens of people, including the approximately 13 miners who escaped, workers on previous shifts, and managers, Friend said.

The sole survivor's recollections could prove crucial. But 26-year-old Randal McCoy Jr. was believed to have brain damage from oxygen deprivation and remained in a medically induced coma Friday at the Pittsburgh hospital where he

was moved a day earlier to receive intensive oxygen treatments.

Dr. Richard Shannon suggested rescuers reached McCoy just in time, because it appeared that in his last hour or so in the mine, he lost the ability to sneeze and cough, and his lungs began to fill with coal dust and the low-flying gases as he lay on his side.

In hopes of jogging McCoy back to consciousness, his family planned to play the music of his favorite country artist, Hank Williams Jr.

The probe will also look at the miscommunication from rescuers inside the mine that led analysts to believe for three hours that their loved ones had miraculously survived. That period of confusion was reflected in 911 tapes, in which emergency workers were heard discussing the false report.

In what officials said appeared to be chatter between two ambulances, one emergency worker said: "You might as well just stand still right where you're at, Gary. They did find them, and they're all OK, I guess, so, I think we might be transporting them. I'm not exactly sure, but we're stuck right here."

When asked how many to prepare for, the other said: "Two, and they're bringing them out."

Singer Rawls dies at 72

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lou Rawls, the velvet-voiced singer who started as a church choir boy and went on to record such classic tunes as "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine," died Friday of cancer. He was 72.

Rawls died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he was hospitalized last month for treatment of lung, and brain cancer, said his publicist, Paul Shefrin. His wife, Nina, was at his bedside when he died.

Rawls' family and Shefrin said the singer was 72, although other records indicate he was 70.

Rawls' deep, smooth voice was his trademark, and he used it in a variety of genres.

"I've gone the full spectrum, from gospel to blues to jazz to soul to pop," Rawls once said on his Web site. "And the public has accepted what I've done through it all."

Rawls' grandmother introduced him to gospel in his hometown of Chicago. The singer moved to Los Angeles in the mid-1950s to join a touring gospel group, the Pilgrim Travelers.

After a two-year stint in the Army, Rawls rejoined the Pilgrim Travelers in Los Angeles, where he sang with Sam Cooke. Rawls performed with Dick Clark at the Hollywood Bowl in 1959, and he later opened for The Beatles at Crosley Field in Cincinnati.

Eat cheap
A tour of under-\$7 restaurant meals in Buhl and Hagerman.
—Wednesday
In Food & Home

Thank you for making our 60th Wedding Anniversary and my 80th Birthday so special. The letters, cards, pictures, gifts and notes you wrote gave us a lot of good memories to remember. Special thanks to Steve & Jo for having and hosting our celebration.

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Castelford tackles dogcatcher issue

CASTLEFORD — Collecting two of four votes cast by the Castelford City Council, Fanny Pettit was sworn into office at Wednesday night's meeting.

"The council had to appoint someone because nobody ran to fill the expiring term left by Herb Rumanan.

Pettit works at Buhls US Bank, holding loans and new accounts.

During the meeting, the council also decided not to extend a contract with the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department for deputy services.

The city's contract with the county expired in October, and it would have cost \$20,000 to renew. The city could afford only \$10,000.

"The problem is that the county cannot come into a municipality and enforce its ordinances without a contract with the county," City Clerk Patsy Kinyon said. "It is illegal."

The county had offered to provide dog-catching and city ordinance enforcement for \$10,000, but Castelford residents didn't want to spend the money.

"The consensus of the people is that \$10,000 is too much to spend on a dogcatcher," Mayor Rita Ruffing said.

The council is investigating ways to enforce ordinances without a deputy.

Buhl City Council will meet Monday

BUHL — The Buhl City Council will consider extending the curfew at Centennial Skate Park during its meeting at 7 p.m. Monday.

The council also will discuss leasing a vehicle for the Public Works Department.

The new mayor, Charles Sheridan, and council members, Reggie Finney and Steve Hightberger, will be sworn into office.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, 203 North Broadway Avenue in Buhl.

Auditions to be held for 'Pajama Game'

TWIN FALLS — The Dilettante Guild at the Methodist Church will hold auditions starting Sunday for its upcoming production of the musical "Pajama Game."

Tryouts are scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday and from 5 to 9 p.m. Monday at Immanuel Lutheran School.

Rehearsals will begin Tuesday at Morningstar Elementary School.

The cast includes adult women and teenagers, and auditions are open to anyone with or without previous acting experience.

For more information, call Sharon Warner, 735-7321, or Diane Stauffer, 324-2457.

'Beauty and the Beast' continues M.V. run

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley School for the Performing Arts' production of the Disney musical version of "Beauty and the Beast" continues this afternoon and tonight in Roper Auditorium.

Showtimes are 1 and 7 p.m. today. Performances also are scheduled Jan. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 14 at 1 and 7 p.m.

Tickets, which are \$10, are available at the Twin Falls Reformed Church, 1631 Grandview Drive.

The production is directed by Kim Kozel, with choreography by Michelle Williams.

"Beauty and the Beast," based on the 1991 animated Disney movie, features music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice.

Snowpack levels

Watershed **% of Jan. 1** **% of normal**

Galton	120%	62%
Six Wood	146%	85%
Little Lost	157%	87%
Six East	144%	81%
Little Lost	106%	44%
Hwyer Fork/Twin	128%	67%
Upper Snake Basin	122%	62%
Lower Snake	131%	64%
Balston Falls	118%	59%

As of Jan. 6

High court upholds malpractice settlement

BY SANDY MILLER
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Idaho Supreme Court has unanimously upheld a District Court ruling that awarded a local man more than \$500,000 after he lost the sight in his right eye after being treated for an injury by a local doctor.

"I'm glad about it," said Frank C. Newberry, 46, a custom toy boler who lives in Kimberly. "I'm not a sue-happy person, but I do feel the doctor was wrong in this case."

Newberry's attorney, Ken Pedersen, said the ruling also reaffirmed two important principles of law.

Newberry was working on a car one winter when he felt something hit his right eye, according to court documents. Feeling a burning sensation and experiencing blurry vision, he had someone drive him to the emergency room at the former Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital,

Developer urges incorporation of Jackpot

Triad Resorts tell town to 'free itself from dictatorship and no-growth stranglehold'

By John Seets
For The Times-News

ELKO — A resort developer is telling Jackpot, Nev., to incorporate and "free itself from a dictatorship and a no-growth stranglehold."

The comments included in a letter sent from Triad Resorts LLC to the Town of Jackpot Advisory Board, puzzled Elko County commissioners. The commissioners oversee the advisory board that governs Jackpot.

"We think some of the comments are downright false," said County Clerk Cleve Myers in the letter. Other commissioners

agreed.

Gene Frank, chairman of the Jackpot Advisory Board, said the letter was a "shock" for Jackpot's board.

"It left us speechless," Frank said. "The letter was probably out of frustration. I hope it is."

Frank said Jackpot's advisory board has no opinion on incorporation.

According to its Web site, Triad is planning a project for Jackpot that will include 300 condo-hotel units, a casino, restaurants, retail, a spa, an indoor waterpark, an events center and a recreational water park.

The project has encountered

obstacles, but Jerry Ward, a principal of Triad Resorts, declined to elaborate.

In Triad's letter to Jackpot's Advisory Board, Ward said Triad cannot build its project without financing extensive modifications to the Jackpot sewer system. He said the only avenue available for Triad to develop its property is for Jackpot to become an incorporated city.

The letter also said Triad would hire consultants to estimate the cost of improving the sewer system and prepare a petition for incorporation. If Jackpot's voters and the state of Nevada approve the incorporation,

Ward said Triad will fund the construction of improvements to the sewer and water system. He said Triad expects the city of Jackpot to reimburse it for funding the sewer and water infrastructure. If Jackpot incorporates, Triad will request that Jackpot's City Council approve permits for construction of the resort.

The letter further states that if the voters of Jackpot do not approve the incorporation of Jackpot, Triad "will pursue any other remedies available to us for the development of our properties."

Frank particularly didn't like

the letter's ultimatum.

"I don't go for threats," Frank told the commission. "I thought that was really out of line."

Frank said Triad has not yet demonstrated to the Jackpot Advisory Board that it has the money to follow through with its project.

"It is a lot of words, but no facts, figures or financing to support it," he said.

Myers said Elko County has traditionally had a good working relationship with the Town of Jackpot. Commissioners said they hope to continue conversations with Triad at a future date.

From trash to treasure

Rupert man turns junk into art

By Corree Hart
Times-News correspondent

RUPERT — He has worked full time at the Amalgamated Sugar Company plant in Buhl for 27 years, much of that in 12-hour shifts. Yet George Maas (pronounced 'mass') has always found time for creativity.

"I'd ask him how he could work 12 hours a day, and then spend four or five hours in the shop, and he'd say it related him," his wife, Dona, said.

Even in the no-nonsense atmosphere of the sugar factory, he has found moments that bring his day an extra sparkle. About five years ago, he had some downtime at work and started playing around with a plasma cutter. He cut out a small oak tree freehand.

"That was kind of fun," he said. So he tried a couple of other designs.

It wasn't long until he had bought his own cutter, a substantial investment. He turned his garage into a shop, and both car bays are now full of tools and equipment. A torch, welder, grinder and various saws each has its own place.

He met a man who was giving up the metal sculpture business, and bought out his approximately 20 tons of stainless steel and mild steel. His wife took one look at the first load of strange metal scraps and said, "You ain't putting that XTV in my yard."

Oh, well.

That was five years ago. Maas, 61, has been turning out metal art ever since. Dona now makes him keep every new piece he puts in her yard.

"Make no mistake. It is art. It is not crafts. Each work is unique. None of it is mass-produced. He once made things like moons and stars, but really didn't like them. Now he follows his own muse. He is a true western artist. His yard sports moose, elk, deer and cougars.

Granddaughter Abigail Maas, 6, says that anything



George Maas stands by a moose sculpture at his home in Rupert. Maas started creating metal sculptures five years ago. Inset: Maas creating metal sculptures.

does not use chemicals. He uses mainly stainless steel. There are no acids or chemical finishes.

He sells a lot of his work. It supports his habit, you might say. Some of it has found its way to France and to Canada. Word of mouth has become his best advertising.

He is currently doing a dozen different scenes that will be installed in a fence at

an estate in Salt Lake City.

Dona said she stands in awe of her husband's skills.

"He can draw stuff that's amazing," she said. "Free-hand, I'm just his support behind him. I can maybe trace something onto the metal for him."

Times-News correspondent Corree Hart can be reached at 436-1186 or by e-mail at jim@news@spokane.com.

Streaker was stolen between Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

Linda Thompson said she kept the 3-foot tall black colt in a corral near her home with three other miniature horses. She had trained the 7-month-old horse to be so gentle, "You could pick him up with your hands made him an easy target for a cattle rustler," Thompson said.

"He was going to be our little stud," she said. "We just want him back. I don't know why someone would want something like that."

The horse is valued at about \$2,500. Thompson said she is worried that the horse was sold or given to someone as a Christmas present.

"I just didn't know that horse rustling was still out there in Nevada," Thompson said. "He was my little buddy. I want him back. How safe is anybody if people can just drive up to your yard and take things?"

The Thompsons are offering a \$500 reward for information leading to Streaker's rescue. Tips should be directed to the Thompsons at (775) 750-1633. Tips also can be given to the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Division of Livestock Identification, (775) 738-8076.

"A horse thief is a horse thief, and that is pretty low down," she said.

Owners seek return of miniature black colt

By John Seets
For The Times-News

ELKO, Nev. — Former horse owners Larry and Linda Thompson continue to seek tips on the whereabouts of their miniature horse, Streaker, who was stolen from their ranch near Death.

Missing horse

What: Streaker, a 3-foot-tall miniature black colt looking for a home. He has no brand, tattoos or other marks. He is coal black and has a very thick winter coat.

Where: Stolen near Death, Nev. when missing since Nov. 30.

What to do: Direct tips to the owners, Larry and Linda Thompson, (775) 750-1633; or the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Division of Livestock Identification, (775) 738-8076.

WANTED in the Magic Valley

Name: Jim W. Rogers
Age: 55
Residence: 6 feet 2 inches tall, 135 pounds, brown hair, blue eyes.

Wanted for: Probation violation

Original charge: Possession of a controlled substance; bond \$20,000.

The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office asks anyone with information about Rogers' whereabouts to call 735-3314 or Crime Stoppers at 732-3367. Informants can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward.

A comprehensive list of health organizations, including the American Cancer Society, is available at www.magicvalley.com.

Idaho county to appeal dismissal of RICO lawsuit

Canyon County commissioners vote to pursue legal action

CALDWELL (AP) — County commissioners voted 2-1 Friday to appeal a federal judge's dismissal of their anti-racketeering lawsuit against local businesses accused of hiring illegal aliens.

"My resolve has not wavered. My belief is America is under attack from within and she must be defended," said Canyon County Commissioner Robert Vasquez, a Republican congressional candidate who spearheaded the effort to reclaim money the county says it spends on services for illegal workers.

U.S. District Judge Edward J. Lodge ruled last month that the county's "inflated" higher expenses for social services such as indigent medical care, schools and jails were simply the costs of being a government entity.

The lawsuit marked the first time a government tried to use the federal Racketeering and Corrupt Organizations Act to demand damages from businesses accused of hiring illegal employees. The RICO statutes traditionally have been used to prosecute organized crime.

Commissioner Chairman Matt Beebe voted against the appeal, saying he doubted the county would win in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. "My opinion is that Lodge's dismissal comes down to a number of technicalities," Beebe said. "I have a hard time seeing the county win in light of those technicalities."

But Commissioner David Ferdinand said he feared

Lodge's dismissal could eventually be used as precedent in similar lawsuits were brought by other local governments.

He said appealing the case would clarify what responsibilities counties and the federal government have in paying for medical care and other social services associated with illegal immigration.

"We're not sure what this appeal will do for others," said Ferdinand. "But what it will do for Canyon County is find out once and for all what the federal government will pay and when they will pick up the slack."

The county filed the lawsuit in July against four businesses: Syngenta Seeds, Sorrento Lactalis, Swift Beef and Harris Moran Seed, as well as against the former director of the non-profit Idaho Migrant Council.

The four companies, which together employ hundreds of people in Canyon County, were accused of knowingly hiring hundreds of illegal immigrants, partly through agreements with worker recruiting companies.

In dismissing the case, Lodge said the county's contention that the hiring of illegal aliens posed a "public nuisance" was not grounded in state law.

Canyon County attorney Howard Foster of Gaines said the appeal would argue that Lodge's decision was wrongly based on the municipal cost recovery rule, which states that governments cannot attempt to recoup the cost of being a government.

Albert Pacheco, the former

director of the Idaho Migrant Council and the only individual named in the lawsuit, said he expected the federal appeals court to reach the same decision as the district judge.

"I would hope that if residents of Canyon County feel that they are being treated unfairly and our tax dollars would continue to be spent on a matter that is baseless," Pacheco said.

Syngenta Seeds spokeswoman Anne Burt said the company was "disappointed with their decision to prolong this."

"We feel that Judge Lodge's ruling was clear," Burt said. "But we will continue to vigorously defend ourselves."

Syngenta has operated in Idaho for more than 90 years, she said, and its labor practices comply with state, federal and local laws.

"I guess the commissioners have to do what they think is right, but in this case they are right," said David Gunder, the vice president and general counsel for Sorrento Lactalis.

Richard Lessa, the Los Angeles, Calif.-based attorney representing Harris Moran Seed, said he was also disappointed that the board had decided to appeal the ruling.

Canyon County is largely agricultural and many of its Latino residents work in that industry. About 19 percent of the county's 131,000 residents identify themselves as Hispanic, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Boise airport seeks to improve landing system to avoid fog delays

BOISE (AP) — Officials at the Boise Airport say they hope to get \$3 million to \$5 million in federal funding to complete an improvement project that would allow airplanes to land in foggy conditions, avoiding the kind of delays that occurred last Thanksgiving.

"The system would allow planes to land with just 600 feet of visibility. Under the airport's current designation with the Federal Aviation Administration, most planes flying into Boise require at least 1,800 feet of visibility."

The airport installed some of the equipment for the system when runways were rebuilt in 1999, but needs the additional funds to complete the project. Most commercial airlines already have the necessary on-plane equipment.

Officials have been working for several years with airlines, the FAA, and Idaho's congressional delegation to obtain the funding, but the Boise Airport's not a priority because it's not

often foggy there.

The system already exists at airports in Portland, Eugene, Seattle, Spokane and Salt Lake City. FAA spokesman Alan Kenitzer said other airports have had better luck getting funding by having a member of Congress push for the money as opposed to having the FAA include the money in its agency budget. Other airports have also installed the system by getting money up front and then paying it back later.

"We're probably going to try them all," Lindsay Nathan, spokeswoman for the Air Force, told The Idaho Statesman. "The whole defunding will make an effort to find some funding for this project."

If the system were installed, pilots would be able to land in foggy conditions using a screen projected in front of the pilot in which the plane and landing gear would appear to be on the tarmac. It's similar to the screen on one of those Air Force pilot

training simulators. "We've been blessed in that we have great pilots who are getting funding for the new system at the Boise Airport has been slow in coming."

"We're pleased in that we have a great industry who are getting funding but it makes it harder to make our case," he said.

UI's new dean will earn more than president

MOSCOW (AP) — The state is paying the new dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Idaho more than it pays the school's president.

"I'm going to need to pay market rates so I can hire good people," said UI Provost and Executive Vice President David Baker. "You need to have good leadership to help an institution grow and get better."

Ela Elshabini was hired in December at a state salary of \$180,000. UI President Tim White is paid \$166,892. However, private donations boost Elshabini's salary to \$215,000, and Elshabini's to \$214,483.

The State Board of Education approved hiring Elshabini in a 4-3 vote last month. Millard Jernigan, UI's former president, had voted against the hiring because they questioned setting a precedent of high salaries.

But Baker said the school has to offer salaries that compete on a national or even international level.

"The labor market isn't just Idaho or the Northwest," he said. "It's a national or even international market for these kinds of jobs. We need good administrators and faculty."

He said that the average salary for a dean of engineering is \$215,622, based on a survey by the University of Alabama.

The Board of Education would like eventually to have a system where the state pays the entire compensation of university and college presidents and administrators without relying on donations or private funding, board spokesman Luci Willis told the Moscow-Pullman Daily News.

"Faculty are the lifeblood of an institution, and their compensation needs to be considered," Willis said. "The board is concerned about retaining faculty, an entity that they are paid competitively."

Willis said that \$180,000 in Moscow is different from a state of \$180,000 in New York or San Francisco.

"Part of the dilemma in attracting quality administrators is how low the cost of living is lower while opportunities are great in working at an Idaho institution," she said.

"The University of Idaho is also looking for ways to lead the colleges of education, business and economics; art and architecture; and letters, arts and social sciences. Boise State University and Idaho State University are also looking to hire new administrators and deans."

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3268 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."

Brenda Peterson-Dyson

TWIN FALLS — Brenda Louise Peterson-Dyson, 52, of Twin Falls, Idaho, died on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, from cancer.

She was born July 10, 1953, in Twin Falls, Idaho, and grew up in Murtaugh, Idaho, where her family farmed. She graduated in 1971 from Murtaugh, then continued her education at BYU where she obtained her education degree in home economics. After graduating from college, she was married in the Salt Lake Temple on Aug. 12, 1976, to Timothy Frank Dyson. Brenda was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and spent many hours in service as president and in the presidency of various auxiliaries, as well as Primary teacher and Young Women's instructor. She never said no to a calling, even when



she wasn't in the best of health.

She is survived by her beloved children, Emily Capps (Mike), Scott Dyson, Steven Dyson and Katherine Elise Dyson; and the light of her life, her granddaughter, Madison

Capps. She is also survived by her stepmother, Davis Peterson, who cared for her in her home for her last months; as well as brothers, Jeff and Doug (Lisa) Peterson; and sisters, Marlene (Marilyn) Norris and Jana (Randall) Pawlowick. She is preceded in death by her baby daughter, Elizabeth Anne Dyson; her adopted father, Robert C. Peterson; and her older brother, Robert Lee Peterson; as well as wonderful grandparents, who are all well-coming her way.

The funeral for Brenda will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, at the 7th Ward LDS Chapel, 847 Eastland Drive N. in Twin Falls, followed by interment at Sunset Memorial Cemetery. Friends and Family may call from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, at White Mortuary, 136 Fourth Street, before the funeral prior to the funeral Monday.

Gladys E. Nylander

Buhl — Gladys E. Nylander, age 97, of Buhl, joined an Heavenly Father and her husband, John, on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006, while at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Gladys was born April 27, 1908, in Lowell, Mich., one of five children born to Frank and Isabel Sanborn. Her education led her to a nursing degree, which was useful in caring for the many children throughout the years. She met her husband of 50 years, John, on a blind date set up by John's sister, Mary. They were married on Nov. 10, 1950, in Carson City, Nev. John's employment as an ironworker took them throughout the United States. They retired and settled in Buhl in 1976, building their own home and living there until the time of Gladys' death.

Gladys was a woman of many talents. She loved to paint, was a member of the Art Guild, worked at the Twin Falls



County Fair art booth, collected and made dolls, enjoyed reading Christian books and traveling. She was an active member of DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) and the Mayflower Society. She loved her church, Magic Valley Baptist, and enjoyed her fellowship at the Buhl Senior

Citizen Center, where she and an attended many memorable activities. Gladys will be greatly missed by her friends for her unique sense of humor and wit; her funny quotes and expressions were like no other.

She was preceded in death by her siblings and her husband, John E. Nylander. Survivors include her son, Howard, and Doreen Nylander of Greenville, Tenn.; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at the Magic Valley Baptist Church in Buhl. Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, at Farmer Funeral Chapel. Memorial donations may be made to the Magic Valley Baptist Church or Buhl Senior Center.

Charles High

GOODING — Charles High, 74, of Gooding, passed away Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006.

Chuck was born on March 18, 1931, in Gooding, Idaho. He retired and settled in Buhl in 1976, building their own home and living there until the time of Gladys' death.

