

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Breezy and mostly cloudy. High 39, low 25.
Page A2



Kempthorne to call for boldness

2006 legislative session kicks off on Monday

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — When the 2006 Idaho Legislature gets underway Monday, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne will once again focus on budget issues when he delivers his State of the State address that sets the session's tone.

The outgoing Republican's final pomp-and-circumstance speech begins at 7 p.m. in the Statehouse in Boise, to 35 senators, 70 members of the House and thousands of residents on outlets such as Idaho Public TV.

Last year, the theme was economic development, with Kempthorne fighting for tax breaks for companies such as Albertsons and his coveted \$1.6 billion "Connecting Idaho" roads project that would improve 258 miles of highways.

In 2006, Kempthorne is again calling for boldness, including reforming a Medicaid system whose costs are rising 10 percent a year, and adding stability to Idaho's budget that in three years has swung between a crunch that forced a tax hike to this year's \$200 million surplus.

Even without the governor's agenda, legislators will be busy: Rising property taxes in some counties forced 12 public meetings this summer, a U.S. Supreme Court decision has lawmakers talking about eminent domain limits, prison populations have



Kempthorne
Please see LEGISLATURE, Page A2

Idaho issues

Issues facing the 2006 Idaho Legislature, which opens with Monday's State of the State address by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, include:

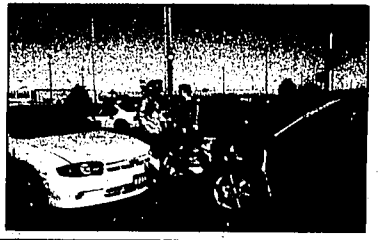
- Medicaid reform to curb rising costs
- Property tax reform
- Wage hikes for state workers
- Limiting eminent domain seizures
- Education funding
- A \$200 million budget surplus
- Campaign finance reform and government ethics
- A push for a constitutional ban on gay marriage
- Overcrowded prisons and drug treatment for inmates
- Sex offender law changes
- Stricter restrictions for coal-fired power plants
- Expansion of a state community college system
- Field burning restrictions
- State budget

MISCARRIAGE

The heartache, the coping, the effects.
Page E1



Where's the accident?



Above, Emmett Lambeth, far right, sits in his Toyota Avalon after being involved in a multi-vehicle collision at the intersection of Blue Lakes Boulevard and Pole Line Road.



Left, Twin Falls firefighters inspect a 1998 Audi that collided with a tractor-trailer at the Five Points intersection.

Below, Twin Falls Fire Department driver Mitchell Brooks II surveys the damage of a motor vehicle involved at the corner of Sixth Avenue West and Shoshone Street in Twin Falls.

HEALING HERO

A local Marine continues to recover from war injury.
Page B1

HOME WITH HARDWARE

Milano takes second place with two individual champions at Buhl Invitational.
Page C1

SCHOOL DISPUTE

Idaho needs to clarify who oversees its public schools, today's editorial says.
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In T.F., try intersection of Falls and Blue Lakes

By Terry Smith
Times-Idaho writer

TWIN FALLS — The best place to get into an automobile accident in Twin Falls is at the corner of Falls Avenue and Blue Lakes Boulevard North.

The intersection topped all competitors with 22 collisions last year and 63 in the past three years, according to statistics provided by the Idaho Transportation Department.

— they all join Blue Lakes and Falls on the city's Top 5 worst intersections. Also on the list is the intersection at Addison Avenue and Eastland Drive.

Although collisions at the intersections were plentiful the past three years, none of them was fatal.

Hicks said increased police enforcement and driver awareness programs can help reduce accidents, but a larger factor is roadway design.

The worst intersection is also the busiest, said Capt. Matthew Hicks, head of the Twin Falls Police Department Patrol Division.

"The traffic flow seems to congest on Falls and Blue Lakes," he said. "We have tens of thousands of cars going through that intersection every day."

Traffic volume and accident frequency seem to go hand in hand, Hicks said. The five most notorious intersections for fender-benders also are some of the most traveled: Blue Lakes and Addison, Blue Lakes and Filer, Blue Lakes and Pole Line

Improvements are on the drawing board for Blue Lakes Boulevard, but how soon changes can be made is still unknown.

ITD's Blue Lakes North Corridor Project seemed to be moving at full throttle last summer, but highway funding uncertainties have moved the project to "contingency program" status. That's a polite way of saying it's unfunded.

ITD District Engineer Devin Rigby told City Council last month that he hopes the money can be secured in 2007.

When funded, the project would provide a new road surface and a storm sewer system on Blue Lakes Boulevard between Falls Avenue and Pole Line Road. Raised medians were once considered as a way to improve safety, but that idea was nixed by ITD and City Council after it met strong opposition from business owners and operators.

Five worst intersections in Twin Falls

Intersection	2005	2003-2005	2003-2005
	Accidents	Accident	Injuries
Blue Lakes/Falls	22	63	44
Blue Lakes/Addison	16	42	22
Blue Lakes/Filer	11	42	19
Eastland/Addison	8	26	18
Blue Lakes/Pole Line	6	25	17

Source: Idaho Transportation Department

Doctor: Brain damage definite for Sharon

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's chances of surviving his severe stroke are very high, but his ability to think and reason have been damaged, one of his surgeons said Saturday.

The 77-year-old Israeli leader remained in critical condition,

though his vital signs were stable and a brain scan Saturday showed a slight reduction in swelling.

Doctors are to decide today when to begin lifting Sharon's medically induced coma to examine the severity of the brain damage.

"Tomorrow is the day of truth," Dr. Jose Cohen, one of Sharon's surgeons, told Channel 2 TV on Saturday.

"Tomorrow we will all know if what we did for him helped him or not," Cohen said he was "quite optimistic" about Sharon's prospects for survival, which he said were "very high now."

But when asked about possible



Sharon

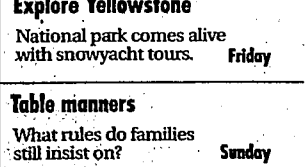
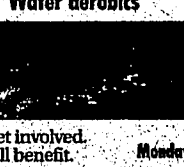
Coming up this week in The Times-News

Water aerobics
How to get involved. How you'll benefit. **Monday**

Eat cheap
A tour of under-\$7 restaurant meals in Buhl and Hagerman. **Wednesday**

Explore Yellowstone
National park comes alive with snowyacht tours. **Friday**

Table manners
What rules do families still insist on? **Sunday**



TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Tonight: Lingering morning snow showers, otherwise, mostly dry and breezy. Highs upper 30s.
Tomorrow: Increasing clouds and mostly dry until very late. Highs upper 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Possible early snow showers or flurries. Highs middle 30s with brisk winds.
Tonight: Patchy fog possible, otherwise mostly cloudy. Lows near 20.
Tomorrow: Partly to mostly cloudy and mostly dry. Highs middle 30s, lows 20s.

BOISE FORECAST

A rain or snow shower can not be ruled out today, but the chance is not good. Otherwise, today and tomorrow will be partly to mostly cloudy, breezy and cool.

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS.

Snow showers and small snow accumulations of snow will be possible through the day. Snow showers will be possible today and Monday. Snow showers will taper off by Tuesday.

NORTHERN UTAH

Scattered snow showers and freezing rain is possible today. A few higher elevations may see snow showers linger into tonight.



Weather's State Extremes: 51 at Lamoni; Low: 11 at Cheila

TWIN FALLS FIVE DAY FORECAST

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

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset. Includes monthly and yearly data.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Boise, Burley, and Rupert with their respective forecasts.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists major cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

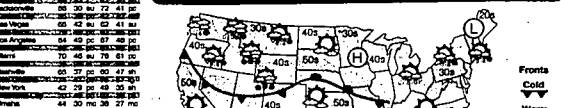
WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists international cities like London, Paris, and Tokyo.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists Canadian cities like Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



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Poll: Most say warrants needed for spying

WASHINGTON (AP) — A majority of Americans want the Bush administration to get court approval before eavesdropping on people inside the United States, even if those calls might involve suspected terrorists, an AP-Ipsos poll shows.