Gladys was a woman of many talents. She loved to paint, was a member of the Art Guild, worked at the Twin Falls

where they started their family. They had four children, Sandra Marie, Ronald Elden, Craig Eugene and Jason Harvey. His profession and passion was driving truck — long haul, short haul, logging and livestock. He worked for Andy Auto, Andrews Trucking, Southern Idaho Transport, Basterosche Trucking, Reed Grain and Lea White Trucking. Chuck was preceded in death by his parents and two

sons, Jason Harvey and Craig Eugene. He is survived by his wife, Noreen of Gooding; daughter, Sandra; son, Ronald High of Gooding; granddaughter, Jennifer Grif of Boise; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at Demary's Gooding Chapel. Visitation for family and friends will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday at Demary's Gooding Chapel.

William R. Babbitt

PAKLEY William "Bill" Babbitt, 89, of Oakley, died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, at his home in Oakley.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at the Oakley LDS Stake Center, 301 N. Center, with Bishop Gary Lloyd officiating. Burial will follow in the Oakley Cemetery with military rites by the local veterans. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main Street in Burley, at 10 a.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Chapel, 710 Sixth St.

Keith W. Wiedenheit

BOISE — Keith W. Wiedenheit, 79, formerly of Rupert, died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006, at the Idaho State Veterans Home.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at the First United Methodist Church in Rupert, with Pastor Jerry Seely officiating. Interment will follow at the Rupert Cemetery. A viewing will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Hansen Mortuary Chapel, 710 Sixth St.

Elda Bigelow Brulov

BURLEY — Elda Bigelow Brulov, 87, of Burley, died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, 2006, at the Burley LDS Stake Center, 2050 Normal Ave., with Bishop Lance Loveland officiating.

The arrangements are under the direction of Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley.

Matthew Rasmussen

RUPERT — Matthew Sean Rasmussen, 22, of Rupert, died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley.

Lori Vaughn

SHOSHONE — Levi Vaughn, 85, of Shoshone, died Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, at his home in Shoshone.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demary's Funeral Service in Shoshone.

Ruth Finch

BURLEY — Ruth Finch, 70, of Burley, died Friday, Jan. 6,

DEATH NOTICES

2006, at her home in Burley. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Payne Mortuary in Burley.

Iva L. Burgess McCoy

TWIN FALLS — Iva L. Burgess McCoy, 78, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, at the Heritage Retirement Center.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Mae D. Thompson

GOODING — Mae D. Thompson, 83, of Gooding,

died Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, at the Shoshone Rehabilitation and Living Center in Shoshone.

A memorial service will be arranged later. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Demary Funeral Service in Gooding.

Juan Lopez

TWIN FALLS — Juan Gilberto Rendón Lopez, 49, of Twin Falls and recently of Blythe, Calif., died at a hospital in Indio, Calif.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

SERVICES

Thomas Franklin Wright of Buhl, funeral at 10 a.m. today at Farmer Funeral Chapel; viewing one hour before the funeral.

Robert (Bob) Le Breton Balch, formerly of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Rupert Methodist Church (Hansen Mortuary in Rupert).

Glen A. Taylor of Wendell, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Wendell LDS Church; viewing from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Demary's Wendell Chapel).

Archle "Dick" Miller of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the LDS 2nd Ward chapel, 223 Park Ave.; viewing one hour before the funeral at the church (White Mortuary).

Dorothy Goldberg Martin of Burley, funeral at LDS 13th Ward chapel, 421 Maurice St. N. (Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home).

Esther Rynerson of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. today at White Mortuary.

Alan Wayne "Chappy" Chapman of Winnemucca, Nev., memorial service at 1:30 p.m. today at the American Legion Hall, 447 Seaman St. (off Rustler Drive South) in Twin Falls; celebration of Alan's life from 2 to 4 p.m. today at the legion hall (Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Norma C. (Weaver) Smarthead of Buhl, funeral at 2 p.m. today at the Farmer Funeral Chapel, 130 Ninth Ave.

N.; visitation beginning at noon today at the mortuary.

Leona Bess Melina of Raft River, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley; friends and family may call one hour before the funeral at the mortuary.

Mallon Arlin Barlow of Apple Valley, Utah, and formerly of Jerome, funeral at 2 p.m. today at the Hurricane LDS Church, 274 S. 100 W. in Hurricane, Utah; friends may call one hour before the funeral at the church (Heldeman Mortuary in St. George, Utah).

Walter Reyes of Paul, memorial service at 3 p.m. today at the lower boat launch at the Mindkoda Dam; in case of inclement weather, call 438-5194 Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

Joseph Paul Maccarrillo Jr. of Hilly, funeral at noon Monday at the Lighthouse Room in Sun Valley (Wood River Chapel of Hilly).

Joyce Anne Olson of Jerome, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls; viewing from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday and one hour before the funeral Monday at the mortuary.

Melvin DeMar Madsen of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at the Rupert LDS Stake Center, 294 W. 100 S.; viewing from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Monday at the church.

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

ACROSS

- Errand runner
- Raise crops
- Tator
- Idolize
- Moses of baseball
- Fit as a fiddle
- Working out last details
- Whodol: Lat.
- Mexican city
- Watch for the cops, maybe
- Strode
- Past spouses
- Trembles a little
- Kind of seat
- Cadged, as a smoke
- Lotion additives
- Smack units
- Beet au
- Wildbeasts
- Warms up
- Quasi-religious group
- Quentin
- Divine Comedy poet
- Incurtion
- Works out
- Wetsoy city
- Really arid
- Tony winner
- Neuwirth
- Having no principles
- Air compressed
- Al rifle ammo
- Mrs. etc.
- Feature of some hotels
- At that time
- Close by
- Name of fame among victors
- Bridge position
- Ice cream brand
- Showy display

DOWN

- Fishing hook
- Mutt of Garfield's jokes
- Winkler role
- Period
- Takes it easy
- Unnerves
- Landed
- By or Howard
- Politically neutral ones
- Save for later
- Unfair trial panel
- Digestive-system malady
- Tile papers
- Cynic's sport
- Infants
- Scrapes (by)
- Rather more than less
- Catches
- Forearm bone
- Determine number present
- Babysitters' banes
- Pitcher McLain
- City of Russia
- "Mr. Roboto" band
- Kind of fracture
- Fruit center
- 39 Arp's art
- 40 Creator of bejeweled eggs
- 42 Let again
- 43 "Jay-walking" device
- 44 Sew loosely
- 45 City near Boys Town
- 46 Conversation hogs, often
- 48 June 6, 1944
- 49 Cotton flower
- 50 Gauch's device
- 51 Bank opening
- 54 Actor Beatty
- 55 Poi's provider

1/7/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	A	T	E	B	A	J	A	G	I	Z	A
P	O	B	O	X	A	B	U	T	O	D	I	C
A	D	E	P	T	R	E	N	T	B	O	N	E
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Lawsuit seeks more habitat for threatened bull trout

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Two Montana conservation groups have filed a lawsuit demanding the Bush administration restore cutbacks in critical habitat for the bull trout, a threatened species whose demands for clean and cold water conflict with logging and mining.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in U.S. District Court by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies and the Friends of the Wild Swan.

It is the latest development in a seven-year struggle over how to rebuild populations of the bull trout in five Western states.

At stake is how many miles of waterways the government will regard as critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act under the bull trout, a type of char that was designated a threatened species in 1999 due to loss of habitat.

The lawsuit argues that when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cut bull trout critical habitat by nearly three quarters in 2002, the agency left the fish without enough protected waterways to carry out its spawning migrations, and ignored the advice of its own scientists.

"The best chance that bull trout have for survival and recovery is to ensure that these fish can migrate," said Arlene Montgomery of the Friends of the Wild Swan. "This rule does not provide that connectivity."

At the time, Fish and Wildlife said the critical habitat did not need to be so extensive, because large areas were already protected under other federal land designations, such as the Northwest Forest Plan.

Agency spokeswoman Joan Jewett said the agency doesn't comment on pending lawsuits.

The Endangered Species Act demands that critical habitat be designated for all threatened and endangered species. The Bush administration has been slow to make the designations, and has been cutting back critical habitats already in existence, arguing that critical habitat is less important for restoring a species than designation as threatened or endangered.

If any federal action is proposed within critical habitat, such as a timber sale or approval of a mining claim on a national forest, federal biologists must be consulted on whether it will jeopardize the survival of the species. If the action would harm the species, it cannot go forward.

Measuring pollution improvement at Grand Canyon to take years

PHOENIX (AP) — Scientists at the Grand Canyon say they'll spend the next several years measuring air quality to see if the closure of an aging coal-fired power plant improves the views.

The Mohave Generating Station near Laughlin, Nev., closed Dec. 31 rather than violate a court-ordered deadline to install pollution-control measures estimated to cost \$1.1 billion.

The plant opened in 1971 and has been blamed for degrading the views in the western Grand Canyon.

"More than any other park, people go there for the scenic views," said Mark Wenzler, director of the clean air program for the National Parks Conservation Association. "It's amazing how much those views are muted by the pollution."

Carl Bowman, an air quality specialist for Grand Canyon National Park, said changing weather patterns are the reason it'll take so long to adequately measure the difference in pollution with the plant shutdown.

"With a pollution contribution of that size, the weather conditions may accentuate or mask it. It'll take anywhere from 3-5 years to really see what the trend is."

Under a 1999 consent decree won by environmental groups, the 1,580-megawatt plant was required to upgrade its pollution controls or close by Jan. 1, 2006.

The groups argued that the plant, about 100 miles south of Las Vegas, repeatedly violated the Clean Air Act and contributed to the dirty haze.

Under a 1999 consent decree won by environmental groups, the 1,580-megawatt plant was required to upgrade its pollution controls or close by Jan. 1, 2006.

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Settlement Officials leave river talks with 'agreement in concept'

Continued from A4

gued that the district court erred in allowing Leach, Newberry's expert witness, to present testimony that Martens' conduct breached the applicable standard of care. Martens did not contend that Leach was unqualified, but rather that Leach, an ophthalmologist, lacked actual knowledge of the standard of care applicable to family practice physicians. At trial, Leach testified he learned the standard of care by practicing alongside other family practice physicians. But Martens argued that Leach lacked actual knowledge because he (Leach) did not explicitly ask a family practice physician what the standard of care was in Twin Falls.

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Representatives for seven Western states that rely on the Colorado River said Friday that they are on track to meet next month's deadline for turning over a water-sharing proposal to Interior Secretary Gale Norton.

"I think the states have an agreement in concept on all the difficult points," said Pat Multry, Southern Nevada Water Authority general manager. "I am more than optimistic, that we will meet the Feb. 2 deadline."

Again, the Idaho Supreme Court upheld the district court decision.

"The district court used reason and acted within the boundaries of its discretion..." in coming to its conclusion, said the opinion written by Justice Roger Burke, a former 5th District judge in Twin Falls.

And that reaffirmed a second important principle of law, Pedersen said.

Officials from the seven river basin states spent nearly two days behind closed doors trying to compromise on a drought management plan that will pass federal muster, Norton has said she wants the new plan in place by the end of 2007. If the states want a say in the process, they have to submit their own plan by early next month.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WROPE

DITAU

ETORP

NUPREY

Answer here: _____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: CREEK DECAY FOSSIL CURSUS
 Answer: What the fashion designer turned into when the storm hit — A "SLICK" DRESSER

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Israeli leader remains in critical condition

Ariel Sharon underwent additional surgery Friday to stop bleeding and relieve pressure in his brain. He will be kept in a medically induced coma for at least two more days.



1928 - Born to Russian immigrants in Kfar Malal north of Tel Aviv	1967 - Commanded infantry brigade in west with Arab states	1973 - Resigned from army but recalled for Yom Kippur War led crossing of the Suez Canal into Egypt	December - Elected to Knesset	1977-81 - Elected to Knesset again	1977-81 - Minister of Agriculture	1981 - Defense Minister	September 2000 - Visited holy sites in Jerusalem walked by Muslims and Jews; Palestinian riots escalated	Feb. 6, 2001 - Elected prime minister	September 2000 - Released from Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank	Aug. 17, 2006 - Began unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank	Nov. 11, 2006 - Putout fractured his tibia; Sharon formed centrist party, Kadima	Dec. 18 - Suffered mild stroke	Jan. 4, 2006 - Suffered massive stroke
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Sharon shows 'significant improvement'

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ariel Sharon underwent five hours of emergency brain surgery Friday that doctors said successfully stopped a hemorrhage and relieved swelling inside his skull. Officials said his condition showed "significant improvement" but experts said the prognosis remained unclear. Sharon's chief surgeon told The Associated Press it was too early to assess how much damage the prime minister suffered after two similar operations in many days. That determination will have to wait until at least Sunday, when doctors plan to step him off the drugs that are keeping him in a medically induced coma.

Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert took calls Friday from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, a sign that the Israeli government was moving ahead without its hard-charging leader. Sharon's Kadima Party said it would rally around Olmert, and a new poll showed Kadima emerging victorious in March 28 elections under his

Rice cancels trip due to Sharon's health

See page C5

leadership. Palestinian leaders, holding a parliamentary election of their own Jan. 25, said they were in touch with Israeli officials about Sharon's condition. "We are closely monitoring the situation," Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said.

Experts not involved in Sharon's care said he may have fallen into a coma by himself as a result of the massive hemorrhagic stroke he suffered Wednesday while en route to the hospital. In that case, Sharon might not regain consciousness when the drugs are withdrawn. Interaction with the patient is required to assess some aspects of brain function.

As the Sabbath descended on the Jewish state Friday, the vigil for the 77-year-old Sharon became increasingly somber. The Israeli leaders aides held a grim vigil at the hospital and elder statesmen Shimon Peres said he

was "very worried" about his old friend. At Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, Sharon's sons, Omri and Gidi, camped out in a room next to their father's at the neurological intensive care unit. Sephardic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar took to the airwaves to address Israel, which he said is a "land of prayer," Israel's other chief rabbi, Yona Metzger, said.

Shmuel Rubinfeld, rabbi of the Western Wall, said he perceived dozens of men praying for Sharon's health that he printed out and stuck in the cracks of the holy site. Callers from as far away as Venezuela and the United States asked for advice in praying for Sharon, he said.

Sharon was rushed into the operating room Friday morning after a brain scan indicated rising cranial pressure and further brain hemorrhaging.

Hospital director Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef said the new surgery Friday helped stabilize Sharon's condition. "Part of the blood clots that remained after the first operation were drained," he said. "At the end of the operation,

there is no active bleeding and the intracranial pressure has returned to normal."

Mor-Yosef said a comparison of brain scans before and after the surgery showed "significant improvement," but he did not elaborate.

The chief neurosurgeon operating on Sharon, Dr. Felix Umanovsky, said he came through the surgery well but was likely to have suffered damage.

"There is always some damage when you have cerebral hemorrhage," he said in a telephone interview. "We cannot assess the damage because he is under anesthesia all the time. We need to wait and see what will happen once we reduce the medication which keeps him under sedation."

Hospital officials said Sharon would remain in the medically induced coma until at least noon Sunday to give him time to heal.

It was unclear whether the new bleeding was from a second rupture of the same blood vessel that caused the original massive stroke or a break in another vessel, which would constitute a new stroke.

Fire destroys historic church

CHICAGO (AP) — Fire destroyed a landmark 1890 church Friday on the city's South Side that played a major role in the development of gospel music in the 1930s.

No serious injuries were reported in the blaze that engulfed the Pilgrim Baptist Church. The roaring fire collapsed the church's roof and gutted its inside.

Designed by the distinguished architect Louis Sullivan and his partner, the church was built from 1890 to 1891 and designated a landmark in 1981.

"It's like hearing a close relative has died or a good friend. It's heartbreaking," said Ned Cramer, curator of the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

A crew was working on the church roof just before the blaze, but authorities did not know what sparked the flames. Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford said.

The church had been undergoing \$300,000 in renovations for about three years, and the work was almost done, said Robert Vaughn, chairman of the church's trustees.

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New Orleans agrees to delay home demolitions

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The city agreed Friday to wait two more weeks before beginning the wholesale demolition of thousands of storm-damaged homes while a federal judge decides whether to hear a challenge from community activists.

However, the city reserved the right in the meantime to clear away perhaps 100 smallest homes that were pushed by the floodwaters into the streets.

The city says as many as 5,500 homes and businesses on the east bank of the Mississippi River may need to be razed because hurricane damage has made them unsafe. Mayor Ray Nagin has asserted that the city can demolish homes without the owners' consent if they pose an imminent danger to the public.

But community activists filed a lawsuit last month, disputing the city's has such authority.

Opponents of the demolition also worry that some residents have not had an opportunity to gather their belongings from their damaged homes, and that the demolitions would destroy black neighborhoods, marking the beginning of efforts to push out the city's black population.

A federal judge will hold a hearing Jan. 19 on the city's request to move the case from state court to federal court.

KING KONG Now Showing at the Twin & Jerome Cinema

Fun with Dick & Jane Now at the Twin & Jerome Cinema

Disney Family Fun CHICKEN LITTLE Now at the Twin Cinema

18 Kids, 1 House, NO WAY YOUR MINE & OURS Now at the Twin Cinema

Matinees Saturday and Sunday

Difficult Times for Harry Potter Now at the Twin Cinema

Ryan Reynolds Amy Smart just friends Now at the Odyssey 6 Theatre

Feel the Love Sarah Jessica Parker Luke Wilson Claire Danes Diane Keaton

the Family Stone Now at the Odyssey

Chronicles of Namia Now at the Twin Cinema

Memories of a Geisha Now at the Twin Cinema

Harry Potter Goblet of Fire Now at the Twin Cinema

Yours, Mine and Ours Now at the Twin Cinema

Johnny Knoxville The Ringer Now at the Twin Cinema

King Kong (13) in Digital Sound Now at the Twin Cinema

Cheaper by the Dozen 2 Now at the Twin Cinema

Murder (9) Daily 7:45 Now at the Twin Cinema

Grandma's Boy (6) Now at the Twin Cinema

Hostel (9) Daily 7:30 - 8:45 Now at the Twin Cinema

Fun with Dick and Jane (9) Now at the Twin Cinema

Eric Bana Daniel Craig Geoffrey Rush

Steven Spielberg Presents **MUNICH** Now Showing at the Twin Cinema

Due to the Strong Content of this Film No Under 17 Will Be Admitted without Pictured I.D.

HOSTEL Now Showing at the Twin Cinema

The Wildest Oldest Game Tester is forced to Move in with Grandma **GRANDMA'S BOY** Now Showing at the Twin Cinema

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Beloved Masterpiece Comes Alive **THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA** Now at the Twin and Jerome Cinema

Based on a True Rumor Kevin Costner Shirley MaLaine Jennifer Lienze **Rumor has it...** Now at the Orpheum

He was Rebel, Man in Black He was Johnny Cash **walk the line** Now at the Odyssey

MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA Now at the Twin Cinema

The Secret City

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CHEERS & JEERS

Costly phone program a wrong call for Heyburn

JEERS: To the city of Heyburn, for spending \$2,649 on a computerized program that will call residents and remind them to pay their bills.

Delinquent bill payments are on the rise in Heyburn, so the City Council approved the purchase for a phone nanny to follow up on late payments.

That's right, a payment of over two-grand for a system that, according to one city official, has "a very nice voice. It doesn't sound like a computer voice at all." Whatever has happened to the stern tone of late fees?

City officials say the system will also be used to notify folks about planned power outages and chip sealed roads.

It's good to see government tax work, right in the middle of dinner time.

Hagerman administrators and teachers deserve praise for being fully prepared to handle students' questions and concerns as they returned to school last week. The twins' desks in kindergarten were unchanged, to properly teach classmates that they are gone but not forgotten.

Counselors also dealt individually with students to understand the grief and sadness in these events. School officials were already prepared for the week since they called parents about the tragedy in previous days. That made kids ready to discuss their feelings once school started again.

All of the officials involved came through for students when they really needed it.



blocked off the nearest alternate route for residents who live on Canyon Rim and Canyon Crest Drive — which forced them to use a pockmarked intersection at Canyon Crest and Pole Line Road.

Once the state completed its portions of those projects, it left the repairs up to the city for completion. Nice hand off, fellas.

The Twin Falls Street Department began fixing the potholes before they went a foot deep below the street surface. Perhaps future projects will produce some tidier collaboration.

a vice president from the University of Nebraska; Larry Lemanski, a vice president at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton and Arthur Vallas, a vice president at the University of Houston.

The final pick will be made in February after all candidates visit Pocatello. But all four have strong academic administration backgrounds. It looks like a new era at ISU is well on the move.

climbing wall, tetherballs and rocking armchairs.

JEERS: To Pat Robertson, who once again earns the bottom rung of the JEERS ladder.

Robertson chimed in on Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's massive stroke this week, saying the condition was divine punishment for Sharon's unilateral withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip last year.

While adding that Sharon was "a very tender-hearted man and a good friend," Robertson said Sharon was "dividing God's land and using God's name to do what a prime minister of Israel who takes a similar course to appease the EU, the United Nations or the United States of America."

Of course, this only means that those who appease Robertson are granted a life free of stroke, diabetes, cancer, and quite possibly, common sense.

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

CHEERS: To the Hagerman School District, for the sensitivity shown to students after the death of two classmates.

The deaths of 6-year-old twins Spencer and Justin, and dogs Raquel have tolled the entire valley, but especially neighbors and classmates in Hagerman.

JEERS: To pothole repair delays from local and state government.

The Idaho Transportation Department's expansion of Pole Line Road, as part of the U.S. 93 Twin Falls alternate route plan, resulted in a passing-of-the-buck scene to Twin Falls.

In November, construction crews

The Twin Falls Street Department began fixing the potholes before they went a foot deep below the street surface. Perhaps future projects will produce some tidier collaboration.

CHEERS: To the State Board of Education for assembling nominees for Idaho State University president in a relatively quick period of time.

On Tuesday, four finalists were named for the ISU president's post, which was vacated in October by Richard Bowen after faculty voted no-confidence in his administration.

The candidates are Lois Muir, a provost at the University of Montana in Missoula; Jay Noren,

CHEERS: To Chase Jones of Paul, who earned \$5,000 for his school, Paul Elementary, with a contest entry with television network Nickelodeon.

Jones submitted an essay for the monthly "Let's Just Play" drawing sponsored by the network. He was one of 20 national winners to earn the money that goes to play facilities at schools.

Kids were to say why play is important and what equipment would help them the most. The entries, are chosen in a random drawing.