Legislature

Continued from A1
doubled in a decade to 6,800 and crimes such as the Greene family sex slayings in northern Idaho have forced a public-safety debate.

Up to three sharks may have taken part in attack

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Up to three sharks may have been involved in the fatal attack on a 21-year-old woman off an island in eastern Australia, police said Sunday.

Sharon

Continued from A1
cognitive impairment, Cohen replied. "It say after such a severe trauma as this that there will be no cognitive problems is simply not to recognize the reality."

Legislature

Including the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry-leery of changes that could hike their burden.
That's all very difficult to get really substantial property tax changes through," said Randy Stapilus, co-author of the 2005 book "Governing Idaho."

Legislature

With the primary election in May and general election in November, some foresee added incentive to finish by mid-March.
Last year's session lingered until April.

Sharon

Continued from A1
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Crashes

Continued from A1
hand turns out of them.
Hicks said these measures will reduce accidents.

The Times-News Information Line 735-3350. Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away! Includes logos for Lottery Information and Weather Information.

NATION

Fires rage in Oklahoma, Texas

MEEKER, Okla. (AP) — A fast-moving wildfire burned about 100 acres Saturday, and two volunteer firefighters were injured after they were thrown from the back of fire trucks trying to escape the flames. The blaze was among more than 20 wildfires that burned across Oklahoma on Saturday, fueled by drought-like conditions and gusty winds. Texas firefighters battled wildfires across eight counties. The two volunteers, from Jacktown in central Oklahoma, were taken to a hospital with minor cuts. One Meeker Fire Department truck was trapped in the fire, which scorched the vehicle's door and melting plastic from a side-view mirror. "I could feel the heat of the fire coming up through the bottom of my pant leg," said Meeker firefighter Matt Willes, who was on the back of a truck spraying water on the fire.

TIMELINE OF A TRAGEDY

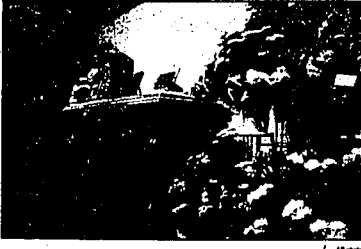
Notes show some mine victims were alive for 10 hours

PHILIPPI, W.Va. (AP) — In the darkness of the Sago Mine, one of 12 trapped coal miners scrawled a timeline detailing how he and some of the other men were alive but losing air at least 10 hours after an underground explosion, his daughter said Saturday.

"Each time he documented, you could tell it was getting worse," Ann Merideth told The Associated Press of the note writer. "I was a 10-year-old shuttle car operator firm Bennett. Later on down the note, he said that it was getting dark. It was getting smoky. They were losing air."

If he was lucid enough to be writing 10 hours after the blast, he could have been saved — but the rescue operation didn't move fast enough, Merideth said Saturday.

The first rescuers didn't go into the mine until 11 hours after the blast, a top official said, which was necessary to clear the mine



An unidentified family member stands at the coffin of mine accident victim Jerry Lee Groves on Saturday in Buckhannon, W.Va. Several funerals for the 12 deceased miners were to take place this weekend.

of high concentrations of poisonous gases. When the miners were brought out more than 40 hours after the blast, there was only one survivor. "I'm not sure how many miners went and was able to live as long as my father had, which I'm sure most of them did, and it really bothers me because it took them so long," Merideth said.

International Coal Group Inc. chief executive Ben Hatfield, whose company operates the mine, said Saturday that the rescuers had to follow state and federal laws that requires a methodical approach to avoid rescuers getting trapped, injured or killed themselves. "It is painful, and it's slow, and it was maddening as we

Sago latest in a long line of mine disasters.

See page A12

we're all just doing our level best as we were attempting to get there," Hatfield told the AP. "And we're going to do our best to make sure that families understand."