Heads up to Chase, as well, for not giving in to classmates who wanted Sony PlayStations. Jones and his teachers instead opted for a

Sharon, the ultimate protector

Ariel Sharon began life as a warrior in defense of Palestine. He spent most of his life in defense of Israel against the Palestinians. Then, overnight, he was fighting for his own life as the best bet the Israelis have for a state, and Israel for peace.

SIDNEY ZION

• He was a slim kid of 20 when he fought in the Haganah against the British empire. Which was determined to take the dream of a Jewish state away from the Holocaust victims. The Jews were called Palestinians then under the United Nations mandate. Today's Jerusalem Post was then the Palestine Post.

• When the British were driven out of the Holy Land in 1948, the Arab armies attacked the Jews and lost, and there was young Ariel Sharon, a favorite of Israel's first Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, helping the new Israel nation to survive and flourish.

• Now he stands atop his nation as a man unparalleled in his determination to protect the Jewish people and make peace with their neighbors.

• To call his career controversial diminishes him. No figure in Israeli history has been so hated by his enemies and so loved by his friends.

• His enemies were not only the Arabs. The Israeli peaceniks slandered him for most of his



Now he stands atop his nation as a man unparalleled in his determination to protect the Jewish people and make peace with their neighbors.

life — until he pulled out of Gaza. They put him in the killer and a Jewish chauvinist who was dedicated only to the destruction of Palestinians.

His friends loved him for the same reason.

Across the years, the enemies and friends stayed that way. Indeed, even when Sharon saved Israel from almost certain defeat by crossing the Suez Canal and

defeating the Egyptians in the Yom Kippur War of 1973, his left-wing Israeli enemies were intractable.

Sure, he won, they admitted, but here he created the right-wing Likud Party which brought their hated opponent Menachem Begin to power.

And it got worse, far worse, when Sharon, as Begin's defense minister, went to war against

Lebanon.

This war did him in. He was run out of the government because he was "indirectly responsible" for the massacre of Palestinians by Lebanese nationalists in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

It was his low point. The world was sure he was through forever. But I spent a week with him then and thought: No. This guy won't quit.

He could always beat his enemies.

In time, though, he's in the hands of God.

Sidney Zion is a columnist for the New York Daily News.

U.S. strikes out on Baseball Classic

...a American as apple pie. Or is that beshbol and a guava-filled tart?

Baseball has long been an American pastime, but anyone watching lineup knows the game is a world matter now. And the best team in the world is?

Thanks to Uncle Sam, we never knew.

U.S. foreign policy has reared its illogical head, threatening to ruin the World Baseball Classic. The inaugural Classic was envisioned by Major League Baseball and its union. The games are to be played in March in Puerto Rico, Japan and the United States. Sixteen of the best teams in the world were lined up — including the reigning Olympic gold medal team from Cuba.

Then Uncle Sam crashed the fiesta. "No" if Cuba is playing on U.S. soil, was the reply of the U.S. Treasury Department.

That would be fine. Cuba is playing on the more than 40-year-old economic sanctions the U.S. has imposed against Cuba.

The rationale given Major League Baseball was based on the idea that Cuba might benefit economically from the tournament. Puerto Rican part of the baseball federation countered by offering to donate any proceeds its players might make to Hurricane Katrina victims.

Puerto Rico, a U.S. Commonwealth, is part of the Treasury's problem with the Classic. One group of teams — Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Netherlands and Panama — were to play there in a preliminary round. The finals are slated for San Diego.

Venezuela is offering to host the Puerto Rican part of the tournament and have Canada host the finals. That way, a Cuban team could play without stepping into the muck of U.S. policy.

Unfortunately, that move would give Venezuela's bossful leader Hugo Chavez yet another venue to take up against the United States. And he'd be right this time in accusing the United States of double standards, adhering to outdated foreign policy.

A group of Cuban-born baseball players and Cuban-American players have proposed organizing to represent Cuba. But this idea will not be allowed, as the plan violates other rules of international policy.

It's a shame baseball is appealing the Treasury decision.

Good luck. A successful ap-

MARY SANCHEZ

peal would hinge on someone in the Treasury Department making a logic decision on the U.S. policy toward Cuba. It's going the opposite direction; ever more illogical.

Consider this: The Treasury Department has lost making a profit from the games. But the U.S. sells several hundred million dollars' worth of goods to Cuba every year. And a Cuban soccer team can't afford to travel in the United States last year, playing tournaments in several U.S. cities.

The decision stalling play for the World Baseball Classic is only the most recent of the Bush administration's ever more stringent rules regarding Cuba. This might be understandable if the Bush policy shifts were having

any effect on U.S./Cuban relations. They aren't. Castro's grip on the island is only getting stronger, and Cuban-Americans — are bearing the brunt.

Cuban-Americans can now visit relatives only once every three years, not the once a year they were allowed. And their right to send money to relatives in Cuba has also been drastically curtailed.

Universities and other researchers have also had their licenses to travel to Cuba; their trips offered some of the best examples of spreading democratic ideals to Cuba.

But Uncle Sam's ill-considered policy. One poor configuration often snowballs into a series of bad outcomes. This is true whether the stands is invoked by the manager of a sports team, or leaders of a government.

If Cuba could play and donate its proceeds to Katrina survivors, goodwill might have been extended between the two countries. Maybe even a few of the Cuban players would have defected to the United States, as so many have already done. Defections, after all, make solid statements about which country people prefer.

But Uncle Sam is acting like a low-self-esteem bully on the playground. He wants to play only by his rules, and those rules are stacked against fair play.

Mary Sanchez is an opinion-page columnist for The Kansas City Star.

LETTERS

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. Photos may sign letters.

commissioners) to issue strong statements opposing this plant. Remember, commissioners, you are elected to protect the citizens of Twin Falls County, not hide behind a supposed concern for local autonomy. You have a legal and moral duty to do everything you can to prevent pollution in the Magic Valley regardless of where that pollution is generated.

JAMES H. DEKLEINHAUS (Buhl) *Editor's note: James Dekleinhans is a retired professional engineer.*

Letters need to be quick, to the point

In the Dec. 29 comic strip, "Zits" gave me the nerve to voice a complaint. Jeremy is reading Charles

with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Butte offices; mailed to P.O. Box 549, Twin Falls, ID 83403; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

Dickens. His summary is "... If you can't say what you want in 100 pages, maybe it's not worth saying."

This is what I say to many of the present-day letters to the editor. If they can't say what they want to say in 300 to 500 words, maybe it's not worth saying. Many letters run on for thousands of words.

It used to be letters were edited to keep the rambling and unnecessary verbosity to a minimum, thus making the subject more interesting and coherent.

When a letter is filled with verbosity, I just skip it and go on to a letter that is shorter and concise.

How about placing some limits on all those words?

POLLY BICKETT Jerome *Editor's note: The Times-*

News' official word limit for all letters to the editor is 400 words.

Road pavement projects already obsolete

I would like to bring it to the Twin Falls taxpayers' and tax spenders' attention that the recent road pavement done in the Twin Falls area is ruined already less than six months.

If the life of road work done by a company is that short, do they put that in writing during the bidding process? I travel Locust Street between Elizabeth and Addison Avenue.

That is worse now than it was before they did the work.

So for the sake of the hard-working taxpayers of this wonderful city, please have the work done the right way or don't do it at all. I am sure everyone would like the tax money to be spent for more than just a few months' temporary road.

The city officials who are in the position to give these contracts should call the company that did the job as soon as possible and ask for a better job or our tax money back.

BARI FEDAIE Twin Falls

NATION/WORLD

Family loses three children to bird flu in Turkish town

DOĞUBAYAZIT, Turkey (AP) — A mother walked as the white shroud bearing the body of her 11-year-old daughter was lowered into a simple grave Friday, her third child to die in less than a week from bird flu. An imam in a surgical mask and rubber gloves read prayers.

Panic over bird flu has spread across this town beneath the snow-covered mountains of eastern Turkey near the Iranian border, with scared villagers bringing their children to the hospital at the first sign of any illness.

"Everyone wonders if they've got it," said Dr. Huseyin Yurseyev, who treated the children of Mehmet and Zeki Kocogit before sending them to a larger hospital in the city of Van, with high fevers, coughing and bleeding in their throats. The doctor said the children had played with the heads of chickens that died of bird flu.

Zeki Kocogit said that when he took his four ailing children to Van, "It was really hard for them to breathe."

Mehmet Ali, 14, died first, on Sunday. Then, his 15-year-old sister, Fatma, died Thursday. Hülya, 11, died Friday and was buried beside her siblings.

A fourth Kocogit child, 6-year-old Ali Hasan, is hospitalized in Van, but he has improved considerably and is no longer on a respirator.

"We're suffering," said an uncle, Hasan Kocogit.

A British laboratory confirmed the Kocogit teenagers suffered from bird flu, but tests have not been completed to determine if it was the H5N1 strain, the Turkish Health Ministry reported. If so, they would be the first people outside of East Asia to die in the latest outbreak.

break of the H5N1 strain of the virus.

The strain has killed more than 70 people in East Asia since 2003. Authorities are closely monitoring H5N1 for fear it could mutate into a form easily passed among humans and spark a pandemic. Birds in Turkey, Romania, Russia and Croatia have recently tested positive for H5N1.

The World Health Organization also is conducting tests to check whether the bird flu cases resulted from human-to-human transmission. H5N1 spokeswoman Fadelia Chalh said in Geneva. Results are expected in a few days, she said.

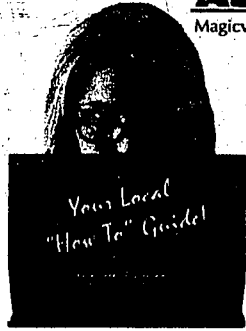
The British lab also confirmed that another child, Yusuf Tunc, tested positive for bird flu, the Health Ministry said. It was unclear whether Tunc, who was reported to be hospitalized in serious condition in Van, had any connection to the Kocogit children.

Separately, the Health Ministry said late Friday that yet another patient, who was hospitalized in Van, tested positive for bird flu according to preliminary tests carried out at a Turkish lab in Istanbul.

Apart from Tunc, 19 other people were hospitalized in Van with flu-like symptoms, while five were hospitalized in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir. Yurseyev said the Kocogit children most likely contracted the virus while playing with the heads of dead chickens. The children had reportedly tossed the chicken heads like balls inside their house.

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Couple argued before man vanished

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) — A man who disappeared from his honeymoon cruise last summer argued in the ship's bar with his wife, who kicked him in the groin hours before he vanished, two witnesses said Friday.

The witnesses told The Associated Press the FBI has interviewed them about the July 5 disappearance of George Allen Smith IV of Greenwich.

"I was very surprised by their behavior, that a honeymoon couple would act that way," said Margarita Chavez, a 29-year-old teacher from Phoenix.

Smith disappeared from a Royal Caribbean ship in the Mediterranean Sea between Turkey and Greece. Blood stains were found running from the balcony of Smith's cabin to life boats. No one has been charged and no body has been recovered.

Smith's wife, Jennifer Hagel-Smith of Cromwell, was found sleeping on a floor in a corridor far from the couple's cabin the night he vanished, the cruise line said Wednesday.

Hagel-Smith and her attorney say she was unconscious and has no recollection of what happened. Hagel-Smith said she passed an FBI polygraph test. Federal authorities have said she has cooperated with these investigations.

Hagel-Smith said the accounts that she kicked her husband "ridiculous" and "outlandish."

"That's the epitome of what I've had to deal with," Hagel-Smith said. "That's not something I would do to my husband."

Chavez said she was in the bar with her friends when another group introduced them to Smith and his wife. She said the couple was heavily intoxicated and Hagel-Smith was leaning on a male passenger.

"We were afraid a fight was going to start," Chavez said. "She was flirting with him."

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SPORTS

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SPORTSQUOTE

With all due respect to the Indians, I'm not sure there's an insatiable appetite for Indians programming and nothing else.

- Paul Swengard, director of the University of Oregon's Warsaw Sports Management Center, about the growing number of professional teams starting their own TV networks

TRIVIA

QUESTION: What school has to play USC and Texas next season?
ANSWER: below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- College: MEN'S BASKETBALL. CSI at Dixie State College, St. George, Utah, 7:30 p.m. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL. CSI at Dixie State College, St. George, Utah, 5:30 p.m. High School: BOYS BASKETBALL. Camas County at Community School, 5:30 p.m. Buhl at Minico, 7:30 p.m. Filiz at Glens Ferry, 7:30 p.m. Hagerman at Castleford, 7:30 p.m. Hansen at Rahr River, 7:30 p.m. Jerome at Declo, 7:30 p.m. Kimberly at Wood River, 7:30 p.m. Oakley at Carey, 7:30 p.m. Rickled at Dietrich, 7:30 p.m. Shoshone at Valley, 7:30 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL. Buhl at Jerome, 7:30 p.m. Camas County at Community School, 7:30 p.m. Oakley at Carey, 7:30 p.m. Wendell at Filiz, 7:30 p.m. Valley at Richfield, 7:30 p.m. WRESTLING. Buhl Invitational, 9 a.m.

IN BRIEF

CSI plays at Dixie State tonight
ST. GEORGE, Utah — The College of Southern Idaho women and men basketball teams will play at Dixie State College, in St. George, Utah, tonight. The games are 13-3 and 4-0 in Scenic West Conference play. The men are also 13-3 and 4-0 in conference. The games are scheduled to be broadcast by AM 1270 KTFI.

Vandals scholarship fund-raiser planned

TWIN FALLS — The 2006 Winter Fest celebration is set for Feb. 3 at the Turf Club in Twin Falls with cocktails are at 6 p.m. and dinner starting at 7 p.m. The event is a fund-raiser for the Vandal Scholarship Fund. The dinner is steak, Idaho trout, Idaho baked potatoes, mixed veggies and salad. Dessert will be auctioned off after dinner. The following guests are expected: President Jim White, Athletic Director Roy Speer, Vandal Scholarship Fund Director Rich Darnell, and Coordinator Mahmood Sheik. Cost is \$25 per person and tickets can be purchased by contacting Jeff Bick at 206-290-2900.

Minico boosters plan giveaways tonight

HILPERT — The Minico Booster Club will be sponsoring a Red & Gold Night on Saturday, Jan. 7, for the Minico boys basketball game against Burley and for the Minico girls' basketball game against Burley on Jan. 13. If you wear red or gold that night, no the game you will receive a ticket for the game that will be given away during the game. For more information, call 438-5260.

Compiled from staff reports
TRIVIA ANSWER: Nebraska.

Indians drop Dietrich

Shoshone's experience pays off in crunch time

By Eric Larson Times-News writer

DIETRICH — What's the value of experience? If Friday night's Magic Valley Northside Conference girls basketball battle between Shoshone and Dietrich is any indication, at least 11 points. Host Dietrich's 8-1 rally to start the fourth quarter cut the Indians' previously comfortable 44-32 lead down to 45-40 with 1:47 remaining in the contest, forcing Shoshone head coach Tim Chapman into calling a timeout. The poised Indians came out of the timeout with a 11-0 run of their own to end the game, and reclaimed the top spot in the Northside standings.

In the timeout, they kind of looked at me like I was crazy when I told them we needed to get a stop on defense," Chapman said. "They just looked at me like, 'Don't worry coach.' That's what I like about this team. They've won so many games that they just have that confidence."

That confidence was evident at the free throw line, as the Indians knocked down 17-of-21 attempts, going 13-for-15 in the second half. With the Blue Devils' charging late, those easy points proved vital.

"We were just really focused," Indians senior guard Kallie Axlison said. "We knew we had to make some big free throws to stay ahead. They have some



Shoshone senior guard Halleey Harris (20) battles Dietrich senior forward Denise Anderson during the Indians' 56-40 Magic Valley Northside Conference victory Friday night in Dietrich.

good outside shooters and girls that can rebound, so we know we had to be ready."

Axlison pumped in a game-high 20 points, including four of Shoshone's seven 3-pointers. The Indians were able to grab a 16-7 lead to start the game after pumping in four early 3-point-

ers and a few long jumpers before the Blue Devils' defense tightened up.

"They came out and shot real well in the first half," Dietrich head coach Acey Shaw said. "That was probably kind of a coaching error. We probably weren't in the right defense," but

they were knocking them down.

Senior forwards Caitlin Dill and Denise Anderson led the Blue Devils' second-half charge. Dill finished with a team-high 14 points, while Anderson pumped in 10 on senior night.

Please see DRDP, Page B2

Minico wrestlers start strong

By Nathaniel Garzbrandt Times-News writer

BUHL — It wasn't how they expect to get there, but the Minico Spartans seem to be going to compete about the results.

Facing their stiffest competition of the year at the 23-team Buhl Invitational wrestling tournament Friday night, Minico enjoyed surprising production from its lower weights to finish Day 1 in a solid third place, half a point behind second-place Challis. 10 points behind leader North. 10 points behind leader Challis. 10 points behind leader North. 10 points behind leader Challis.

"A little rougher tonight, but we're still sitting in good shape," said Spartans head coach Brad Cooper. "Our lighter weights really came through. We struggled in the heavier weights tonight. I wasn't expecting it, so that was kind of a setback, but I think we'll be all right tomorrow. The kids are wrestling well.

Theirs in the consolation just have to come back through."

The Spartans placed six grapplers in today's semifinal pairings, four coming in at 125 or below. With such a narrow gap between Minico and the second-place Miners, one of the key matches of the day was Spartan senior Jack Crane's 8-5 decision over Challis' Justin Baker.

"The kid, he was just strong," said Crane. "I expected him to be strong. He took second at the Bear-Cat and I was right under him at third. Challis is known to be tough. I just tried to keep him from my legs. He had a pretty good shot. I had to be down on his head and be defensive. It's looking to be a pretty good tournament. I'm excited for how we can do it."

Senior Brad Cooper (189) represented the Spartans' upper weights with a pin over

Gooding's Matt Ervin and a major decision over Valley's Ryan Henry.

The Jerome Tigers finished the first round in fifth place and ended the day in eighth with 50.5 team points. Buhl and Twin Falls rounded out the top 10 with 38 and 34.5 points respectively.

Indians' senior 152-pounder Daniel Avellar will be the hosts' lone representative in the semis after wearing down South Fremont's Colton Long for a third period pin in the opening round and taking a 6-3 decision over Battle Mountain's Curry Fielder.

"It's a big tournament, tough guys, just have to come out and wrestle your best," said Avellar. "You've got something to prove. This is your home town. You've got to get something going." Jerome, which retained three wrestlers in the championship

bracket, did most of its damage in the middle weights. After breezing through a double dual in Kimberly the night before, 140-pounder Em Powell rolled out with a 4-3 decision over Declo's Josh Pehrson followed by a major decision over Minico's Josh Clapler. Trammates Cory Livingston (17) and Keith Blanc (160) will also be vying for medals.

Twin Falls sophomore Brent Martinez (171) was the lone Bruin avoiding consolation, opening with a technical fall win over Independence, New's Denario Stevenson followed by an 8-2 decision over Shelley's Will Calligas.

"I just came out there, prepared in practice, did what I had to do conditioned," said Martinez. "I came in here not trying to be cocky, just wanting to wrestle."

Please see STRONG, Page B2

Virginia Tech kicks Vick off team

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick was dismissed from the team Friday, the result of numerous legal transgressions and his unsportsmanlike conduct in the Gator Bowl. University president Charles Steger announced the dismissal on the same day that Vick and his mother said in their Hampton Roads home, the school said. Beamer informed them of the decision during the meeting.

The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk reported on its Web site on Friday night that Vick would turn pro. "It's not a big deal," Vick was quoted as

telling the newspaper. "I'll just move on to the next level, baby."

Vick, the younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, was suspended from school in 2004 for several legal problems.

Tech suspended Vick for the 2004 season because of the August convictions and because he was convicted in May 2004 on three charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Those charges stemmed from a Jan. 27, 2004, incident involving teenage girls, Vick and teammates Brandon Hill and Mike Inoh. Those charges were merged into one charge for a plea agreement that let him avoid jail time.

The junior came under new and intense scrutiny this week after reports showed he stomped on the left calf of Louisville All-American.

Please see WICK, Page B4

Vick's violations

Some of Marcus Vick's troubles since he enrolled at Virginia Tech: May 24, 2004.

Convicted of three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$2,250. Found innocent of having sex with a 15-year-old.

Aug. 3, 2004. Suspended from the upcoming 2004 season on some day-he pleads guilty to reckless driving and no contact to make him a possessor in New Kent. Is fined \$300; his

driver's license suspended for 60 days and is placed in a first offender program on the marijuana charge.

Sept. 13, 2004. In plea deal, pleads no contest to one misdemeanor count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Receives 30-day suspended jail sentence, is fined \$100, ordered to perform 24 hours of community service and stay away from the teenage girls.

Jan. 17, 2005. Cleared to rejoin football team.

May 8, 2006. Is kicked off team at Virginia Tech for legal trouble and unprofessional conduct in Gator Bowl.

Time to respect Seattle

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tom Brady understands.

That's why he's talking like a fool.

"I think we've probably been disrespected more than any team in the league this year," said the New England quarterback. "I think if there's one team that feels like they're disrespected, it's us."

Oh, sure.

New England — disrespected. That's why the Patriots (10-6 after losing to Miami) are 8-point favorites against Jacksonville (12-4). "You want disrespected, look no further than Jacksonville."

"Everybody wanted us," said Jaguars RB Fred Taylor, talking about the other AFC playoff teams. "That makes us feel special, that makes you feel special."

Fred was being sarcastic if you couldn't tell. But does all this disrespect mean Jacksonville is the surprise team to make the Super Bowl?

What, do you miss the Jags as disrespected because they should be disrespected. They qualified only because they spent most of November and December bottom-fishing among the NFL's bad-mouth bass.

What you want to find is the

PRO PICKS Jerry Greene

New England of a few years ago — a team far better than its image. Some of the things that's clear to Indianapolis even though it would be nice to see Tom Dugny try to lift that trophy.

The Colts would host the AFC title game if they were playing in it. They won't be. They will be "one-and-done" because by the time they play in Round 2, their first- and offense will have been on the field for just three series in the previous 27 days. That's not rest in the NFL — that's retirement.

Chicago won't make it either because the Bears don't get to host an NFL title game against Seattle. They need that bad weather.