Monday's explosion killed one miner immediately. Eleven others were found huddled two miles inside the mine behind a plastic curtain they had erected to keep out deadly carbon monoxide.

Merideth said her father's notes, given to the family Friday by the medical examiner, has three or four entries, the first at 11:40 a.m. Monday, about five hours after the blast, and the final entry, with words getting fainter and trailing off the page, at 4:25 a.m., nearly 10 hours after the blast.

"He didn't know how much more time he had. But he wanted everybody to know to tell my mom that he loved her," she said. "And he wanted me and my brother to know that he loved us."

Lone survivor improves dramatically

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The critically injured sole survivor of the West Virginia coal mine explosion showed dramatic improvement Saturday and was stable enough that he was flown back to a hospital closer to his home, doctors said.

Randal McCoy Jr. has been in a medically induced coma to allow his brain time to heal, but when the medication is eased, his eyes flicker and he bites down on his breathing tube, showing he is "awake underneath our coma," said Dr. Richard Shannon of Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

"We think that he is clinically stable," Shannon said Saturday afternoon. "He is not out of the woods yet. There are still issues. This is going to be a long recovery."

McCoy, of Simpson, W.Va., was rescued early Wednesday

after being trapped in the Sago Mine near Tallmansville, W.Va., for about 42 hours. Twelve other men who were inside the mine with him died. The 26-year-old survivor was transferred to Pittsburgh on Thursday for treatment in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber, which bombards the body with oxygen to battle carbon monoxide poisoning.

On Saturday night, still heavily sedated, McCoy was strapped to a gurney and loaded into a helicopter for the short flight back to West Virginia University's Ruby Memorial

Hospital in Morgantown. Four medical technicians accompanied him. Shannon said doctors did not see any benefit from further treatment in the hyperbaric chamber. "I think there's a lot of personal interest in Mr. McCoy getting back to West Virginia," he added.

McCoy's injured muscles are improving, along with his liver and heart function, and tests show reduced brain swelling and bleeding, the doctor said. However, he said the young miner will need dialysis for the foreseeable future to repair his kidneys, and he will need significant ventilator support.

McCoy's youth improves his chance of recovery, though his overall neurologic condition will remain unclear until he can be removed from the ventilator, doctors said.

McCoy

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NATION

Alito will face questions on executive power, civil liberties

Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — When the 18 senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee begin questioning Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito on Monday, they will focus on some familiar, contentious issues: abortion, congressional power, civil rights, and the separation of church and state.



Supreme Court nominee Judge Samuel Alito is shown on Capitol Hill, in this Nov. 15 file photo.

As with the revelation last month that President Bush had secretly approved spying by the National Security Agency on U.S. citizens without a court warrant, Alito is outside the limits of presidential power that is the central issue in his quest for confirmation.

"I think the stories about NSA eavesdropping have made this question of executive power a top-of-the-mind issue," said John Podesta, a White House Chief of Staff under former President Bill Clinton and head of Democratic think tank. "This hearing had occurred six or seven years ago, no one would have even thought that these kinds of questions needed to be asked."

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, a member of the committee, said he will definitely ask Alito about his views on presidential powers, particularly in times of war. "During every war, there has been a tendency by all presidents to expand presidential powers at the expense of civil liberties," said Durbin, a Democrat. "We are now in that debate again with questions about the power of the president to eavesdrop on conversations without court approval."

Democrats and some Republicans, including Republican committee chairman Sen. Arlen Specter, will focus on Alito's writings and written opinions during his 15 years as a federal appellate judge. They'll also be looking at a 2000 speech before the Federalist Society in which he talked about his belief in the theory of the "unitary executive," a concept that grants the president sweeping executive powers.

Under Alito's interpretation of the Constitution, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said, "The president likely has completely unchecked authority to act without congressional oversight in the area of foreign affairs. Despite the fact that the Constitution entrusts only Congress with the power to declare war, the president has authority to have inherent authority to wiretap American citizens without a warrant, to ignore congressional acts of will or take any other action he may fit under his inherent powers."