So who goes to the Super Bowl? Somebody poke the drummer and tell him to wake up — I want a drum roll, please! Denver & Seattle. Two teams that know all. Please see PICKS, Page B5

SPORTS

Raptors win fifth straight

TORONTO (AP) — Mike Milosevic had 30 points, eight assists and seven rebounds against his former team...



Toronto Raptors' Mike James, center, is restrained by teammates...

Grizzlies 87, Jazz 65

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Pau Gasol scored 27 points and matched his career high of 16 rebounds to help the Memphis Grizzlies beat Utah 87-65...

points. All in the first half, but played only two minutes in the second half before reacquainting his strained groin.

Hornets 90, Trail Blazers 80

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kirk Snyder scored a career-high 22 points and David West added 19 points and 13 rebounds as New Orleans recovered from the loss of point guard Chris Paul to beat Portland...

next time down the floor and made a key free throw with the 19.2 seconds left to secure with the win for the Hawks.

Spurs 83, Timberwolves 77

SAN ANTONIO — Tony Parker scored 23 points and the San Antonio Spurs reversed their poor foul shooting in the final quarter for an 83-77 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Friday night.

Nets 113, Magic 106

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd had 16 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds for his second career triple-double, and New Jersey beat Orlando for its 15th straight victory.

Nicks 113, Wizards 92

NEW YORK — Rookie Chauncey Frye matched his season high with 30 points, including 11 during a decisive 15-4 run in the third quarter, and New York beat Washington.

Pistons 97, SuperSonics 85

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Chauncey Billups and Tayshaun Prince each scored 21 points, leading the Detroit Pistons over the Seattle SuperSonics 97-85 Friday night for their 11th victory in 12 games.

Nets 113, Magic 106

WASHINGTON (AP) — Simon Gagne and Peter Forsberg each had a goal and an assist, and the Philadelphia Flyers stretched their road-point record to 14 games with a 3-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Friday night.

Hawks 103, Celtics 99

BOSTON — Al Harrington had 28 points and eight rebounds, and Atlanta beat Boston to snap a four-game losing streak to the Celtics.

Red Wings 3, Predators 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Detroit defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom scored two power-play goals, leading the Red Wings to a 3-1 victory against the Nashville Predators on Friday night.

Flyers roll continues with road win

WASHINGTON (AP) — Simon Gagne and Peter Forsberg each had a goal and an assist, and the Philadelphia Flyers stretched their road-point record to 14 games with a 3-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Friday night.

through two periods before the Penguins scored four times. Kovalevich has 30 goals despite missing all of training camp and the first three games in a contract dispute. He came into the night trailing Philadelphia's Simon Gagne by one goal in the NHL lead, but passed him.

exchanges between the teams, who will meet again Saturday in New York. Sullivan extended his point streak to 10 games with his 13th goal. Cam Ward finished with 20 saves in the victory.

Hurricanes 4, Islanders 1

RALEIGH, N.C. — Cory Stillman scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period to lead Carolina past New York.

Thrashers 6, Penguins 4

ATLANTA — Ilya Kovalchuk put up his second hat trick of the season, scoring his third goal into an empty net with 44 seconds left to clinch a victory over Pittsburgh.

Red Wings 3, Predators 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Detroit defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom scored two power-play goals, leading the Red Wings to a 3-1 victory against the Nashville Predators on Friday night.

Vick

Continued from B1. Can defensive end Elvis Dumervil during the Jan. 22 bowl. Vick, 21, re-enrolled at Tech in January 2005. He won the starting job and led the Hokies to an 11-2 season, which ended in a 24-21 win over Louisville in Jacksonville, Fla.

Red Wings 3, Predators 1

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Holmgren goes from jeers to cheers in one wondrous Seattle season

SEATTLE (AP) — When Mike Holmgren made his annual holiday-season appearance ringing charity bells last month in downtown Seattle, it was as if Holmgren himself was beside the red kettle.

"We were all under the microscope except the owner, he calls all the shots — when things weren't going as well as expected."

There were handshakes, thank-yous and way-to-go all around Holmgren's dressing room. All he needed was for his blond mustache to be a white beard.

"But to go from 9-7 to this? This is a turnaround. This team is so much better this year, it's not even funny."

The people I talked to down there — the fans that came by and everything — they're feeling very good about the football team," the veteran Seahawks coach said.

"Obviously, Coach Holmgren deserves a lot of the credit for that."

First-year team president of football operations Tom Ruskell agreed. He had the same reason: Holmgren asked whether Seattle has discussed extending Holmgren's eight-year, \$32 million deal past the one year and \$7 million he has remaining under his current contract.

"No, that's not an issue right now," Ruskell said.

He wasn't a year ago, when a local may have been more likely to drop cool bean coins into Holmgren's holiday bucket.

"This is fun. The town is excited. That can only be a good thing."

Last January's preseason darling Seattle lost in the wild-card round of the NFC playoffs, extending the team's misery of not having won a playoff game since 1983.

Ruskell was the first key. He arrived last February in place of ousted president Bob Whitsitt, who had resigned last year.

As he did, fans pelted him with profane insults. They essentially demanded he drive his beloved motorcycle directly out of town.

That left Holmgren, who gave up his general manager's duties in 2003, to concentrate fully on coaching without executive distractions. He has called the plays for the what was the league's top offense — until last Sunday's blowout regular-season victory over the Atlanta Falcons.

Marko Jarić had 16 points, and Szczербak added 15 for the Timberwolves.

"If any coach told you they never thought about their during the tough times, I don't think they're being real honest with you," he said.

Pats must deal with Jaguars' size

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Byron Leftwich saw how a big player can dominate a game when 6-foot-6 quarterback Vince Young led Texas over Southern California for the national championship.

"That man was in a league of his own out there," Jacksonville's quarterback said Thursday, a day after Young ran for 200 yards and three touchdowns and passed for 267 yards in Texas' 41-38 win in the Rose Bowl.

Jaguars at Patriots

On Saturday night, the 6-5 Leftwich will direct a team known for its size and physical play against New England in a wild-card game.

The Patriots are heavy favorites but must find a way to get through two defensive tackles with a total weight of 640 pounds and stop starting running backs weighing a combined 484 pounds who have a 278-pound tight end blocking for them.

The Jaguars' starting defensive backs are all 6-foot or taller. Only one of the Patriots' top four receivers is taller than 6 feet.

Brady led the NFL with a career-high 4,110 yards passing and remains the best offensive weapon on a team that was ranked 24th in rushing with Corey Dillon hobbled by injuries. Dillon, averaging a career-low 5.9 yards per carry, missed last Sunday's loss to Miami in the final regular-season game but is listed as probable for Saturday with a calf problem.

"They're trying to penetrate the Jaguars' big four-man defensive line, but it's not going to happen," says Dillon.

"It's working," he said. "We're in the playoffs, so if it was something else we probably wouldn't be here."

The Patriots do have Tom Brady, who gets rid of the ball quickly and adjusts very well when he gets to the line of scrimmage.

Full-field coverage, including punting, is a daunting task for the Patriots.

The Patriots do have Tom Brady, who gets rid of the ball quickly and adjusts very well when he gets to the line of scrimmage.

Full-field coverage, including punting, is a daunting task for the Patriots.

Urlacher takes defensive player honors

CHICAGO — Brian Urlacher was a frustrated man a year ago when he was injured and overlooked as the Chicago Bears struggled through their third straight losing season.

Chicago's turnaround from the Bears' 11-5 record in 2003 to a 11-5 and division winner was paced by the defense, which yielded 202 points, 45 fewer than Indianapolis, the next-best team in the NFL.

Urlacher was named Defensive Player of the Year award Friday.

Urlacher's 2003 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year award was his first major honor.

Urlacher said during a conference call, "It's a big honor. When you look at the guys who've won this award in the past, there's a bunch of them out there."

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Urlacher's 2003 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year award was his first major honor.

He has also made good calls off the field. Strong said the man who often acknowledges to being a "control freak" has "been a lot more low-key."

In October, Holmgren promised to give his players six days off during the bye week. The last time he did that was in Green Bay in 1986. That weekend out OK. Those Packers returned to win the Super Bowl.

All these Seahawks had to do for a vacation was win their two games before the break. They did, routing Houston and edging Dallas in an astounding comeback in the last minute.

That's not even counting the 15 of his players for the rest of the season's practices after they beat St. Louis on Nov. 13. That's something most coaches do, but not many do early.

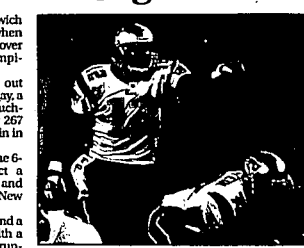
The rested Seahawks won their next six games. That extended their franchise-best winning streak to 11 games and clinched home-field advantage in the NFC.

He did wonder last winter about his Seattle future. By his fifth year in Green Bay he was a Bowl champion. By his fifth with the Seahawks, he was still an square one.

"If any coach told you they never thought about their during the tough times, I don't think they're being real honest with you," he said.

"But it is the nature of this business. You've got to have some resolve, otherwise you're not going to last long. This is now my 14th year as a head coach, and there have been moments when I don't get to ride my motorcycle enough or see my grandkids enough. But I do love what I do."

Suddenly, Seattle loves what he's done for the Seahawks. They are two games from a first-ever Super Bowl.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady directs the offense as he lines up behind center Russ Hochstadt, right, against the New York Jets during the fourth quarter, on Dec. 26, at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

do in certain situations." Jaguars defensive end Reggie Hayward said. "He knows how to handle certain defenses."

Brady led the NFL with a career-high 4,110 yards passing and remains the best offensive weapon on a team that was ranked 24th in rushing with Corey Dillon hobbled by injuries.

"They're trying to penetrate the Jaguars' big four-man defensive line, but it's not going to happen," says Dillon.

Full-field coverage, including punting, is a daunting task for the Patriots.

Urlacher was named Defensive Player of the Year award Friday.

Urlacher's 2003 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year award was his first major honor.

Urlacher said during a conference call, "It's a big honor. When you look at the guys who've won this award in the past, there's a bunch of them out there."

Urlacher's 2003 AP Defensive Rookie of the Year award was his first major honor.



Bucs eager for challenge against Gibbs' Redskins

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Jon Gruden rejects the notion that his surprising Tampa Bay Buccaneers have already had a successful season.

"We don't want to have that loser's mentality about, 'Gee, we overachieved in some people's eyes,' or 'Hey, we've had a good year,'" Gruden said.

"You're not playing in this organization for any other reason than to compete for championships and we want to make the most of our opportunities."

Thanks in no small part to an infusion of young talent on offense, the Bucs (11-5) went from 5-11 in 2004 to winning the NFC South title this season. They will end a two-year hiatus from the playoffs when they host Washington (10-6) on Saturday in the NFC wild-card round.

The game also marks the Redskins' postseason return under Joe Gibbs, the three-time Super Bowl winner who came out of retirement two years ago

to resuscitate a team that made the playoffs once during his 11 seasons away from the NFL.

Both clubs are excited about their prospects in what's generally regarded as a wide-open bracket in the NFC.

"I think every year there are dark horses that jump onto the scene. It's just fact," Gruden said.

"I don't really think that anybody thought New England, in their first Super Bowl season, was going to go from 5-11 to 11-5 and win the Super Bowl with a backup quarterback. I don't think anybody thought we were going to do it either. There are some interesting teams in the field."

With Gibbs at the helm, Washington is one of them.

Gibbs, 16-5 in the playoffs during a 12-year run with the Redskins from 1981-92, understandably is excited about being back in the mix.

One of the keys for Tampa Bay will be containing Clinton Portis, who rushed for 144 yards in the midseason meeting. Washington is equally concerned about not letting Cadillac Williams have a big day on the ground for the Bucs.

Redskins at Bucs
TV: 2:30 p.m., ABC

Picks

Continued from B1 about disrespect.

Denver is the No. 2 seed in the AFC but New England, Indianapolis and Pittsburgh are far more popular. And no playoff quarterback suffers from more unwarranted disrespect than Jake "Mountain Man" Plummer, who's getting it done despite his derelict appearance. The Broncos will get by the Colts because they won't have to play the Colts. They'll host Pittsburgh for the AFC title — and they don't lose when they're a mile high.

Think about high, Seattle might as well be on another planet. Sure, we know about RB Shaun Alexander and have heard of QB Matt Hasselbeck, but we don't see them, don't relate to them. We don't know how good they are.

And your Super Bowl champions? This-dah!

(Fire the drummer boy, I want a trumpet fanfare.)

The Seahawks. That's right, the team from the lousy NFC. And even though this is just for fun, in Vegas right now the AFC is a 10-point favorite over the NFC without knowing the identity of the teams. Seattle has the best scoring machine in all of the NFL. And while it gives up passing yardage, it led the league in sacks (50) and crunched opposing runners.

Besides, until a few years ago, the Seahawks were in the AFC anyway. It's in their genes, so take it to the bank.

Are we done? Not quite. You wouldn't be happy without knowing what will happen this week, so let's look at the four games. (Besides, I haven't reached the bottom of the page yet.)

ther team can advance after this game, so don't kid yourself! Bucs fans Redskins have scored 101 points in the last three games but have a fragile quarterback and a battered secondary. Bucs get to fire the cannons at least this weekend. Bucs by 6.

* Jacksonville (12-4) at New England (10-6), Saturday — Patriots favored by 8. Sorry, Jags fans, but both of you are in for a disappointment. After all, as Tom Brady pointed out, the Patriots will be playing for respect. Disrespected defending champs by 13.

* Carolina (11-5) at East Rutherford Giants (11-5), Sunday — Giants favored by 2.5. Toughest call of the weekend. Both teams disappear more often than Houdini. I'm guessing the Panthers will contain RB Tiki Barber enough to force QB Eli Manning into beating them — and he probably can't in an Eli-Gone-Home-Before-Peyton Upset Special. Panthers by 7.

* Pittsburgh (11-5) at Cincinnati (11-5), Sunday — Steelers favored by 3. Yes, it's true. I did pick the Bengals to be in the Super Bowl before the season began. But I also picked Minnesota, so what's your point? And while I don't think the Steelers can get to the Super Bowl, wouldn't it be cool if Jerome Bettis took his last bus trip there? The Bus by 9.

As they say at my favorite restaurants: Enjoy.

* Washington (10-6) at Tampa Bay (11-5), Saturday — Buccaneers favored by 2.5. Nei-

Previews for Sunday's playoff games will be published Sunday.

BEAT THE SPORTS WRITERS



Standings as of January 6

John Berry 143-64
Joe Paibsky 142-69
Jerry Fowler 140-71

Bob Green Team: 129-91
Rick Johnson 125-93
Rostergilde 117-92

Check out past predictions at www.timesnews.com/writers



JOE PAISLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Washington at Tampa Bay
Jacksonville at New England
Carolina at N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati



JOHN DERR
SPORTS WRITER

Washington at Tampa Bay
Jacksonville at New England
Carolina at N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati



ROB GREEN PARTS/SERVICE TEAM
RON STONE
PARTS MANAGER

Washington at Tampa Bay
Jacksonville at New England
Carolina at N.Y. Giants
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati



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Carolina at N.Y. Giants
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COMICS

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



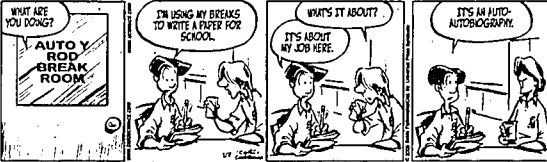
Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



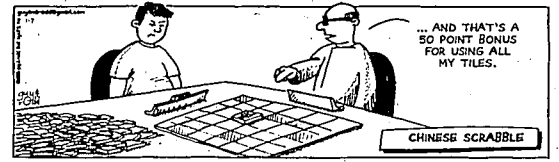
Baldo

By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



Brevity

By Guy & Rodd



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Luann

By Greg Evans



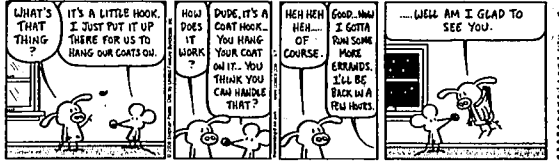
Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



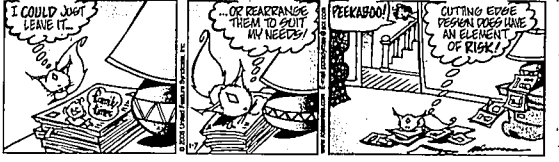
Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Non Sequitur

By Wiley

Strango Brew

By John Deering



Now's the time to right past wrongs

IF JAN. 7 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: During the year ahead, reliable old ties that may have dropped by the wayside. In 2006 spiritual values can outweigh material ones... HOROSCOPE: Jeraldine Saunders... appealing stray SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Act on your hunches. The doors of perception are unlocked under these stars... CANCER (June 21-July 22): Psychic connections renew faith in the world... LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sleep on it. Let your inner mind do all the work for you... VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Trust heightened intuitions where partners are concerned... TAURUS (April 20-May 20): June in and turn on. You might be dancing to your own special song... GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stay in sync with others. Someone may provide the inspiration you need or give you an intuitive nudge in the right direction... appealing stray SCORPIO (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put a rose behind your ear or wear your Mickey Mouse T-shirt... AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a giant leap of faith and be willing to create lasting ties... PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a giant leap of faith and be willing to create lasting ties...

COMICS

Bootsie Bailey By Mort Walker

Panel 1: Bootsie is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. She says, "AMOS' HEARING HAS GOTTEN SO BAD I'VE STARTED WRITING NOTES TO HIM".

Panel 2: Bootsie is talking to a man. She says, "I CAN'T READ YOUR WRITING!".

Blonde By Dean Young & Stan Drake

Panel 1: A blonde woman is looking at a piece of paper. She says, "GEE, THIS SHOW IS PERFECT FOR PACKING!".

Panel 2: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "IT SEEMS A SHAME TO WASTE SUCH A PERFECT SHOWBALL".

Panel 3: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "SPLAT!".

The Born Loser By Art Sansom & Chip

Panel 1: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "SNIFF...AH, LOVE IS IN THE AIR, MY BOY!".

Panel 2: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "THAT'S MOM'S MEATLOAF YOU'RE SMELLIN', POP!".

Panel 3: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "YES, I KNOW!".

Garfield By Jim Davis

Panel 1: Garfield is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "I ACCIDENTALLY GLUED A PIECE OF PAPER TO MY FACE".

Panel 2: Garfield is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "WHAT A SHAME".

Panel 3: Garfield is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "ALLOW ME TO FIX IT".

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

Panel 1: Hagar is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "I ADMIRE THE SWENSONS... THEY SACRIFICED FOR THEIR CHILDREN FOR YEARS AND YEARS".

Panel 2: Hagar is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "BUT ONCE THEIR SON AND DAUGHTER GOT MARRIED THEY SOLD THEIR HOME AND SIMPLIFIED THEIR LIVES!".

Panel 3: Hagar is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "WHERE ARE THEY LIVING NOW?".

Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

Panel 1: Hi is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "NICE FIRE".

Panel 2: Hi is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "YEAH, I'M GOING COZY".

Panel 3: Hi is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "HE USED TO DO THAT WHEN HE WANTED TO GET ROMANTIC".

Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

Panel 1: Snoopy is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "HERE'S MY TEST PAPER, MA'AM".

Panel 2: Snoopy is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "AND HERE'S MY DOG'S TEST PAPER...".

Panel 3: Snoopy is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "WE NEVER HAD 'TRUE OR FALSE' TESTS AT OBEEDIENCE SCHOOL".

Panel 4: Snoopy is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "THEY WERE CALLED 'SIT OR ELSE'".

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

Panel 1: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "WHAT'S THE CHARGE?".

Panel 2: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "PRICE GOING DOWN".

Panel 3: A man is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "I AM THE DEFENDANT".

Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

Panel 1: Dennis is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "THE GREAT WHEN FAMILIES MOVE OUT, CAUSE THEY LEAVE ALL KINDS OF COOL STUFF ON THE CURB".

Panel 2: Dennis is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "THE FAMILY CIRCUS".

Panel 3: Dennis is looking at a piece of paper. He says, "THEY should say 'feeds four polite people or two hungry people.'"

Jobless dad has nothing but harsh words for family

DEAR ABBY: I have been with "Jack" for three years. When we started out, I fell head over heels in love with him. Then he lost his job and his personality changed. He was at home with the kids and I worked, but he became really resentful and cranky about my working. He stays in a bad mood and loses his temper over the least little thing. He always apologizes, but the pattern never changes.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

and comment only if the other person says something? If it's the latter, would "Have a medical condition" suffice? Thanks for your help.

—ICE PRINCESS IN THE MIDWEST
DEAR ICE PRINCESS: If someone mentions your cold hands, explaining that you have a medical condition is an honest and acceptable response. Alternatively, you could smile and say, "Yes... It means I have a warm heart."

he may simply be a lazy, verbal abuser. The quickest way to find out what's ailing him would be to get him to see a doctor for a physical examination and a frank talk. If his problem is depression, he can be helped back to a more productive and happier life through medication and therapy.

However, if it turns out that your husband is just a free-loader who exerts control by constantly putting down the people around him, you will have to ask yourself some hard questions. First on your list should be, "Are my children and I better off with him or without him?"

DEAR ABBY: I have cold hands. Because of a medical condition, my hands are either icy from cranked-up air conditioning in the summer or from freezing temperatures in the winter. I hate shaking hands with people because it's like asking them to hold a block of ice.

Should I say something as I'm shaking hands, or should I avoid bringing attention to it

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been together for 19 years. From day one, her paycheck has been spent on the streets. She is never home. Her idea of a good time is to party at nightclubs with her girlfriends. We have two kids, 12 and 15, and sometimes I feel like she doesn't love any of us.

I have caught her cheating three times. For 19 years, I have sat back and taken it. Well, I'm sick of it. Please tell me what to do.

—TIRED OF BEING ALONE

DEAR TIRED: Draw the line. If your wife isn't willing to behave like one, end the marriage. However, when you do, make sure that you have custody of the children. You have all suffered enough.

First foot on moon was the left one

The first human footprint on the moon was of a left foot. That happened to be the foot that Neil Armstrong landed on when he made his "one small step for a man."

You may remember Bruce Lee as a martial arts champion, but in Hong Kong dance circles, he is also remembered as the 1956 Cha-Cha Champion.

With the frequent traveling of presidents around the world, it's hard to imagine that the first president to visit a foreign land while in office was Theodore Roosevelt. He sailed to Panama and Puerto Rico in 1906.

Other firsts by the adventurous Teddy Roosevelt: he was the first president to fly in a plane and go underwater in a submarine.

The lion that roared at the beginning of MGM musicals was officially named "Leo." However, that was his screen



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTINESS
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

name. Leo was portrayed by vicious lions, most famously Slim, Jackie and (in color) Tazzer.

The Liberty Bell would ring an E-flat if it were to be rung. The crank is not its only defect — the name of Pennsylvania is cast into the bell misspelled as "Pensylvania."

You remember Tootles, Nibs, and The Twins. Of course you do. They were the most notable Lost Boys from Never-Never Land in Peter Pan.

The official slogan of the Royal Canadian Mounted Po-

Sister trio has three babies in a row



ST. CHARLES, Mo. — The first surprise was when three sisters discovered they were pregnant and due around the same time. But the bigger surprise came last week when their babies were born on three consecutive days at the same hospital in this St. Louis suburb. The sisters live in Warrenton, about 40 miles away.

"I've had sisters deliver within a week or so of each other, but nothing like this," said Dr. Evelyn Schuetz. Her medical partner, offered to deliver the third, but Schuetz said no way.

"I said, 'I've delivered the two, I have to deliver the third.'"

Tracey Mueller, 28, was the first to give birth; Sophia Ann Mueller arrived at 7:07 a.m. Dec. 28.

Labor pains next struck Trisha Duvel, 31, who delivered Jack Thomas Duvel at 9:39 p.m. Dec. 29.

Jamie Roden, 24, checked into St. Joseph Health Center the next afternoon, and Kara Grace Roden arrived at 9:23 p.m.

"It was a complete joke the entire pregnancy that we'd have them at the same time," Duvel said. "But none of us really thought it would ever happen."

Fancy license plate gives away robbery suspect

NORFOLK, Neb. — Arlie Bichmeier discovered his license plate turned out to be an effective command.

Bichmeier's plate reads "FINDME," and thanks to it, authorities were able to locate him about 90 minutes after he was tried to rob the Security National Bank branch in Laurel.

The suspect walked into the bank about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday and indicated his intention to rob it, the State Patrol said. There was no weapon shown and the suspect fled the bank without any money, the Patrol said.

Jamie Roden, left, holds her daughter, Kara Grace Roden, born on Dec. 30, as her sister Trisha Duvel, center, holds her son, Jack Thomas Duvel, born on Dec. 29, and their sister Tracey Mueller, holds her daughter, Sophia Ann Mueller, born Dec. 28, in Warrenton, Mo., on Wednesday.

Odds & Ends

Witnesses described the suspect vehicle as a 1994 Black GMC pickup, with a personalized license plate.

Around 11 a.m., the Patrol and Norfolk Police Department located a vehicle and suspect matching the description in a parking lot.

Bichmeier, 58, of Norfolk, was questioned and arrested. He was jailed on charges of attempted robbery and making terrorist threats.

Suspect caught with stolen diamond earrings

FARGO, N.D. — Diamond earrings stolen from a college fundraiser were recovered when a man tried to have them appraised at the jewelry store that donated them, authorities said.

Police said the man was arrested after he brought the \$4,500 earrings to Wimmer's Jewelry. Store owner Brad Wimmer said the man had the original box along with the description of the jewelry.

"It was all very good," Wimmer said. "The value of the earrings was right on the description."

Richard Roquet, 23, of Ada, Minn., was charged Friday with theft. Judge Georgia Dawson set bail at \$2,500.

Wimmer's donated the earrings to the North Dakota State University Development Foundation for its silent auction. They apparently were stolen from storage during the October event, a development foundation spokesman said.

When he came in to get an appraisal, Wimmer said he was told it would take a day, and the man left his name and phone number.

Wimmer called the man Wednesday and told him the appraisal was finished. When the man came to the store, Wimmer said he pretended he was on a long-distance phone call until police arrived.

Market Watch

Jan. 6, 2006

Dow Jones Industrials	10,659.31
Nasdaq composite	2,305.62
Standard & Poor's 500	1,285.45
Russell 2000	699.39

Stocks of local interest

Idacorp	\$30.19	▲ .02
Con Agri	\$20.43	▼ .05
Dell Inc.	\$30.64	▼ .11

Commodities

Oil, by barrel (Feb., light sweet crude)	\$64.21	▲ 1.42
Live cattle	\$96.05	▼ .22
Cheese		
barrel	\$1.34	no change
block	\$1.30	no change
Gold (Feb.)	\$543.33	▲ 3.4

Quoteable

"The American economy heads into 2006 with a full head of steam. ... In 2005, (we) turned in a performance that is the envy of the industrialized world. And we did this in spite of high oil prices and natural disasters."

— President Bush, speaking Friday at the Economic Club of Chicago.

General Motors, Ford try to leave troubles behind

DETROIT — The underdog players outside this year's North American International Auto Show will be one sign that all is not well in Detroit. The show comes at a difficult time for General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co., who are in the midst of restructuring after billions of dollars in losses in 2005.

GM and Ford want to put their troubles behind them and focus on their products at the show, which last year was attended by more than 75,000 people, including media from 83 countries. Both companies have new displays intended to play up their strengths and showcase their brands.

"The bottom line is that we are excited for this show," GM spokesman Terry Rhadigan said Friday. "It is important to us to have an opportunity to talk about what's going to help our resurgence, and that's great products."

Best Buy, Circuit City report strong sales

MINNEAPOLIS — Retailers who wondered whether their customers went during a so-so holiday season might have tried looking in the TJs aisles at Best Buy Co. and Circuit City.

The nation's two largest consumer electronics retailers both reported strong holiday revenue on Friday driven by sales of high-end television and larger average purchases. December sales jumped 5.8 percent at Best Buy Co. Inc. stores open at least 14 months. The jump was 10.8 percent at Circuit City Stores Inc. locations open at least a year, a key industry barometer of a retailer's health.

Coming Sunday

Micron's stunt-pilot chief says risky hobbies help sharpen his business skills.

Stamp prices go up tomorrow

The Associated Press

It'll cost more to send mail starting Sunday.

The first rate increase since 2002 will boost the cost of sending a first-class letter by 2 cents, to 39 cents.

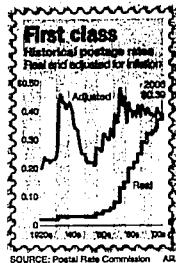
The increase follows legislation requiring the Postal Service to place \$3.1 billion in an escrow account this year. Another rate boost is likely next year to cover rising costs for the agency.

On the Net

U.S. Postal Service: <http://www.usps.com>

Many rates, such as parcel post and advertising mail, vary by distance or whether the material is presorted. Rate changes taking effect, including some estimates for typical mailed items:

- First-class letters, each additional ounce, up 1 cent to 24 cents.
- Post card, up 1 cent to 24 cents.
- Letter to Canada or Mexico, 1 ounce, up 3 cents to 63 cents.
- Letter to other foreign countries, 1 ounce, up 4 cents to 84 cents.
- Priority Mail, 1 pound, up 20 cents to \$4.05.
- Express Mail, 8 ounces, up 75 cents to \$14.40.
- Certified mail, up 10 cents to \$2.40.
- Money orders up 5 cents to 95 cents.
- Delivery confirmation, up 5 cents to 60 cents.
- Weekly news magazine, 5.8 ounces, presorted, up 1 cent to 18.5 cents.
- Household magazine, 13.8 ounces, presorted, up 1.5 cents to 29.3 cents.
- Small nonprofit publication, presorted, up 1.4 cents to 28.3 cents.



Consumer-tech firms jockey for lead in next-generation DVDs



A show attendee compares the difference between Blu-ray format DVD, left, and regular DVD, right, Thursday at the Pioneer booth at the Consumer Electronics Show.

Toshiba to launch two new HD-DVD players in March

By Mike Musgrove and Greg Schneider
The Washington Post

LAS VEGAS — The tech industry thinks it has figured out what people want: access to all their digital information and entertainment from anywhere — and preferably in a high-definition format. The only problem is that the industry doesn't agree yet on how to accomplish that.

Battle lines for competing strategies hardened Thursday at the International Consumer Electronics Show

among giants such as Sony, Intel, Toshiba and Microsoft.

A major fight has started to heat up between electronics makers trying to come up with the next version of the DVD player to take advantage of the movement toward high-definition television in homes. Both next-generation DVD formats — Blu-ray and HD-DVD — look "a little sharper, if not wildly sharper, than DVDs, and each side has its own roster of consumer electronics makers and movie studios.

Though neither standard has arrived in retail stores, Toshiba Corp. and HD-DVD took an early lead over Sony Corp.'s Blu-ray by launching the trade show with an announcement that two HD-DVD players will hit the market in March, priced at \$800 and \$400. About 30 movies are scheduled to come out in that format then, including "Batman Returns" and "Troy," said Richard Guida, a Toshiba spokesman.

About 200 more titles are on the way.

Toshiba says the standard it has backed is better because it will be easier for companies to manufacture. HD-DVDs will be easier for companies with existing equipment.

"All they have to do is retool the current machinery," Guida said.

Toshiba also contends that consumers will like the standard because they will be able to play their old DVDs in new HD-DVD machines.

Although that isn't the case with Blu-ray players, Sony says its new format will be better down the line because it will have more and better functions. Sony says the first Blu-ray players will arrive this summer.

The stakes are huge. DVDs represent a multibillion-dollar portion of the consumer electronics industry, which is continuing to grow at a healthy clip. The Consumer Electronics Association, which hosts CES, announced Thursday that the overall industry had revenue of \$125.9 billion.

National job growth slows to 108,000 in December

By Rox Nutting
MarketWatch

WASHINGTON — U.S. job growth slowed in December to 108,000 even as the unemployment rate fell unexpectedly to a cyclical low of 4.9 percent, the Labor Department said Friday.

The seasonally adjusted growth in nonfarm payrolls was less than the 205,000 expected by economists, but upward revisions to prior months totaling 71,000 put total payrolls near the expected level of 134.5 million.

November's net job growth was revised to 305,000 from 215,000 previously. It was the largest gain in more than a year.

"This was a relatively healthy report despite the headline figure," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist for RBS Greenwich Capital.

Politicians were quick to respond. "I think the economy is continuing to move forward. I think this is an indication of that," said Treasury Secretary John Snow in an interview on CNBC. "I'm confident we are going to see continuing good growth with a lot of job creation in 2006."

Payrolls increased by 2.2 million in 2005 after a gain of 2.2 million in 2004. Job growth has averaged 1.8 million in the past 10 years and about 400,000 per year since President Bush took office in 2001.

The unemployment rate fell by a half percentage point in 2005 to match the lowest level since July 2001.

But opponents of the White House said the jobs recovery has been the weakest of the postwar era. "After years of a sub-par labor market, America's middle class has a lot of catching up to do," said Christian Weller, senior economist at the Center for American Progress.

Economists surveyed by Envestra see JOBLESS, Page B9

IBM's freeze on pensions sharpens focus on 401(k)s

By Brian Bergstein
Associated Press writer

BOSTON — IBM's freeze of its otherwise healthy U.S. pension plan will reverberate through industry not only because it illustrates the erosion of traditional benefit packages, but also because it sharpens the focus on 401(k) plans as a source of retirement security.

With the 401(k) increasingly becoming a de facto pension for many American workers, several experts suggest reforms are in order.

International Business Machines Corp.'s announcement this week drew attention because the security of the technology giant's \$48 billion U.S. pension fund stands in contrast to endangered plans run by airlines and other large companies.

However, retirement analysts found IBM's enhancements to its 401(k) more notable, saying the company is transplanting some virtues of traditional pensions that generally have been absent from newer kinds of plans.

When the pension freeze took effect for IBM's 125,000 U.S. employees in 2006, IBM will match their 401(k) contributions dollar-for-dollar on up to 6 percent of salary, previously the match had been 50 cents on the dollar, a common figure.

Perhaps more important, the company will automatically contribute an extra amount equal to 1 percent to 4 percent of employees' pay into their 401(k) plans in an attempt to make sure every employee participates.

Those notions of universal participation and automatic security were hallmarks of traditional pension packages known as "defined-benefit" plans.

Newer plans such as 401(k) packages are known as "defined-contribution" plans because that's all the company is promising — to contribute a set amount, if it offers a match. The size of the retirement benefits depend on the vagaries of investment portfolios, shifting

Comedy Central vies to be Web humor's MotherLoad

By Chris Galtner
Los Angeles Times

For those who find humor in the plague of the Internet. At least, that's what Comedy Central hopes as it rolled out a slate of new shows yesterday for its online channel, MotherLoad.

The eight Web-only shows are another sign that big media companies increasingly see the Internet as a viable way not only to promote their on-air shows, but also to launch shorter programs ill-suited for TV.

The MotherLoad lineup includes such series as "All Access: Middle Ages," billed as the inside story behind the coolest crusades and "most awesomely bad plagues" and "Golden Age," which finds out what happened to retired cartoon characters. (For Jerome, a gumdrop from the concession stand ads before movies, it's substance abuse.)

MTV Networks, Comedy Central's parent, has been hunting for film and animated shorts. After failing to capture viewers with on-line video offerings during the dot-com boom, big media are jumping back in.

"This side of the business has been dormant for six, seven years," International Creative Management agent Michael Rizzo said. "Now the studios have come into it with a much more mature eye."

The numbers are still small. During its best week, in early December, MotherLoad attracted 109,000 viewers. The economics are different because TV is a very mature business, and the dollars are bigger," said Jason Hirschhorn, Creative is developing its second chief digital officer for MTV Networks. "But online is becoming... lucrative."

Comedy group Littleton Creative is developing its second MotherLoad show, the Middle Ages parody. Possible episodes include "Worst Boleyns: Henry VIII & Anne Boleyn." One thing member Nick Kroll discovered: People like online comedy.

People seem to be desperate for humor, and it's because they're terrified of it work."

MONEY

Stock prices surge on employment report as 2006 rally continues

By Christopher Wang Associated Press writer NEW YORK — Mixed employment data helped Wall Street extend its New Year's rally Friday, as investors saw a slowdown in monthly hiring ease concerns about the end of the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes. The major indexes surged this week, finishing at their highest levels since mid-2001.

Strong advances for Yahoo Inc. and Google Inc. drove the technology sector, building on the market's energetic start to 2006. An upbeat reaction to International Business Machines Corp's pension news lifted the

After the market rallied hard on the Fed minutes earlier this week, investors were mostly optimistic about a Labor Department report that employers added 109,000 jobs last month, about half the 200,000 increase forecast by economists and well behind November's 305,000 gain.

Broader stock indicators had their best finish since May 2001. The S&P 500 rose 11.57, or 0.94 percent, to 1,285.45, and the Nasdaq climbed 28.75, or 1.26 percent, to 2,305.62.

Stakeholders at the meeting were mostly positive, with the major indexes each gaining more than 2 percent in the first four sessions of 2006. Much of the advance was fueled by Tuesday's release of the minutes from the Fed's December meeting, launching the Dow up 130 points.

Priced employment data also provided evidence that the nation is moving out of the start-up phase of the recovery. Average growth rates, said Christopher Piro, director of Investment strategy for Prudential's Strategic Investment Research Group.

Pensions

Continued from B8 closed pension funds to newly hired workers or ended accruals in plans altogether, such as IBM, Hewlett-Packard Co., Motorola Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. are in technical files treating with younger, pension-less rivals.

which lets workers accrue benefits that they can take with them if they leave a company, but doesn't pay a lifetime income like traditional pensions.

For example, Medicaid and other public assistance programs generally exclude pension holdings when determining a person's eligibility, but define-contribution accounts such as 401(k)s are often considered assets that can reduce someone's ability to get benefits, said Mark Ivory, senior adviser to the Retirement Security Project.

Jobs

Continued from B8 MarketWatch were calling for payrolls to rise for 2006, for the jobless rate to remain at 5 percent, for average hourly earnings to rise 0.2 percent, and for the workweek to rise to 33.8 hours.

concepts before calling the tightening campaign to a halt. The report shows another increase in resource utilization, which means that manufacturing economist for Lehman Bros.

wages have not kept pace with inflation or with productivity gains and have not been a major factor in pushing prices higher.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg. Lists various stocks like AOL, AMZN, AAPL, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table with columns: NYSE, NASDAQ, S&P 500, etc. Includes volume and index changes.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg. Lists various NASDAQ stocks like AIG, AMZN, AAPL, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Div, PE, Last, Chg, %Chg, YTD. Lists local stocks like Albemarle, Alliant, etc.

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AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, %Chg. Lists various American stocks like AMZN, AAPL, etc.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

When you see 1000 shares on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and 100 most active on the American Stock Exchange. Above each stock name is the stock's price and below it is the change in price.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities including soybeans, corn, wheat, and oil.

BEANS

Table of bean prices for soybeans, black beans, and other varieties.

GRAINS

Table of grain prices for wheat, corn, and soybeans.

CHEESE

Table of cheese prices for various types like cheddar and mozzarella.

POTATOES

Table of potato prices for different grades and varieties.

SUGAR

Table of sugar prices for various grades and origins.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock prices for cattle, hogs, and sheep.

Table of livestock auction prices for various types of cattle and hogs.

SOYBEAN AUCTION

Table of soybean auction prices for different grades.

CATTLE

Table of cattle prices for various breeds and weights.

HOGS

Table of hog prices for different grades and weights.

FEEDSTUFFS

Table of feedstuff prices for various types of feed.

WHEAT

Table of wheat prices for different grades and origins.

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Ending bidding war, Verizon wraps up purchase of MCI

The merger increases Verizon's work force by about 40,000 employees to 250,000, a number which Verizon has said it would reduce by about 7,000 after the deal.

Gadgets

Continued from B3. Microsoft says it is trying to replace Intel Corp. as the biggest player of that market by tapping into the convergence of TVs and computers with the final chapter for a company that brought competition to the handheld phone market.

MUTUAL FUNDS

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



Live and let live in 2006

What I wish for myself in 2006 is what I wish for you. My kids say I need to be more patient. They're right, and not just about me. Many people of faith soured the holidays by fighting over what words to use to wish each other a joyful season. Others seethed over merchants burning Salvation Army bell-ringers. The issues change by the day, but our short tempers are constant. We're so trigger-happy to condemn others — even our loved ones — that we're sucking the joy out of life.



KEN GARFIELD

I need to let more stuff slide, to quit being so quick to judge other people. The same can be said for all those denominations criticized in 2005 like they were in 2004 (and 2003 and so on) by the fight over what to do about gays. What we did nothing but love them like brothers and sisters and let the rules and regulations follow? It couldn't be worse than the mudsling mess that the faith community finds itself in now.

This past year was too serious. I need to find more laughter. Turn up the radio. Drink better wine. Read more novels. Travel as far as the money will take us. Go to more baseball games. Swing for the fences in softball. Hold nothing back.

What about you? My kids — yes, them again — wonder if I need a hearing aid. If I do, at 52, that'll be fine because I won't let noise or travel be the good stuff in life.

But I'm not the only person who needs help hearing what others have to say. The difference is that at least I try to listen to the other side.

I've got to get more serious about exercising in 2006. If not for other reason than to entertain you all with the sight of a maniacal-looking, tall, thin, bald guy walking like there's no tomorrow. There might not be if, for the sake of our kids if nobody else.

If your congregation has a gym open to it to as many people as possible. The more out of shape they are, the better. Consider it evangelism.

What I feel about your presence more, really feel him at work in my day-to-day life regardless of what I believe or what style of worship I prefer. It's when this job leads me to someone I can tell in an instant is bubbling over with spirit. They're generally outnumbered, but they're people too busy worrying about what sort of music they play in the sanctuary to feel the hand of God tapping them on the shoulder. I want to learn to live more gracefully with age.

I know 85-year-olds who act like kids. But I also know 50-somethings who act like the wrinkles that come with time. I want to master the balancing act of getting everything out of each day while also giving gladly to the belief that this crazy life goes on forever, even if we know it doesn't.

I wish I could have one more visit with my dad. More than one. I'm dreaming, I bet you feel exactly the same way about a loved one who has left your life, at least the life we live on this earth.

Dreaming. That seems to be a good word to end on. And the perfect word to start a new year on.

Got a Bible for the ages?

The Times-News is looking for the best family Bible in southern Idaho. If you have a Good Book you believe may merit that distinction, we'd love to hear from you for an upcoming version of our Best Bible Contest.

Your Bible doesn't necessarily have to be printed in English, nor does it have to be a particular version such as the King James. Call Steve Crump at 735-3223, or write to him at scrumpt@magicalvalley.com

Not your neighbor's Jesus

Your ideas about Christ likely aren't as common as you think

Knight Ridder News Service

The "who question" about Jesus is key, Thomas A. Noble tells his students.

I unpack all the rest of Christianity from Christology (the study of Christ), says Nobel, professor of theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary of Kansas City. Similarly, when professor Warren Carter of St. Paul School of Theology teaches New Testament classes, he asks students to think about two questions Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do people say I am?" and "Who do you say I am?"

I talk a lot about this in relation to particular texts we work on," Carter says. His goal is to help them understand that "there wasn't a monolithic understanding in the New Testament" about Jesus and that church doctrine about him continued to develop after New Testament times.

Christians, however, aren't the only ones thinking about Jesus. He's also on the minds of adherents of many religious traditions. And their answers to Jesus' questions vary widely. Here is some of what they say:

Islam

Muslims call Jesus Isa (variously spelled Issa or Isaa) and call him a highly honored prophet, though not divine. The Qur'an mentions Jesus many times and includes a story of his virgin birth. Islam believes Jesus was calling people to surrender to God, which is what the word "Islam" means. So they view him as a Muslim, even though he lived hundreds of years before Muhammad. Although they believe Jesus performed miracles, they deny he was crucified. Rather, they say, God merely made it appear so to Jesus' enemies. Muslims believe Jesus ascended bodily to heaven.

Syed E. Hasan, chairman of the Department of Geography at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a member of the Islamic Research Foundation, calls it "the Islamic faith to believe in him and the message he brought." But Hasan notes that Islam rejects the concept of Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and emphasizes the oneness or unity of God.