Help desk aids people without attorneys navigate federal court system

CHICAGO (AP) — Mountains of paperwork and confusing legal forms can be intimidating to the thousands of people who forgo a lawyer and represent themselves in court.

"These are lay people and so they are walking into a legal world that is strange and alien to them," said Charles F. Koonce, chief federal judge of the Northern District of Illinois. "This desk will put people on the right track at the beginning of a case where there is often a lot of lost time."

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, said a judiciary committee member, said he too "would be opposed to anybody who wants to expand the executive powers beyond what the Constitution gives the president. But the people who are raising that issue are the ones who want to put more restrictions on the president. I think there are a lot of people who want to detract from Judge Alito by raising that argument."

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, also a committee member, is expected to focus on recent Supreme Court rulings on religion. "It's a quagmire right now," said Cornyn spokesman Don Stewart, referring to rulings by the Supreme Court last year on displaying the Ten Commandments in public facilities. "It's okay to have the 10 Commandments in Texas but not in Kentucky."

Democrats will home in on Alito's writings, especially a 1985 job application while he served in the Solicitor General's office. In the application, Alito

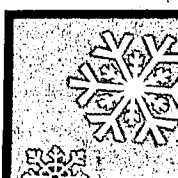
wrote: "It has been an honor and source of general satisfaction for me to serve in the office of the Solicitor General during President Reagan's administration and to help to advance legal positions in which I personally believe strongly. I am particularly proud of my contributions in recent cases in which the government has argued in the Supreme Court that racial and ethnic quotas should not be allowed and that the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion."

Democrats like Schumer say that memo and other writings clearly show that Alito would overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that gave women the right to an abortion, and that he might also roll back affirmative action.

America," Roodman said. Similar help desks have been set up in state, circuit and U.S. bankruptcy courts around the country to help low-income clients or those who simply choose not to hire an attorney, said Dick Carilli, spokesman for the federal courts' administrative office. But the Chicago help desk is believed to be the first to have a real attorney giving advice, he said.

Not everyone thinks the program cuts to the core of the problem. "Gilda Klein, 53, of Chicago, represented herself in a lawsuit she filed in 2001 against the U.S. Postal Service, claiming she was unjustly fired. She said federal agencies that investigated her complaints created obstacles even before she could file the suit, which was dismissed in 2002."

"The whole process of filing complaints even before you get to court was too bureaucratic," she said. "People get lost in the process even before they get to court."



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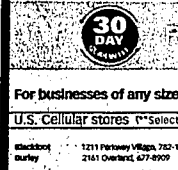


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U.S. Cellular advertisement featuring a woman and the text 'How that's a good way to make the new year happy?'. Includes store information and a table of agents.

Baltimore, home of crab cakes and fried trout, is dubbed America's fittest city

BALTIMORE (AP)—When an annual survey named Baltimore the fittest city in America, many Charm City residents had the same response: You gotta be kidding.

Sure, people here are known for eating lots of seafood, but are crab cakes and deep-fried lake trout the staples of a healthy diet? "I think it's probably the most misfit city in America," said Charisse Bailey as she dug into a typical Baltimore lunch: fried rice snapper on thick white bread, with a side of french fries and a beer.

The city's skyline is dotted with neon signs advertising Domino sugar, Uiz potato chips and National Bohemian beer. And while many neighborhoods, such as Fells Point and Federal Hill, have been transformed by an influx of young professionals, a Friday night visit to either reveals a culture that revolves around drinking and greasy food.

Nevertheless, Men's Fitness magazine placed Baltimore at the top of its annual list of cities where fitness is king, ahead of Honolulu (No. 2 for the second consecutive year), San Francisco (No. 7) and last year's winner, Seattle (No. 8).

The fittest city in America for 2006 is Chicago, taking over the dubious honor from Houston. Last year Baltimore was closer to Houston than it was to Honolulu, checking in as the 25th-fittest city in the Men's Fitness tally.