A young Greek Orthodox woman lights a candle during an Epiphany service this week at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Istanbul, Turkey. Christian Orthodox ideas about Christ are significantly different from those that arose in Catholicism — and later Protestantism.

Judaism

Jews acknowledge that Jesus is the personal historical connection between them and Christians. Jesus was a Jew, and his followers believed he was the promised Messiah of Israel, a claim most Jews who knew — or knew about — Jesus when he lived rejected. Reza Khan, Cohen of Congregation Beth Shalom in the Kansas City area says that not many years ago, "with the taste of persecution still very fresh in the mouths of many Jews, very few were open to him to meet Jews. Identifying him with an element of the faith was so painful to Jews that it was painful to give life to the accusations of 'Christ killer' and decide that began in the early years of the church and was rejected to modern times.

"While today there is still no unanimity of views about Jesus within Judaism, there is certainly a much more accepting view. To many Jews, he was born, lived and died a Jew. Some would clearly identify him with an element of the public community of the first century and categorize him among the reformers of that community. Probably many would say not just a reformer but a radical reformer (but one who) never proclaimed a messianic status."

Hinduism

The range of views about Jesus in Hinduism is quite wide. Some Hindus admire him so much they think of him as a yogi (a practitioner of

yogi) and follow his teachings. But, as a rule, Hindus reject the Christian contention that somehow the incarnation of God in Jesus was unique. Hindus believe God also was incarnate in such Hindu deities as Krishna.

Anand Bhattacharyya, an active member of the Kansas City Hindu community, calls Jesus a great seer of truth like ancient Hindu sages. He had extraordinary yogic power to communicate with God and revealed his messages to the followers. I am particularly overwhelmed by his message of "kirtan" and "bhakti" passion. He was a true Bhakti yogi. ("Bhakti" is derived from a root word that means "to be attached to God.")

Sikhism

Sikhism emerged 500 years ago with no direct connections to Judaism or Christianity. But an indication of the respect with which some Sikhs view Jesus can be found in an essay by a Sikh on a British Broadcasting Corp. Web site, www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religion, that describes various religions of the world. Nikky Singh writes that she sees Jesus as a wonderful parallel with the person of Nanak, the first Sikh guru. There is no direct connection between Christ and the Sikh guru, but when they look closely at them, they illuminate each other.

Buddhism

There is no generally accepted Buddhist view of Jesus, but some Buddhists



Detail of Jesus and disciples from a 1687 miniature by Turkoman artist Yalil-Lala Dhu'Kadeti illustrating Persian poet Nizami's Khamsah.

think of Jesus as a bodhisattva, one who, motivated by compassion, seeks enlightenment for everyone, including himself. Lama Chuk Stunford of the Rime Buddhist Center in Kansas City is among those who think that "Many Buddhist teachers I know, and myself included, view Jesus as an enlightened being, a bodhisattva, whose message was not that much different than that of the Buddha. Jesus encouraged his followers not to harm others and to be kind, compassionate and to love others."

Stanford notes, "Buddhism predates Christianity (by

about 500 years), so there would be nothing in the teachings about Jesus."

Bahai'ism

Adherents of the Bahai' faith believe Jesus was a manifestation of God but not the only one. Rather he was one of several messengers from God. The founder of Bahai'ism, who took the name Bahai'ullah, called himself "a later manifestation" of God. In addition to Jesus, this line of messengers honored by Bahai' includes Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Zoroaster

Please see JESUS, Page C2

Is NBC over the line with 'Book of Daniel'?

Los Angeles Times

The latest skirmish in the culture wars rages around a mild-mannered Episcopal priest who nurses a secret Vice-coder habit and regularly sees cameras with Jesus' face.

The Rev. Daniel Webster, played by Aidan Quinn, is the main character in NBC's drama "The Book of Daniel," a series that debuted Friday night. An earnest but often harassed New England minister and his efforts to cope with the challenges of modern-day parenthood — including a moody teenage daughter who is caught selling marijuana to finance her manga animation — and the politics of leading a church congregation. Along the way, he consults with a very real-looking Jesus, a character who looks as if he stepped straight off the canvas of "The Last Supper."

Even before it has aired, the show has added fuel to a building debate about the portrayal of faith and religion in popular culture. The American Family Association, a conservative Christian organization based in Tupelo, Miss., has already begun to stir the program, arguing that it is disrespectful of Chris-

tians. By Thursday afternoon, stations in Terre Haute, Ind., and Little Rock, Ark., had decided to air the show.

Meanwhile, some Episcopal priests are urging their congregants to watch the program, saying that it offers a refreshing, candid portrayal of religious leaders and showcases the Episcopal Church as a tolerant denomination. The Episcopal Diocese of Washington has even launched the Blog of Daniel — found at blog.edow.org/weblog — a Web site designed to spur discussion about the issues raised on the program.

All the fuss has come as somewhat of a surprise to creator Jack Kenny, who originally wrote the series as a wife-gone-misadventure novel a year ago. Kenny — who most recently produced "Wanda at Large" and "Titus" — said he intended to make Webster a "reluctant" minister, not the focus of the show.

"I've never been about religion," said Kenny, who was raised Roman Catholic and describes himself now as an unaffiliated Christian. "It's about a family that loves each other, reconciles and is ready to catch each other when they fall. I was always very clear with

the writers and actors that this was never to make fun of or mock Christianity," he added. "It was always a show about people of faith who believe in Jesus Christ as their savior. But it's not about that — that's just the backdrop."

Kenny said he got the inspiration for the show from his partner's family, a tight-knit but often taciturn clan.

"I've always wanted to examine that world of the WASP that uptight, Northeastern. Let's not talk about the world, let's have a marital instead," he said. "I remember Michael telling me that once when he was a kid, he said, 'God bless you, Mommy.' And his mother said, 'We don't say that. I love that word, but I love the unspoken, because really good actors can do so much with that.'"

NBC executives were drawn to Kenny's script because it was unlike anything else on the air, said Viv Zigler, the network's executive vice president of current programs.

"You've got it all: one character that you don't usually see on television," Zigler said. "His family is surrounded by extended family how so much drama, and he himself is a flawed character. And you have it set in a Please see DANIEL, Page C2



The Rev. Daniel Webster, played by Aidan Quinn, is the main character in NBC's drama "The Book of Daniel," a series about an earnest but often harassed New England minister and his efforts to cope with the challenges of modern-day parenthood and the politics of leading a church congregation.

RELIGION

Evangelicals direct clout at global warming

Coast News Service

ATLANTA — What does the Bible say about global warming? Some evangelical Christian leaders hope to answer that question next year with a statement on climate change that could lend moral authority and political power to a smaller number of environmentalists pushing the issue.

A sign that U.S. evangelicals are taking political muscles strengthened in battles over domestic issues such as abortion, gay rights and school prayer on a conservative army of activists, from human rights and religious freedom to global poverty and AIDS — issues on which they've already scored legislative victories in Washington.

The climate change statement, being crafted by several evangelical leaders nationwide, could lead to cuts on emissions of greenhouse gases that also could put evangelicals — who make up 1 in 4 voters and are a key support base for President Bush, with 78 percent of white evangelicals voting for him last year — at odds with the White House and business interests that form another key Republican constituency.

The emerging debate among evangelicals on "creation care" — as they dub environmental stewardship — may also sharpen differences within a group sometimes perceived as monolithic.

About 70 percent of white evangelicals favor Republicans, while 83 percent of black evangelicals lean Democratic, according to a poll done last year by Greenberg Quinlan Rose Research, Washington consulting firm.

Opinions vary on a number of issues. The National Association of Evangelicals, which says it represents 30 million people in 45,000 churches, has recently conducted research showing too little to stop mass killings in Sudan's Darfur region. It backs the International Criminal Court, which Bush opposes.

The movement's grass-roots strength enhances its lobbying efforts in Washington despite smaller budgets and staffs than do lobbyists representing Richard Chirba, the association's vice president of governmental affairs.

"We go to members of Congress and say, 'You want to be on the right side of history? Then join us. You want to do something to save people's lives, such as in Darfur? Then join with us,'" he says. "We're not buying support with favors. We're saying 'Do what's right.'"

He said he recently discussed the issue with environmentalists with Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.).

Two prominent evangelicals — former President Jimmy Carter and Jim Wallis, founder of a Christian magazine — landed on bestseller lists this year with critiques of the Iraq war. Carter's "The Way Forward" and Wallis' "The Way Forward" landed on bestseller lists this year with critiques of the Iraq war.

Evangelicals do not always speak with one voice, of course. Richard Land, head of Southern Baptist Convention's public relations, warned that the emphasis on climate change and the International Criminal Court puts the National Association of Evangelicals "in danger of being out of touch with a large segment of their constituency."

The White House has gone to great lengths to court evangelicals. Shortly after Bush took office, he initiated weekly conference calls for a handful of evangelical leaders to talk politics with White House aides.

It's a change of pace for Land, who participates in the calls. He said President Ronald Reagan's advisors usually returned his calls and he often got through to the first President Bush's aides, but the Clinton White House "wouldn't even take our calls" unless the situation deteriorated.

"In this administration," he said, "they call us." Land said recent topics of the calls included the Iraq war, AIDS in Africa and killings in Sudan. The Bush presidency has given evangelicals access to power in an era of heightened awareness of world affairs among all Americans, an interest triggered by globalization and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, said John Green, secretary for the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. He described an "unusual moment

Sometimes God works when the cops fail

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Inside the locked gates of a county juvenile detention facility in Sylmar, north of Los Angeles, all eyes are on Ernesto "Satan" Deras.

Before him are two dozen teenagers accused of violent crimes and facing the prospect of being tried as adults and sent to state prison.

Deras, a veteran of the violent street gang Mara Salvatrucha, speaks in a dry monotone, but his message settles in with an ominous weight: Give in to gang leaders or other criminals and you'll waste away in prison — or die at an early age.

Lean, with close-cropped hair and wearing a Dodgers T-shirt, Deras looks younger than his 36 years. He's a gang intervention counselor with Communities in Schools, a nonprofit group. It's a job that takes him to the Barry J. Goldwater Center on Thursday afternoons and beyond to downtown street corners to calm tensions after drive-by shootings, to gang meetings at local parks to broker truces and to his Pentecostal church, where he invites gang members trying to start a new life.

At a time when Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, has grown dramatically and captured the focus of government authorities across the U.S. and Central America, law enforcement officers, policy analysts and human rights activists agree that more programs like Deras' that emphasize intervention, education and training are needed to counter the scourge of gangs.

Stephen C. Johnson, a Central America expert who studies MS-13 at the conservative Heritage Foundation, recently warned Congress that police and immigration crackdowns alone won't stem the growth of a gang that has up to 50,000 members in six countries.

"We are going to have to encourage opportunity and social entrepreneurship," Johnson said in an interview. "If we don't, we won't have enough jails."

In the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., where MS-13 membership has surged in recent years, authorities initially responded with tough police tactics. Now, they are gearing up a series of anti-gang programs, including a youth center in the heart of MS-13 turf in Langley Park.

Glenn F. Ivey, the elected prosecutor in Prince George's

County, Md., said more needs to be done to counter heavy recruiting by MS-13. "There's been a big hole there that we're trying to fill," Ivey said.

As with the enforcement efforts, it is difficult to measure the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs. Some gang investigators are suspicious and believe that anti-gang workers become too cozy with street criminals.

But among the models the U.S. Justice Department cites as most promising are programs like Communities in Schools. The program is successful in part, authorities in the Los Angeles area say, because Deras and other former gang members are able to penetrate bonds of loyalty that make gangs difficult for outsiders to reach.

"They bring hope to these kids," said Ken Kondo, an L.A. County Probation Department spokesman. "They're making a tremendous impact here."

In the spartan dayroom at the Sylmar lockup, surrounded by teenage offenders — most with shaved heads, several with gang tattoos — Deras offers his own life as an object lesson in war, street violence and redemption.

After his father died of cancer when he was 7, his mother raised him on a coffee plantation near Santa Ana, one of El Salvador's largest cities, where she cleaned the owner's home. When civil war broke out in 1980, the area became a battleground between government forces and leftist insurgents.

Deras recalls admiring the government soldiers, who wore matching green, U.S.-issued uniforms and carried M-16 rifles. When he was kicked out of a Catholic school at 16 for fighting, he joined the army.

He was selected for special forces training and his instructors included U.S. military advisers. He became a rifleman in one of the Salvadoran army's most fearsome and ruthless infantry units, the Ramon Bellosillo Battalion.

Looking back, Deras tells the boys at juvenile hall, he sees that his commanders manipulated him.

"There were officers who told me to go kill that family," he says. "And I would do it, even though I didn't want to."

His army buddies nicknamed him "Satan," Deras says, because before battle he practiced black magic rituals of burning



Los Angeles Times photo

Rene 'Demon' Ramirez, left, and Ernesto 'Satan' Deras worship at the Church on the Way in Los Angeles. Ramirez says he left a street gang two years ago after being shot.

incense, lighting candles and placing curses on the enemy. "I didn't want to just hurt people with weapons. I wanted to hurt them in other ways," Deras says. In November 1989, he was shot in the shoulder during a bloody offensive in the suburbs of San Salvador. He was sent home to recuperate. His mother begged him not to go back to his unit and persuaded him to go live with relatives in Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, where he could land a good job and make something of his life. He says he made the month-long journey by Arizona illegally. Shortly after arriving in March 1990, he received political asylum as a former combatant in the war.

But Deras wasn't prepared to leave the fighting behind and wanted to be part of MS-13, which had been formed by Salvadoran refugees.

"I loved war," he says. "The way he saw it, gang life wasn't much different than the army. You were fighting alongside your countrymen, he says, only this time the opponents were entrenched Mexican American street gangs."

His rise in MS-13 was bloody. In 1991, a friend died in his arms after being shot in an alley. A year later, in a turf fight with another gang, Deras was repeatedly kicked in the face. His mouth was wired shut for two months. He says he did repeated stints in County Jail for armed robbery, car theft and weapons possession.

By 1992, he was an MS-13 shot caller as crack cocaine flooded the streets and gangs

were using high-powered weapons, helping fuel record levels of bloodshed in the city.

Around the same time, activist William "Blinky" Rodriguez was trying to organize a truce among dozens of Hispanic street gangs across the San Fernando Valley. The only gang not involved was MS-13, Rodriguez, who now heads the Valley's Communities in Schools program, said Deras was one of the few people with the power to bring his clique to a peace summit held at a neighborhood park. Rodriguez invited Deras and he accepted.

As several hundred warring gang members gathered around, Rodriguez read from the Bible and said he did not want them to end up like his son, who at 16 was killed by gang members in a random shooting as he was learning to drive a stick-shift car.

Deras said that when he heard Rodriguez read from the Bible, a seed was planted. But the seed didn't flower until 1998, when the senselessness of his life finally hit him. He began going to church.

He said MS-13 members accepted his change but issued a dire warning: His conversion had better be genuine and not just a ruse to break away from the gang. "If you're going to do it, do it right," he recalled one leader saying.

Impressed by Deras' turn-around, Rodriguez said, he hired the MS-13 veteran in 2000 to work with other inactive and ex-gang members at Communities in Schools. Deras said he has become a family man with six children, including a boy born in November.

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COMMUNITY

Community page coordinator: Will Stas - 735-3233



Licensed social worker Marcio Bedke, left, and Home Care and Hospice Manager Leslie Klett, present Mike Johnson with a gift honoring him for National Pastoral Week.

Hospice staff recognizes pastor

BURLEY — Cassia Regional Medical Center's Hospice program recently recognized Pastor Mike Johnson, Burley Bible Chapel, for his service to the patients in the Mini-Cassia area.

Johnson is the spiritual counselor volunteer on the Cassia hospice team.

"I do this volunteer work to help people nearing the end of their life. Medical staff can help with their pain. But I can help with their spiritual needs. Family

members also have fears and concerns that I can address."

Marcio Bedke, a licensed social worker, says that Johnson's patients always look forward to his visits.

"He has a very special talent creating roses out of paper. He quietly makes the rose and leaves the patient with a smile. We always know how many visits he has made by the bouquet of roses left behind," Bedke said.

Johnson says he's not there to

convert patients and families to his beliefs.

"I coordinate with the patient's own church clergy and try to give comfort to those who ask me to share my own faith," Johnson said.

"We truly appreciate the volunteer time that Mike so generously gives to our hospice program," said Leslie Klett, IHC home care and hospice manager.

Anyone interested in becoming a hospice volunteer can call Bedke at 678-8844.

SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU

Volunteers — The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of the Magic Valley, a Faith in Action Program Inc., is in need of volunteers to transport a dialysis patient on Tuesdays and Thursdays from an area south of the Twin Falls Airport and to the nephrology center off of Pole Line Road. Mileage reimbursement and volunteer insurance is available. To help with this or other areas, call 733-6333.

Clothing — The College of Southern Idaho Refugee Center is in need of winter clothes, especially for men. Donations can be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed for the lunch hour) Monday through Friday. Call Teresa at 736-2166.

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

This public service column is designed to match needs in the communities of the eight counties in the Magic Valley with volunteer help.

If you need a volunteer, call the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), at 736-2122, Ext. 320. RSVP is a United Way-sponsored agency at the College of Southern Idaho.

Please submit your request before 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday for Saturday publication. Call weekly to receive request.

by excess insurance. Call Edith at 736-2122, ext. 320, or Kity at 678-0727.

Tutors — The College of Southern Idaho Adult Basic Education program is in need of volunteer tutors for students ages 16 and older in reading, English, math and English as a second language. Tutors may help an instructor in a classroom or individual students

three to five hours a week. Call 732-6636 or (800) 680-0274, ext. 6636.

Volunteers — The America Reads program needs volunteers age 55 and older to work with children in kindergarten through third grade. Call Shirley Basham at 736-2122, ext. 325.

Computer help — The Idaho State Police Region 4 Office in Jerome is in need of senior adult volunteers age 55 and older to help with computer data entry in their patrol and evidence departments. Volunteers must undergo a state police background check and be available at least one to two hours per week. Volunteers must be a member of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at the College of Southern Idaho Area IV Office on Aging. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Lt. Rob Storm at 324-6010.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Minico basketball team will hold chili feed

BURLEY — The Minico High School boys basketball team is sponsoring a chili feed from 5 to 7 p.m. before the game Saturday at the Minico High School lunch room, 300 W. Highway 24.

The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children younger than 8. Chili, potatoes and Papa Kelsy's cinnamon rolls will be served. The public is welcome.

BJ Duplicate Bridge Club announces winners

RUPERT — The BJ Duplicate Bridge Club has announced its results for Jan. 3.

North/south: first, George and Nancy Gibson; second, Nanette Woodland and Vera Mah; third, Steve Sams and Margaret Manning; and fourth, Lila Buman and Marian Siew.

East/west: first, Chuck and Shirley Hunter; second, Clarence Nicwert and Marie Price; third, Eunice Merrigan and Barbara Carney; and fourth, Dona Kunat and Peggy Payne.

The club plays bridge at 1 p.m. Tuesdays at the Rupert Elks. Refreshments are served. All area bridge players are welcome.

For more information, call 878-3997.

Rosetta Assisted Living announces events

BURLEY — Rosetta Assisted Living, 1919 Hilland Ave., is hosting several events this month. The public is welcome.

The Mini-Cassia Alzheimer's Support Group meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Jan. 21 at the center. A chili feed will be held there from noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$2 per person. Volunteer Day is Jan. 27.

Blood pressure checks will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday at the Golden Heritage Senior Center, 2421 Overland Ave.

For more information, call

center or any of these events, call 677-5451.

CSI offers hatha yoga class this spring

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho, 315 Falls Ave., is offering "Continuing Hatha Yoga" from 9 to 10:40 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 21 to May 6, in Gym 226. The cost is \$115.

Students will learn yoga poses that will exercise body systems, tone muscles, stimulate circulation and improve health, organizers say.

For more information or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

T.F. Senior Center plans trip to Jackpot

JACKPOT, Nev. — The Twin Falls Senior Center will take a trip to Burton's 93 Club on Wednesday. The bus will leave the center, 530 Shoshone St. W., at 3 p.m. and leave Jackpot, Nev., at 9 p.m.

The cost is \$8. The public is welcome.

For more information or reservations, call the center at 734-5084.

Support group offers 13-week seminar

TWIN FALLS — DivorceCare is a 13-week seminar and support group to provide information about ways to heal from hurt, organizers say.

Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, starting this Wednesday, at the Twin Falls First Church of the Nazarene, 1231 Washington St. N. The cost is \$20. Childcare is provided.

For more information, call the church office at 733-6610.

Parents of graduates in Buhl meet on Monday

BUHL — A meeting for the parents of the Buhl High School class of 2006 will be held at 7

p.m. Monday at the school library, 525 Sawtooth Ave.

For more information, call Angela Hoops at 543-8262.

Kimberly senior center offers Sunday dinner

KIMBERLY — The Ageless Senior Center, 310 N. Main, will serve ham, potatoes and gravy, just O salad, creamed peas, hot rolls, dessert, coffee, tea and milk from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday at the center.

Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children younger than 12. The public is welcome.

For more information, call 423-4338.

West Magic Lake Rec Club installs officers

SHOSHONE — The West Magic Lake Recreation Club is installing officers at noon Sunday at the resort, located on West Magic Road.

The public is welcome.

Line dancing program offered Tuesday

TWIN FALLS — The 20th Century Club will meet at noon Tuesday at the Turf Club, 734 Falls Ave. The program will be line dancing. Everyone is asked to wear a scarf.

For more information or reservations, call Helen at 733-2552.

NARFE learns about assisted living options

TWIN FALLS — The National Association of Retired and Employed Federal Employees will meet at 11:30 a.m. Monday at the Loong Hing Restaurant, 1719 Kimberly Road.

Jim Scaulon from Altern Assisted Living will speak on assisted living options. Information regarding income, benefit changes and more will be available.

For more information, call 733-9477.

ELKS DONATIONS



The Rupert Elks Lodge donated \$500 to the Mini-Cassia Christmas Council to help needy families in the area during the holidays. From left are Elaine Searle, Roger Uhrich, Mike Zemka, Tony Baird of the Elks, and Norma Claridge of the Christmas Council.



The Rupert Elks Lodge donated \$200 to the Wal-Mart's Shop with a Cop program where local police officers accompany a child from a needy family as they shop for gifts for themselves and their families. From left are Elaine Searle, Roger Uhrich, Mike Zemka, Tony Baird of the Elks and Disa Uhrich of Wal-Mart.