How could such a turnaround be possible in the span of a year? Men's Fitness editor Neal Boulton is quick to point out that the survey is far from scientific, and he says it took additional factors into account this year that worked in Baltimore's favor.

Among them: the amount of public park space, access to health care, air quality, the relatively small number of fast-food restaurants and the leadership of Mayor Martin O'Malley. Boulton says Baltimore has become safer, more prosperous and more conducive to fitness. "Baltimore is a paragon of urban renewal. That's why it's

the fittest city, that's why it's the comeback city," he said. Boulton says he also reduced the importance of climate in the survey, which is one reason Baltimore squeaked ahead of Honolulu.

Rival magazine Men's Health had a different take on Baltimore. In its current issue, the magazine ranks Baltimore 93rd on its list of the "100 Best Cities for Men," with grades of "F" in health and quality of life and "C+" in fitness. San Francisco tops the Men's Health survey, and Honolulu is No. 2.

Baltimore residents apparently would have had an easier time believing the Men's Health ranking. When told of the Men's Fitness honor, they invariably reacted with shock, bewilderment or outright laughter.

"Baltimore lives on junk food. That's why we're all standing here," said electrician Mark Smith as he surveyed the scene at Lexington Market. The popular downtown lunch spot has dozens of kiosks selling fried chicken and cheap Chinese food.

"I've been eating here for 21 years," Smith said. "I walk around and think, 'What the lesser of the evils?'"

While the city has seen significant reductions in violent crime, large sections remain plagued by poverty and crime, and residents of less prosperous neighborhoods often have to depend on convenience stores and takeout food for sustenance.

"We don't eat well at all," said Tremonterin Morgan, a vegetarian. "We eat a lot of fried foods — fried chicken and soul food. For myself, I have to search high and low for a healthy food place. We have a lot of obesity here in our city." The mayor looked on the bright side, attributing Baltimore's increasing fitness to its economic revival and the end of its precipitous population drop. "You see some neighborhoods starting to grow again, and attracting younger people. With those younger people coming, there's a number of gyms now," O'Malley said. "In

Charmed city?

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Top 25 fittest cities, 2006

2006 RANKING	LAST YEAR
1. Baltimore	25*
2. Honolulu	2
3. Virginia Beach	2
4. Tucson	8
5. Milwaukee	15
6. Colorado Springs	3
7. San Francisco	4
8. Seattle	1
9. Louisville-Jefferson	NA
10. Boston	11
11. Sacramento	7
12. Nashville-Davidson	25
13. Albuquerque	12
14. Tulsa	22*
15. Phoenix	12*
16. Atlanta	23*
17. Portland	6
18. Washington	23
19. Oakland	20
20. Denver	5
21. Minneapolis	13
22. Arlington	22
23. Austin	19
24. Jacksonville	18
25. Omaha	16

* Top 25 fittest cities ranking

SOURCE: Men's Fitness AP

every growing neighborhood, you look for two leading signs — one is a gym and the other is a Starbucks."

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Seniors encounter problems with Medicare prescription drug benefits

Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — Many of Medicare's poorest and most sickly patients are going without their medications because of administrative glitches, misinformation and confusion surrounding the new Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Experts had warned that many of the 6.4 million low-income people who get benefits from Medicare and Medicaid could miss out on their life-sustaining medicines when their drug coverage shifted on Jan. 1 from Medicaid to private plans sponsored by Medicare. In interviews, advocates for the elderly as well as lawmakers and seniors themselves indicated that that's happening.

Some, such as Deborah King of New York, were placed automatically in new drug plans that don't cover their medications. Others were getting stuck with extra out-of-pocket fees because their new enrollment status couldn't be verified.

Medicare's contingency plan for patients who aren't enrolled in drug plans also is proving problematic. The agency wants pharmacists to give these customers short-term refills at no cost and bill Medicare later. But some pharmacists don't know about the agreement, and others are balking because they fear they won't be reimbursed.

"There's almost nothing that isn't going wrong," said Jeanne Finberg, an attorney for the National Senior Citizens Law Center in Oakland, Calif. "People are crying. They're calling their legislators' offices in tears."

These problems and heated phone lines that prevent pharmacists from confirming customers' plan enrollments mean that many patients can't get their medicine.

While the extent of the problem is unclear, health experts say the situation is dangerous because those patients who get Medicare and Medicaid benefits have higher rates of chronic illness, disability, cognitive im-

pairments and other health needs. Their lives and livelihoods depend on their medicine.

Concerns about their welfare have prompted New Hampshire, Maine and the city of Baltimore to agree to pay the prescription costs for these people, who are called "dual eligibles," if problems arise. On Friday, New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch invoked his emergency powers and issued an executive order directing the state to pay claims when the Medicare system breaks down.

Lynch said the new drug benefit "has been a nightmare for many of our citizens."

"The problems are so overwhelming for our pharmacists and our citizens that New Hampshire's original back-up plans are not sufficient," Lynch said in a statement. "It is clear to me, to the Republican and Democratic leaders in the legislature, that we need to take additional steps to protect our citizens."

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NATION

From killing pests in Texas to swatting away Democrats in Washington

By Donna Cassata and Laurie Melman Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Ever disciplined, Tom DeLay even stage-managed one of the lowest moments of his life.

Summoned to a Texas court last fall, DeLay was fingerprinted and photographed like a common criminal. But what a man.

Inmately groomed in jacket and tie, DeLay grinned from ear to ear, looking more like he had just won the lottery rather than someone who was facing charges of money laundering.

That was the point: control the message and your enemies can't use it against you.

Democrats gleefully have sought to make the Texas Republican the poster boy for bad Republican behavior. They surely will miss DeLay's departure from the national stage.

DeLay often operated close to the ethical edge in his 17 years in the powerful job of House majority leader.

Relying on political prowess, arm-twisting and devotion to his GOP majority, DeLay tightened the Republican grip on the House in his seven years as Republican whip, the party's No. 3 leadership post. And he delivered for President Bush. The fellow Texans were political partners, but never were close.

DeLay first harnessed his acrimony for government regulations in the late 1970s and rode it into the Texas House and Congress. During his stint in the Texas Legislature, he was known as "Hot Tub Tom" for his prying ways.

Now he is a born-again Christian whose skill as a tenacious political strategist has allowed him to outmaneuver Democrats, pack Congress with more Republicans and push through some major pieces of Bush's legislative agenda.

When he rose to majority leader in 2003, DeLay sought to soften his image. He dumped his "wet look" hairstyle, filled a gap in his teeth and opened up more with the media.

Called "the Hammer" for his hard-nosed approach — his Capitol office has two leather bullwhips — the 58-year-old former pest extirminator has ensured House passage of much of Bush's legislative agenda, including tax cuts, trade agreements and a Medicare prescription drug plan.

His brass-knuckle tactics drew the ire of Democrats, Washington lobbyists and good-government types.

The House ethics committee admonished DeLay on three separate occasions in 2004. In addition to the Texas charges, a federal investigation is pursuing DeLay's ties to disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

DeLay has denied any wrongdoing, telling fellow House Republicans in a letter Saturday, "During my time in Congress, I have always acted in an ethical manner within the rules of our body and the laws of our land. I am fully confident time will bear this out."

In an April letter to supporters, DeLay borrowed a phrase coined by a long-ago best-selling President Clinton, arguing his opponents' only agenda "is the politics of personal destruction." To which DeLay added, "and the criminalization of politics."

DeLay has come through for Bush even though DeLay once assailed the first President Bush for breaking his pledge not to increase taxes in 1990, and took heat from George W. Bush in the 2001 tax cuts. House efforts to disperse earned income tax payments to low-income families monthly instead of in one lump sum.

DeLay has to hold a 15-minute vote open for the better part of an hour to twist arms, he will do it, as he did in securing House approval of Bush's Central American Free Trade Agreement in July by a razor-thin margin of two votes.