The Rupert Elks Lodge donated dictionaries to all third-graders in the Minidoka County schools. The program began in the National Elks Foundation in 1995 and was adopted recently by the Rupert Lodge. Representatives from each of the schools accepted the dictionaries. From left are Elks members Tony Baird and Roger Uhrich, Terry Garber of Heyburn Elementary, Elks member Mike Zemka, Terry Fennell of Acoquia, Elks member Elaine Searle, John Fennell of the Minidoka County School District, Mary Williams of St. Nicholas School, Michael Hale of Rupert Elementary, Colleen Johnson of Paul Elementary and Scott Rogers, Minidoka County School District.

Buhl group seeks centennial material

The Times-News

BUHL — The history of Buhl may be in your drawers and closets.

The Buhl Centennial video project needs contributions from area residents of photos and home videos depicting life in Buhl over the last 100 years.

"What makes Buhl special is its people. We want to see pictures and film of your family enjoying life in Buhl — from swimming at the city pool to harvesting a record breaking crop of sweet corn," said Kama

Metzler Fitzgerald, video writer and producer.

Fitzgerald said the video will take a look at the dynamic history of the town and a few of the people that have left their mark here.

"We are blessed to have some wonderful film footage of the city in 1916 and it's 10th anniversary," Fitzgerald said. "We also have some film from the early 1930s. There are a number of great photos of the early years as well — but after about 1935, our photo and film supplies are blank and that's why we need

some help."

Fitzgerald said they particularly interesting in film and footage of the city swimming pool, planting and harvest season, American Legion baseball, area businesses and local characters.

"Henry Fields was a black man beloved by many in town in the 30s and 40s, but we only have one picture of him," Fitzgerald said.

To submit photos or film, drop it off to the Buhl Herald office by Tuesday, or call Fitzgerald at 830-3185.

Padilla court hearing sees delay

MIAMI (AP) — Former "enemy combatant" Jose Padilla returned to court Friday, a day after his transfer from a military to civilian custody, but a judge agreed to postpone hearing his plea and deciding whether he should be granted bail.



Padilla

Padilla's lawyers had asked for the delay, saying they needed more time to sort through the complex case. U.S. Magistrate Judge Barry Guber set a new hearing for Jan. 12.

Prosecutors want Guber to deny bail for Padilla, 35, who was taken from a South Caroli-

na brig and flown to Miami on Thursday after three years in military custody. He is accused of being part of a North American terror cell seeking to provide money, material and lighters for violent Islamic extremists around the world. The former Chicago gang member said little during Fri-

day's brief hearing, pausing at one point to wave one of his shackled hands at his mother, Estrela Ortega Lebron, who was in the courtroom. She declined to comment afterward.

After Thursday's hearing and a closed-door meeting with Padilla, his lawyer Andrew Patel said he was pleased that his client is getting his day in court. "Mr. Padilla is being treated as any American citizen," Patel said. "This case should be tried in a public courtroom, and will be tried in a public courtroom." Padilla was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare Airport in May 2002

and held by the Bush administration without criminal charges on suspicion of plotting to detonate a radioactive "dirty bomb" inside the United States.

The Supreme Court has been asked to use Padilla's case to define the extent of presidential power over U.S. citizens who are detained on American soil on suspicion of terrorism. But before the high court could decide whether to take up the case, the Bush administration indicted Padilla in November in civilian court. The charges do not involve the "dirty bomb" allegations.

Republicans call for new leadership

WASHINGTON (AP) — Embattled Rep. Tom DeLay's hopes of reclaiming his post as House majority leader suffered a setback Friday as fellow Republicans called for new leadership in the midst of a congressional corruption scandal.



DeLay

Days after lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty in courtrooms in two cities, a pair of GOP lawmakers circulated a petition calling for elections to pick a permanent replacement for DeLay. The Texas lawmaker temporarily relinquished his leadership post last year following indictment on campaign finance charges in his home state.

Separately, Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., said there was no room in the leadership for DeLay.

"The situation is that Tom's legal situation doesn't seem to be reaching clarity," Kline told The Associated Press. "There are stories of more indictments or questions associated with Jack Abramoff. And I think that Tom DeLay is going to have to concentrate on that."

Spokesman Kevin Madden said DeLay "appreciates that a majority of his colleagues recommended that he remains committed to fulfilling his responsibilities as majority leader and that he'll be quickly exonerated at Texas."

"And he appreciates that a majority of his colleagues won't give in to what is essentially character assassination by insinuation," Madden said.

Rep. Roy Blunt, who is formally the GOP whip, has been filling in as DeLay's temporary replacement. Republican rules permit an election to fill the vacancy, and aides to Reps. Jeff Flake of Arizona and Charles Bass of New Hampshire said the two men were circulating a petition that would allow the rank-and-file to pick new leadership quickly.

If elections are held, Blunt is expected to run for the post. Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, a former member of the leadership, is a likely rival, and there may be other candidates, as well.

DeLay has long insisted he is innocent of the charges in Texas, and has repeatedly accused the prosecutor, Ronnie Earle, of conducting a political vendetta. Fellow House Republicans have seemed willing to give the longtime lawmaker until the end of January to clear his name, deciding to allow Blunt to function as a caretaker until then.

But Abramoff's guilty plea earlier this week seem to have changed the political environment.

"That has brought home the fact that we need not just new leaders but a course correction," Flake said.

Bloodshed threatens to spark backlash

Thousands rally in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A spree of bloodshed that killed nearly 200 people in two days, including 11 U.S. troops, threatened to provoke a backlash from Shiite militias. Iraq's largest religious group rallied thousands Friday against what it claimed was American backing for some Sunni Arab politicians they say have supported insurgents.

Military officials announced the deaths of six more U.S. troops in the recent violence that has swept Iraq, bringing to 11 the number of Americans killed on the same day.

In Baghdad's Sadr City slum and in its northern Kazimiyah suburb, thousands of angry Shites rallied to condemn U.S. suicide attacks Thursday that killed at least 136 people, including the U.S. troops.

The protesters also denounced what they claimed was American backing for Sunni Arab politicians who have supported insurgent groups and are now protesting their last month's elections were tainted by fraud.

Final results from the Dec. 15 elections could be released next week and they are expected to skew the results. The United-Iraq Alliance with a strong lead. The Shites will, however, need to form a coalition government with support from Kurdish and Sunni Arab political groups.

The rallies and threats by the Iraq's largest Shiite religious party to react with force if the militant attacks continue have renewed fears that paramilitary militias — now thought to make up part of some elite police units — would take to the streets and carry out reprisals.

Sunni Arabs have complained that elite brigades used by Interior Ministry forces have already pushed Iraq to the brink of sectarian war.

In Sadr City, more than 5,000



A woman mourns over the coffin of a victim of Thursday's Shiite attacks in Baghdad.

demonstrators chanted slogans in favor of the Interior Ministry and against U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and moderate Sunni Arab leaders. But they reserved most of their ire for hard-liners such as Saleh al-Mutlag, the outspoken head of the Sunni Arab National Dialogue Front.

"We're going to crush Saleh al-Mutlag with our slippers," they chanted, many armed with automatic weapons. "No, no to Zalmay. No, no to terrorism. It is an insult in Arab culture to touch someone with shoes, which are considered unclean."

Al-Mutlag denounced what he called "irresponsible statements" and condemned terrorist attacks.

"No government post is worth a single drop of Iraqi blood," he told The Associated Press. "Our decision to join the political process means that we reject terrorism."

The demonstration was organized after Friday prayers by the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq — one of two religious parties that makes up the governing Alliance.

SCIRI and Badr Brigade Secretary-General Hadi al-Amrhi are both blamed headline Sunni groups of inciting the violence, and said the Defense and Interior ministries — both dominated by Shites — were being restrained by the U.S.-led coalition and had to be unleashed.

Al-Qaida figure: Troop reductions victory for Islam

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, said in a video message Friday that the United States' decision to withdraw some troops from Iraq represented "the victory of Islam" and called on Muslims to attack all sites.

Al-Zawahiri, wearing a white turban and gray robe and seated next to an automatic rifle, waved his finger for emphasis as he spoke in the two-minute excerpt aired by Al-Jazeera.

"I congratulate (the Islamic nation) for the victory of Islam in Iraq," he said.

Al-Zawahiri apparently was referring to comments last month by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who said President Bush had authorized new troop cuts below the 138,000 level that prevailed for most of last year.

Rumsfeld did not reveal the exact size of the cut, but the Pentagon said the reductions would be about 7,000 troops, about the size of two combat brigades. The Pentagon has not announced a timetable for the reductions, but indications are that the force could be cut significantly by the end of the year.

"You remember I told you more than a year ago that the American withdrawal from Iraq is only a matter of time, and here they are now... negotiating with the mujahideen," al-Zawahiri said.

"Bush was forced at the end of last year to announce that he will pull out his forces from Iraq, but he was giving excuses for his withdrawal that the Iraq forces have reached a good level."

Bush has not offered concrete details about bringing troops home but said Wednesday that "possible adjustments" would be discussed with Iraq leaders if progress continued on security and political efforts.

A U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking on condition of anonymity in compliance with office policy, said that while the video appears to be authentic, it has not been determined with certainty that it is al-Zawahiri.

Rice cancels trip to Asia due to Sharon's health

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice canceled a six-day trip to Indonesia and Australia on Friday amid uncertainty over ailing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

U.S. officials have been careful not to publicly suggest that Sharon has left power permanently, or that they do not expect him to recover. Rice's travel decision is the clearest sign yet that U.S. officials consider Sharon's prognosis dim.

"She decided because of the situation in the Middle East, it was the right decision to stay here in Washington," said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack. Rice had planned to leave Saturday.

If Sharon were to die, Rice would probably attend the funeral in Jerusalem, although McCormack did not say that was the reason to cancel the trip. President Bush would probably lead the U.S. delegation.

"Our thoughts are with the family of Prime Minister Sharon and with Prime Minister Sharon, and we continue to hope for his recovery," McCormack said. "And I think, out of respect for them and out of respect for the Israeli people, I don't think I have anything more to say."

The White House declined to speculate on how Sharon's illness could affect the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Stewart conviction upheld

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal appeals court Friday upheld the conviction of celebrity home-maker Martha Stewart for lying to investigators about selling stock that plunged in price soon after her trade. Stewart completed her sentence in the case last summer but pursued the appeal anyway.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan issued a written ruling upholding the 2004 convictions of Stewart and former stockbroker Peter Bacanovic for lying about why Stewart sold nearly 4,000 shares of ImClone Systems Inc. stock in 2001.

The sale came just before the stock took a dive on a negative

government report about the drug company.

The appeals court said that none of the numerous grounds upon which Stewart and Bacanovic challenged their convictions provided a basis to disturb the jury's verdict.

Stewart, 64, and Bacanovic, 43, had claimed the verdict was tainted by prosecutorial misconduct, juror misconduct, extraneous influences on the jury and erroneous evidentiary rulings and jury instructions.

Stewart served five months in prison and five months of home detention, finishing her sentence last summer. Bacanovic completed his five month prison sentence last year as well.

Death toll from building collapse in Mecca reaches 76

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Hundreds of men using cranes, hand tools and blow torches pulled bodies from the rubble of a four-story building that collapsed in Islam's holiest city, and authorities said Friday the death toll reached at least 76.

The Saudi Interior Ministry also said Thursday's collapse injured 62.

The disaster marred the start of the annual gathering of millions of Muslims for the hajj pilgrimage that begins Monday. More than 1 million attended Friday prayers in the Grand Mosque, which is just 200 feet away from the building that collapsed.

On Friday afternoon, about 24 hours after the collapse,

workers called off the search for survivors in the pile of concrete and steel. The building had shops and restaurants and was used as a hotel during the hajj.

"We did all we can. The operation is now over," said the general in charge of the site speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the

media. Hundreds of men had worked through Thursday night, under spotlights and with cranes and blow torches, to remove huge slabs of concrete, occasionally stopping to use microphones to listen for survivors.

While people were rescued Thursday, workers found no body alive Friday.

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 Act now on your resolution to invest in real estate this year. This 3-unit apartment house in Buhl can be your money maker. Complete renovated 2-bedroom unit for your residence and the others make your payment or rent all the while!
 Call Eric 420-4125 for more information

"COUNTRY ELEGANCE"
 Only begins to describe the many features of this 4-bedroom 2.5-bath family home. Custom floor plan providing spacious rooms and a serene comfortable atmosphere. Formal dining, country kitchen, solid-surface counters, hardwood floors, spectacular fireplace, bonus family room over garage, master suite and much more!
 Call Toll 420-4193 for more information

ROOMY HOME ON LARGE LOT
 lot of square footage in this home, which offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room with fireplace, new countertops in kitchen and some newer flooring. Huge corner lot, partially fenced, sprinkler system, mature landscaping including a weeping elm. Fourth level unfinished for more options. \$149,000. MLS#88222204
 Call Call Quinn 420-7238 or 734-4500 to see this home

IMMACULATE HOME
 This home is perfect in every way. The floor plan 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, landscaped, fenced, sprinklers, 2-car garage. Location over the best in Twin Falls!
 \$169,000. MLS#88221650
 Call Ross 731-3164 for more information

ALL THE BEST IN 2008!!!!
 Start your New Year in this remarkable 3-bedroom, 2-bath home. Built in 2004, 1,745 sq. ft. Spacious rooms. Large kitchen with walk-in pantry. Pull-out in bottom kitchen cabinets. BUILT shed, 2 access areas in master bath. Very bright, beautifully landscaped, Gas fireplace in North Porch French Suite. Call me to see.
 \$192,500. MLS#88222828
 Call Victoria 420-3390 for more information

START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT!
 Gorgeous State View Canyon RM property. Spectacular views, secluded subdivision, 2 lots available. Owner will carry with reasonable terms. Call today!
 \$105,000. MLS#88221958
 Call Gayle 308-8224 for more information

BUILDERS WELCOME!
CEDAR CREEK ESTATES
 CEDAR CREEK ESTATES IN FILER
 Get your lot now! Prestigious location, paved roads, curb, gutter, and sidewalks. Natural gas, city water, and sewer. Prices start at \$29,900.
 Some of the best lots are still available. Several homes are in the process of being built. Call me for more information about lots, plans, and builders.
 \$29,900. MLS#882207617
 Call Caryn 731-4288 for more information

CITY CONVENIENCE ON AN ACRE LOT
 This newer manufactured home sits on one acre in Filer. This home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, central air, gas heat, city sewer as well as water for irrigation. Home is within walking distance to schools and shopping.
 \$109,000. MLS#88221900
 Call Judy 508-5480 for a showing today!

The beautiful Sherris Construction home
 has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, dual storage room, more than 1,900 sq. ft. with a double car garage.
 \$182,000. MLS#88221606
 Call Jill and Willis 420-2485 or 420-0030 for more information

START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT!
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 Custom built in 2002, this 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home sits on 1.34 acres and includes lots of outdoor living areas, a possible guest cottage/ separated office building. \$225,000. MLS#88222237
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COUNTRY SHOWPLACE!
 Country Showplace! Gorgeous 3 bed 2 bath on acreage in Jerome/Wendell area with a fireplace and room for renters. Only \$104,900. MLS#88222191
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 8.89 Acres with 5 water shares plus a geothermal well and domestic well drilled, 3 ponds and lots of beautiful natural topography design features. Great building site! \$199,900. MLS#88222663. Call Ron Kirtland 404-4810. Sherri Kirtland 731-2988

COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL! 3 Acres.
 Nice 1.924 Sq. Ft. home, 3 bed 1.5 bath. Property is in Walmart. Has a 25 x 30 garage with a 35 x 35 insulated shop. \$310,000. MLS#98224316. Call Ron Kirtland 404-4810. Sherri Kirtland 731-2988

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH
 This three bedroom, 2 bath home is located on 1.20 acres between Jerome & Twin Falls. This home features 1650 sq. ft., maintenance free siding, 2 car garage, heat pump. \$160,000. MLS#98224096
 Call Linda Miller at 731-7217

FIVE ACRES
 Fully fenced five acres with water shares, auto sprinklers, central air conditioning, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. MLS#88222569
 \$319,900
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SPECTACULAR VIEWS
 The Views from this home are spectacular. Lovely 3 bedroom 2 bath with a beautiful oak kitchen. Full fenced. \$148,700. MLS#88222563
 Call Amy 420-9848 or Linda Loe 539-1458

MUST SEE PROPERTY
 2420 sq. ft., 3 bedroom 2 bath, beautiful kitchen with granite counter tops in kitchen and bathrooms. 50x70 Shop with a bedroom, full bath and laundry. This is a must see property. MLS#88221046
 Call Janita 420-7524

ECO FRIENDLY
 Great view on this beautiful eco friendly all on one level. Home, 5 bed 2 1/2 bath, on 5 acres with fenced pasture. MLS#98216134 \$260,000
 Call Ron Kirtland 404-4810 or Sherri Kirtland 731-2988

GREAT LOCATION!
 Great location on South Lincoln 2600 sq. ft. commercial building with large asphalt parking lot. Formerly used as a restaurant. \$120,000. MLS#88110384
 Call Cathy 420-6127 or Honey 514-0799

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 Great investment property on State Street in Hagerman. Lease restaurant, laundry, dry cleaning, and more to develop. \$298,000. MLS#8109561
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RANCH STYLE
 Very well built home on acreage North of Jerome. Home has 5 bedrooms, basement, family room, jetted tub, and 1.3 acre in good location. \$199,500. MLS#88205533
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"The Dancer" 3 bedroom 2 bath, 1160 sq. ft., 3 car garage, central air, gas heat, full kitchen system, best view, oak hardwood, formal living would vary depending on lot choice. Proposed city park and walkway need need to verify all information. MLS#881511 499 \$117,500

"The Slocby II" This home plan is a 3 bedroom - 2 bath with a 2 car garage 1218 sq. ft., central air & gas heat. \$116,000. MLS#88133323

"The Willowbrook 3 DO" This 1376 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms 2 bath 2 car garage, Gas heat and control air, included full kitchen and bath, split bedrooms and washed ceilings. \$132,716. MLS# 92116670

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LEGAL

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Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise those citizens who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings.

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The "North View" This home to be built with 1954 sq ft, 4 bed room, 3 bath, 2 car garage, 10 x 10 deck, in a new upscale subdivision near City Park. \$229,900. Call 877-292-2854

RICHFIELD

River Ranch through 8 This is nice piece of property near the Little Wood River running through. 65 acres, road to Hill. \$76,000. Call 877-292-2854

TWIN FALLS

New Construction Executive home overlooking the new Temple site. 2100 sq ft, 4 bed, 3 bath, media, granite, tile, granite look stamped & colored concrete. Central air conditioning. Call 877-292-2854

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SHOSHONI

Land in Shoshoni, centrally located. Call for more information. \$96,000. Call 877-292-2854

JEROME

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Gain Ray

420-8843

APRIL

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Beautiful private back yard and features an R.V. parking spot in a desirable must see. Call 877-292-2854

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2 homes on 1/4 Acre

1152 sq ft, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 car garage. Call 877-292-2854

3 Bed, 1 1/2 Bath Home

Beautiful private back yard and features an R.V. parking spot in a desirable must see. Call 877-292-2854

JEROME

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FOUND and FOUND

FOUND cat, female, gray & white. In the Wendi area. Call 208-536-5670.

FOUND Cocker Spaniel, 6-9 months, male. Found near Windmill Heights. Call 208-316-2526.

FOUND dog, German Shepherd, older, long hair, brown. Answers to between Deco & Burlyow. Has chain collar and tags. Call 208-731-1185 or 208-880-1855.

FOUND dog, white, female, Pit Bull. On Washington St. 1226 Call 208-734-0935.

FOUND gold bracelet with name and engraving, found in CSI parking lot. Call to identify 404-6819 or 643-5609 N. miss.

FOUND gray and white cat with long hair by Century Cinema in Burley. Call 431-1811.

FOUND key on neck strap on 8th Street in Filtr. Call to identify 208-328-2329 or 208-320-1370.

FOUND kitten, adorable, gray approx. 3 mos old. Found on Jefferson St. in Burley. Call to identify at 423-5371.

REWARD OFFERED for the return of our Male German Short-hair, long hair, yellow. Answers to between Deco & Burlyow. Has chain collar and tags. Call 208-731-1185 or 208-880-1855.

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7	5		4		9			
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HARD #34

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 today's puzzle on page C-15.

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2004 Dodge Ram 2500
#6021A, 4x4, Automatic, Quad Cab, 25K
Retail Price \$32875 **SALE PRICE \$28995**

2005 BMW XE 4.0
#6049A, 4x4, Automatic, Premium, Powerwindows
Retail Price \$64750 **SALE PRICE \$59975**

DRIVERS
IdeaWest Transport, based in Rupert, Id, seeking CDL drivers to run local and 5 states. Pay to include. Hazmat, tanker and double endorsements are a plus. Please call 208-458-7500 or 208-312-4418.

CLERICAL
Full-time office position is available for local trucking co. Must have computer skills. Send resume to Box 93907 c/o PO Box 548 The Times-Herald Twin Falls, ID 83303

DRIVERS
Intermittent Drivers are needed for local trucking drivers. Radius of 600 miles. Weekly settlements. Holiday & Vacation pay. Paid Health Insurance. 401k. Sunrise Express, Inc. Twin Falls, Idaho 1-208-635-0825

DRIVERS
D & D Transportation Seeking qualified CDL/A Drivers. Pay scale depends on experience and driving record. Good benefits and excellent equipment. Call our Recruiter at 208-634-4851 ext 4431 208-634-4075

DRIVERS
Experienced Drivers Needed. Regional flatbed company is looking for drivers with at least 2 years OTR experience. Must be at least 23 years old. Home most weekends. Great pay & benefits. Please call 800-453-2227

ELECTRICIAN
Journeyman Electrician needed for Roberts Electric. High end residential commercial construction in the Sun Valley area. Full time, year round employment. Benefits include vacation, bonus & insurance. Pride in employee ownership. Fax resume Howard Royal at 208-788-3273 or call 208-788-3238 for more info.

DRIVERS
Does your New Year Resolution include a new job? If so give us a call. **TRUCK DRIVER**
Choose from 11 Western or all 48 states: Food Grade Tankers. Class A CDL, tanker endorsement, 2 yrs OTR exp. req. 38 CPM with a base rate and safety bonus based on exp. and driving record. 1-800-967-2911 Mon - Fri 8 AM to 6 PM MDT

DRIVERS
Hiring Local Delivery Drivers. Class A CDL, year round position, excellent benefits, great working environment, overtime, start \$11/hour. Apply in person. 1028 Frontage Rd. Wendell, Idaho No phone calls please

GENERAL
Accepting applications for the following opening position: Seedling Office Tech (To start the end of January)
-Experience with data entry
-Extensive knowledge of Excel required
-Full-time year round
-Starting wage DOE
Please apply at Moss Greenhouse Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. 269 E. 300 E. Jerome Idaho No Phone Calls

AGRICULTURAL
Field Man
This is an excellent opportunity to join our staff Central Idaho Agricultural Staff in the Mini Cassia / Upper Snake River Valley area. Responsibility will include working with growers in all phases of growing and harvesting. We require candidates with a college degree and prefer a framing background. We offer an excellent benefits package and competitive salary. For consideration please send resume, including salary history to:
The Amalgamated Super Company LLC
Attention: Ryan Olesen
3184 Elder Street
Boise, Idaho 83705
Fax 208-383-8685
We are an equal opportunity employer.

GENERAL
The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications for Meter Reader. This position will work March through November, 30 hour/week, Monday - Friday. A pro-rated monthly salary will be paid year round with a partial benefit package. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and a valid Idaho driver's license. Meter Readers are responsible for the accurate reading and recording of water usage based on a prescribed schedule. You may obtain more information and a City employment application at www.tfd.org, the Personnel Office, located at City Hall, 321 2nd Avenue East, or by phoning 705-7288. The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Drug Free Work Place. Closing date is January 27, 2006.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
We are currently seeking a Customer Service Position to execute our day-to-day load planning. This individual will be responsible for identifying and securing capacity to match load opportunities, creating low cost solutions, generating superior earning and revenue growth. Responsibilities:
-Communicate effectively with customers, vendors, sales representative and internal associates.
-Monitor and trace order and equipment and follow up on finding. Solicit freight or identify capacity alternative options as needed. Anticipate problems can be proactive rather than reactive in problem solving. Responsible for new business development.
-Strong oral and written communication skills. Must have excellent computer skills.
-Competitive salary and benefits package including 401k.
Send resume and references to: Twin Falls, ID Transportation PO Box 116 Giosing ID 83303 or email at clm23@dtransporation.com

Seastrom
Rare Opportunity for the New Year!
Database Administrator
This position will have the responsibility of designing/programming Seastrom Manufacturing's internal and external websites. We require a 4-year degree in computer science with 1-2 yrs work experience. Requires experience with Microsoft SQL server database programming in Visual Basic.net, Exchange 2003, Sharepoint Services, Flash, Reports, HTML, XML, JavaScript, Photoshop, and Crystal. Knowledge of Microsoft Office Products and Quark a plus. Seastrom provides excellent benefits, competitive pay, and generous paid time off.
Send application to: 456 Seastrom St., Twin Falls, ID. Interview online at www.seastrom.com. NO PHONE CALLS. Drug Free Workplace, EOE.

CANYON MOTORS SUBARU
749 Falls Avenue • Twin Falls • 208-734-8860
E-Mail cmotors@cableone.net

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

"One does not jump, and spring, and shout hurrah! at hearing one has got a fortune; one begins to consider responsibilities, and to ponder business."

— Charlotte Bronte

On today's deal from the Cavendish teams, West led a trump against South's optimistic four-heart contract, and declarer drew a second round of trump, ending in dummy. Now consider the position when declarer leads a low club from dummy to the nine. If West wins the club 10, he can do little else but return the suit. Declarer wins and plays a third club, and West must exit with a fourth club. Declarer discards a spade from dummy, ruffs out the spades, and has to guess diamonds for his contract.

What if West instead shifts to a diamond at trick four? That lets East play a spade through a club continuation is clearly ineffective, since declarer can now find a home for his spade loser). However, now the second club loser will eventually go away on the spades. It therefore looks as if declarer has a counter for every measure that the defense has available.

However, East jumped up with the club queen at trick three, the critical defensive play. When declarer took the club ace with a low club, West won his 10 and led a small diamond to his partner's ace. That allowed East to shift to spades, setting up the defense's fourth winner before declarer had any discards available.

The effect of East's play of the club queen was to force declarer to release the club ace prematurely — crystallizing the defense's two club winners. But it is far from obvious why this play should have been so devastating — it just was!

NORTH 01-7-A
♠ Q 7
♥ K 9 7 6 4
♦ J 10 5
♣ 5 4 2

WEST
♠ K 6 5 4
♥ 10 2
♦ Q 3 2
♣ K 10 6 3

EAST
♠ J 10 9 2
♥ Q J
♦ A 9 7 6 4
♣ A 7

SOUTH
♠ A 8 3
♥ A 8 5 3
♦ K 8
♣ A J 9 8

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South West North East
1NT Pass 2♦ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♥ All pass

Opening lead: Heart two

BID WITH THE ACES

01-7-B

South holds:

♠ Q 7 6 4
♥ J 10 5
♦ K 10 5
♣ 5 4 2

South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♥ Pass Dbl. Pass

ANSWER: Jump to three hearts. Your partner's double is for take-out, and you have so much more than you might that you cannot bid just two hearts. Show a little love and wait to see whether partner has enough to go on to game.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbywolff@midrange.com.
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OPERATOR - Must have 2+ years. M3 Operator experience, warehouse responsibilities. Full-time position. M-F 7:00 to 5:00. Benefits. 401K ESOP. Wage DOE. Apply in person at 15 Main Street, Hazelton, ID 83335. EOE M/F/D/V

DARY - Experienced. Immediate needed. FT position. Call 208-731-0992

SALES ASSOCIATE - T-Mobile exclusive dealer looking for professional, motivated, goal oriented individuals to represent leading wireless communications company in the Magic Valley. Aggressive compensation structure. Immediate start. jobs@gotmobile.com

DRIVERS - Daily-wanted 65-80 per hour. Apply in person at Sun Valley area. SunValley@sunvalley.com

PLUMBERS - Plumbers and Pipe Fitters. Growing Co. in Sun Valley area is looking for 2-4 yr. apprentices. Call 208-726-8260.

RETAIL Distribution Manager for Idaho Youth Ranch Twin Falls warehouse. Supervisor experience needed. \$9.95 per hour plus benefits. EOE. Apply in person, 3778 N. 3300 E. Kimberly, Idaho

TECHNICIAN - Heavy Truck/trailer maintenance needed. The Technicians yard needed. Wage based on experience. We offer competitive wages based on experience. Uniform, boot allowance, holiday pay, vacation pay, health, dental, vision insurance available. Apply in person at Sunrise Express 2818 Doo Taylor Dr. Twin Falls, Idaho or fax resume to 208-736-5320.

WELDER - Barcity Mechanical is now hiring in the local area for long term with overtime. MIG/Welding and Welder positions. Benefits available. Apply in person at: 402 W. 100 S. Hwy. 24 Paul, ID 208-438-8108 All Applicants subject to pre-employment drug test.

WELDER - Kodiak Northwest is hiring (2) exp. Welders for full-time positions. No certification necessary, but competence is required. Practical welding test will be given. Full-time inside work & benefits package. 208-438-8248.

SALES Consultant - Full-time. Needed for busy dealership. Willing to train an enthusiastic ambitious candidate. We offer excellent benefits including: Contact: Paid Vacation • Vision • 401K. Join Our Team... info@newcar.com

SALES - The Journal. Seeking an assertive and dynamic Sales Representative for an expanding weekly newspaper based in Halley, Idaho. As part of Leo Enterprises, we offer competitive wages, benefits & opportunity in this growing, challenging market. To apply, stop by our office at: 507 S. Main St., Halley for an application or email resume to: Trey.Spaulding@Leo.net.

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WALKING ROUTES
RT. 28: Burley South Idaho Press
Burley Ave. to Overland Ave. & West 18th St. to West 21st St.
RT. 210: Burley South Idaho Press
Overland Ave. to Hansen Ave. & East 18th St. to East 23rd Dr.
RT. 220: Burley South Idaho Press
Hansen Ave. to Hilland Ave. & East 18th St. to East 22nd St.
RT. 223: Burley South Idaho Press
Hansen Ave. to Almo Ave. & East 24th St. to East 27th St.
RT. 427: Rupert Times-News
A St. to Sharon Heights
Subdivision & 12th St. to 16th St.
RT. 428: Rupert Times-News
D St. to H St. & 15th St. to 20th St.

Also carriers wanted in Paul and Heyburn areas. If you are interested in being a newspaper carrier or substitute for the South Idaho Press & The Times-News please contact Amy at 677-6751. 230 East Main, Burley District Service Manager

SALES Consultant - Full-time. Needed for busy dealership. Willing to train an enthusiastic ambitious candidate. We offer excellent benefits including: Contact: Paid Vacation • Vision • 401K. Join Our Team... info@newcar.com

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Help Wanted: SALES ASSOCIATES

Positions Available - Twin Falls
If you are experienced, motivated, and passionate about customer service and leadership, we want you to join our team.

EVERTON
SALES ASSOCIATE
Call: 208-736-3417

• Competitive Pay • 401(k) Retirement Plan
• Life Insurance • Comprehensive Health Benefits
• Flexible Scheduling • Employee Discount

Submit Your Resume ONLINE to info@evertontrucks.com
Or, Fax To: 208-736-3417

200 Employment

DRIVERS - Driver needed for local commodity haul. Class A CDL, wage DOE. 208-280-8579

FURNITURE MAKER - Custom furniture shop looking for Furniture Makers & Finishers. Call 208-423-5806

GENERAL - Collection position prior experience. Plus, good telephone skills required, full time Mon-Fri. Bilingual a plus. Hourly plus commission. Will train. 401k, retirement, insurance. Apply Mon. - Fri. 8:30am-3:00pm. 850 Blue Lakes Blvd.

LIQUOR - Licensed Industrial Journeyman Plumber & Service Technician. Full time, wage DOE. Apply at Personnel Plus Twin Falls, 208-733-7300

GENERAL - Looking for a mechanically inclined person with good people skills, to work at rental store. Punctuality and good driving record a must. Must be able to lift 50-100 lbs., Full-time. Wage DOE. Benefits Available. Apply at Hamter Center, 851 Main Ave E. Twin Falls

GENERAL - Parts Person & Service Writer. Excellent in counter, ordering, & stocking. Must have the ability to communicate with customers on service and repair items. Computer skills a must. Will train. Paid vacations, health insurance, and 401k retirement plan. Call 208-934-4451 for appointment. Or mail resume to D & D Transportation PO Box 116 Gooding, ID 83330 or email to chaunks@dandttransportation.com

GENERAL - Warehouse Operator in Carey Idaho. Flexible. Excellent wages. Smoke free and drug free. \$12/hour. Call 208-733-1081. PO Box 16 Twin Falls, ID 83303

IRRIGATION - Irrigation Parts Inventory Serviceman needed in the Magic and Treasure Valleys. Should be a quality welder & backhoe operator. Insurance, 401k, paid vacation, holidays, call plan. Wage DOE. Send resume to: info@starwestsatellite.com PO Box 16 Twin Falls, ID 83303

200 Employment

CONSTRUCTION - Frames no experience necessary. Wage DOE. 280-0619

HEALTHCARE - Independent Living Specialist FT for not-for-profit corporation. Experience with people with disabilities required. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, computer experience. Must be a self starter, information and references required. Hiring preference given to qualified applicants with disability experience. \$11/hr. + benefits. Send resume by 1/11/06. LINC Attn: Ms. Heinrich 132 Main Ave. S. Twin Falls, ID 83301

HOUSEKEEPER - Need young person to do laundry, clean house, run errands, etc. Must have own car. Flex. 20hrs/wk. at \$7.75 + mileage. Call 734-8548 or mslg.

MARKETER - Get paid to wave. Must be outgoing and energetic. No experience necessary. Call 208-733-5525.

MECHANIC - Full-time Diesel Mechanic to start ASAP. Pay is excellent. Please call 731-3306 for more information.

MECHANIC - Shop Manager / Mechanic must have tools. Experience with electrical, hydraulics, gas and diesel, welding and fabrication work. Excellent benefits include health, holidays, retirement and wage DOE. 208-420-0740

MEDICAL - Part-time RN or LPN Surgery experience preferred. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 413, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or Fax 734-0441.

MEDICAL - We Want You! If you are a dedicated, Certified Nurse Aid, Registered Nurse or CNA. The new management at Sun Bridge for Twin Falls wants you to join us. Our heightened emphasis on our employees is evident by our new wage scale. Our excellent benefits include dental and life insurance, 401k plan, vacation and sick pay. Come join our energetic health care family. Apply in person: Sun Bridge for Twin Falls 640 Filer Ave W. Contact Janet Sparks or Pat Hickey, EOE.

200 Employment

LAW ENFORCEMENT - The City of Twin Falls, ID is accepting applications for POLICE OFFICER. Applicants must be POST certified or certifiable to participate in the selection process. For additional information and city employment application are available at www.tffid.org, the Personnel Office located in City Hall, 321 2nd Avenue East, Twin Falls, ID 83301 or by phoning (208) 735-7268. Closing date is 01-13-06. The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Drug Free Workplace.

MEDICAL - Activity Assistant part time 20 triweek. Send resumes to: Patty Hutchison 734-4254

MEDICAL - CNA/NA all shifts. Full time Dietary Cook, part time Dishwasher, Social Service Assistant. Please call Mountain View Care Center 208-422-0991 or apply at 500 Park St. E. Kimberly, ID.

TWIN FALLS Cakes Caterer - Our census has increased now hiring for CNA's (evenings & nights) (LPN's, RN's, PRN) Full/Part-time

Looking for dependable people with great attitude. We offer medical/dental vision 401k and paid vacation. Pick up applications at Twin Falls Care Center 674 Eastland Dr.

SALES - Cable TV & Internet Sales. Cable ONE is the preferred television & high speed internet provider of the Magic Valley. We need ambitious, enthusiastic individuals (bilingual preferred) who want an exciting career in residential cable TV & high-speed internet sales. A reliable insured vehicle, a valid drivers license and current MVR are required. You must be able to work flexible hours and Saturdays. You must be able to pass background check, physical and drug test. Apply in person or send resume to: Cable ONE 281 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE

200 Employment

SALES - Competitive Pay • 401(k) Retirement Plan • Life Insurance • Comprehensive Health Benefits • Flexible Scheduling • Employee Discount

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DO YOU LIVE NEAR ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS? IT'S AN EASY WAY TO PICK UP EXTRA CASH

• 2500-2800 9th Ave. E. • 2700-2900 Elizabeth Blvd	• 300-500 Braden St. N. • 100-600 Filer Ave. W.	• 400-500 Ovall Courts • 100-200 Maurice St. N.	• 1000-1100 Parkway Dr. • 1000-1200 Parkmeadows Dr.
TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS
• 1200-1500 Evergreen Dr. • 1200-1400 Holly Dr. • "Higher Profit" • "Higher Pay"	• 1300-1900 Thompson Blvd. • 1300-1800 Turbine Dr. • "Sign on Bonus" • "Higher Pay"	• 500-700 Rose St. • Paradise Plaza Apts.	• 100-400 Tyler Street • 100-500 Van Ness • 100-600 Parkmeadows
TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS
• 400-500 Filer Ave. W. • 400-900 Rosewood Dr.	• 300-899 Main St. • 100-200 Brook Dr.	• 500-800 Montana • 200-800 Wyoming	• Motor Rt. 609 55 miles/2 hours delivery time \$700-750 every 4 weeks
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• Substitutes and Carriers wanted - Motor Routes	• Substitutes and Carriers wanted - Motor Routes	• 300-600 Adams St. • 300-500 Ash St. S.	• 100-500 6th St. • 500-900 Valley St.
CAREY	BELLEVUE	KIMBERLY	FILER
• New Park Ave. Subdiv. • South Park Area	• 700-900 Wendell St. • Eastwind Dr. • 500-900 Filer Ave.	• 350-600 Buckingham • 250-400 Knottingham Dr.	• 700-899 Academic Dr. • 700-900 Monroe St.
TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS
• 500-650 Oak St. W. • 140-950 Park St. W.	• 500-1000 Eastland Dr. N. • 500-600 Riverview Dr.	• 1100-1300 Emeraldale Ct. • 1700-1900 Pomerelle Dr.	• 400-900 7th Ave. N. • 400-900 8th Ave. N.
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Sudoku Answers:

6	8	4	2	5	7	9	3	1
7	5	1	4	3	9	2	8	6
9	2	3	6	1	8	4	5	7
3	4	9	5	8	1	7	6	2
8	1	7	9	2	6	3	4	5
5	6	2	3	7	4	1	9	8
2	9	8	7	4	5	6	1	3
4	7	5	1	6	3	8	2	9
1	3	6	8	9	2	5	7	4

2006 Trucks

FORD '06 F-250 XLT, 4x4, crew cab, loaded w/matching shell, well maintained. Est. \$20,000. Call 208-527-7804.

FORD '06 F-250, crew cab, 4x4, 5 spd, PS, PB, CD, 3" lift, 35's, 73K miles \$13,000/offer. 208-404-8252

FORD '06 power stroke diesel, crew cab, manual transmission, XLT. Nice truck. \$16,300. 539-0684.

GMC '01 K1500
Bag, Cab, white, V8, automatic, 4x4, clean. \$10,498. 733-4481

GMC '04 Canyon 4WD, 4x4, AT, PW, PL, low pkg., 0.380 miles, exc. cond., \$19,000. 208-699-8575.

GMC '08 pickup, all original, good condition, runs good, \$600/offer. 308-9491.

GMC '05 K1500 ext cab, 4x4, AT, 350, V8, 5LE, 4x4, 100,000 miles, super clean. #12103A. Only \$7,577. 732-9099 or 734-3800

NISSAN '02 with camper shell and new tires, 2 wheel drive, \$1,995. 208-404-3388

NISSAN '98 Frontier extra cab, 4x4, local trade, 101,000 miles. \$8,477. 732-9099 or 734-3800

TOYOTA '87 4 wheel dr, extra cab, chrome wheels, green, 3" lift, \$1,850. 208-731-3112

TOYOTA '98 Tacoma
SR5, blue, 4x4, 51K miles, 1 owner, \$11,480. 733-4481

FORD '00 Explorer LTD, AWD, leather, roof, super clean. #120780 Only \$11,999. 732-9099 or 734-3800

CHEVROLET '01 Tahoe Sport Utility 4 door, V8 6.3 liter, AT, 4x4, 4WD, LT, AC, cruise, 4.0, power windows, door locks, 01 wheel, cruise, cassette, single compact disc, On Star, dual front air bags, front side air bags, ABS 4 wheels, leather, power seats, 3rd seat, running boards. \$16,248. 733-4481

FORD '06 Explorer LTD, AWD, leather, roof, super clean. #120780 Only \$11,999. 732-9099 or 734-3800

2008 SUVs

DODGE '08 Dakota, int. and ext. in good condition, runs good with good fuel economy. Must see \$3750/offer. Call 208-731-1203

FORD '03 Expedition, Eddie Bauer, loaded, exc. cond., \$18,000. Call 208-643-8008.

FORD '03 Explorer, Eddie Bauer, good shape, \$3,500/offer. #17 Ford Ranger, \$1,100/offer. Dodge 1-50 parts truck \$200/offer. Call 208-733-5453

FORD '09 Explorer Eddie Bauer, loaded, maintained, \$7,450. Call 208-788-0903.

GMC '02 Denali
White, V8, 20" wheels, fly loaded. \$26,468. 732-9099 or 734-3800

CHEVROLET '02 Suburban 4x4 LS, fully loaded, TV, DVD system. #12069. Only \$20,977.

CHEVROLET '09 Tahoe Sport Utility 4 door, LT, AC, power windows, door locks, tilt, cruise, single compact disc, ABS 4 wheels, leather roof rack. \$32,888. 732-9099 or 734-3800

CHEV '07 Suburban LT, 4x4, 41,000 miles. Exc. cond. \$20,000 or best offer. Call 208-423-4138

DODGE '04 Durango 3 door, 4x4, 41,000 miles. Exc. cond. \$20,000 or best offer. Call 208-423-4138

DODGE '05 Durango
Red, V8, limited, 3rd seat, moon roof, leather. Now only \$24,950. 733-4481

DODGE '02 Dakota club cab, V8 5.2 liter, AT, 2 WD, AC, tilt, cruise, cassette, ABS 4 wheels, sliding rear window, bed liner, towing pkg. \$3,124. 732-9099 or 734-3800

FORD '00 Explorer LTD, AWD, leather, roof, super clean. #120780 Only \$11,999. 732-9099 or 734-3800

FORD '02 Excursion, 4x4, Limited, low miles, great shape. Local trade. #12018A. Only \$31,977. 732-9099 or 734-3800

FORD '06 Explorer LTD, AWD, leather, roof, super clean. #120780 Only \$11,999. 732-9099 or 734-3800

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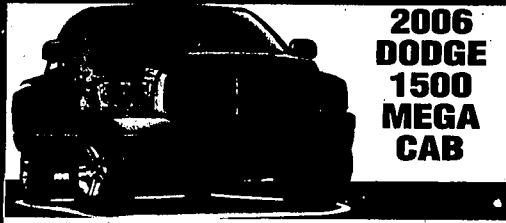
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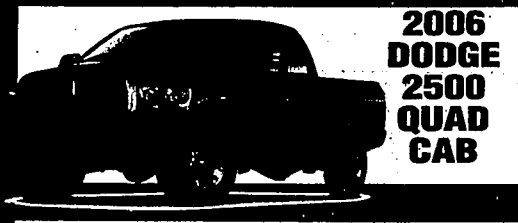
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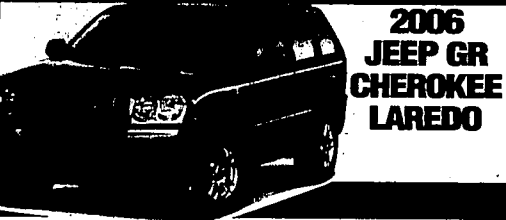
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