Lobbyists do not escape his wrath of harsh political tactics.

DeLay complained to the Electronic Industries Alliance over its hiring of former Democratic Rep. Dave McClintock of Oklahoma as its president in 2001. House efforts were rebuffed by the ethics committee for backing a lobbying organization.

To win passage of the Medicare prescription drug bill, DeLay promised a lawmaker that if he would vote for the measure, DeLay would back a

run for Congress by the lawmaker's son. The lawmaker refused, but DeLay was admonished again by the ethics committee for making the offer.

"His devotion to the cause has led him to push the envelope as hard as possible and not hold back," said Gary C. Jacobson, a professor of political science at the University of California at San Diego.

DeLay has worked tirelessly to increase the Republican major-

ity in the House since the GOP swept out the Democrats in 1994. He has raised tens of millions for Republican candidates and used his own leadership political action committee to shower cash on GOP hopefuls.

In 2002, he helped buck the historic trend of midterm congressional election losses for the party controlling the White House; instead, Republicans gained in the House.

He strong-armed a redistrict-

ing plan for Texas that led to the defeat of five Democrats in the state in 2004. The ethics panel rebuked DeLay for using the Federal Aviation Administration in the search for Texas Democratic lawmakers trying to avoid a vote on the redistricting proposal.

DeLay was unimpressed. "I'm the majority leader and we want more seats," he said.

Elected to the House in 1984 from the Houston suburbs, DeLay chafed under Democrati-

cal rule for a decade before the GOP seized control. Then, in 1988, he led the charge in impeaching Clinton over the sex scandal involving a White House intern.

He might have been House speaker in 1998 after Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., stepped down and Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., stunningly bowed out, but DeLay acknowledged that he was "too nuclear" to take the top job. He instead ensured that

his deputy Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., became speaker.

A fierce conservative, DeLay energized the Republican base last year when he pushed for Congress to intervene in the case of a brain-damaged Florida woman, Terri Schiavo, in a direct challenge to a Florida court's authority. For the most part, the general public questioned the congressional action and the GOP took a hit in opinion polls.



DeLay's mug shot

Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, is shown in a mugshot. DeLay often operated close to the ethical edge in his 17 years in the powerful job of House majority leader.

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SKY-HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Airport plans fuel investment in Najaf

By Jonathan Flier
The Washington Post



NAJAF Iraq — Just beyond the verdant scrub were less than a dozen colorful rowers to pick cucumbers, on a flat expanse bounded by a few miles of chain-link fence, is a smooth stretch of asphalt long enough to land a jumbo jet.

If all goes according to plan, the tract on the east side of this Shiite holy city will be reborn in less than a year as the \$7.3-billion Najaf International Airport. Its soaring control tower shaped like a mosque's minaret. The privately funded facility could begin handling flights on a trial basis as soon as next month, with a blue tent serving as a terminal until construction is complete.

A country starved for investment, the promise of Najaf's new airport, and a second one planned by the Iraqi government to the north, has helped spawn a wave of privately funded projects in various stages of development. Worth hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs if they reach fruition, they are establishing Najaf as southern Iraq's first boomtown, U.S. and local officials say.

"We have broken the barrier, and now the companies and their money are coming," said Muthayy Alina, an Iraqi American who lives in San Francisco but returned to the city of his birth part time to serve as the provincial investment director in the office of Najaf's governor, Assad Abu Kalal. "This is a town that for 35 years Saddam Hussein fought to break down. Now we are on the rise."

The gold-dusted Imam Alun al-Shirine, sacred to the world's 120 million Shiites and also to Sunni Muslims, is popular to be the third-most-popular destination for Islamic pilgrimages after Saudi Arabia's Mecca and Medina cities. It contains the tomb of Al, the son-in-law of the prophet Mohammed. Shiites believe Al to have been the prophet's heir.

American journalist kidnapped in Baghdad

Translator is killed, police say

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A female American journalist and her Iraqi translator Saturday in western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said.

Maj. Falah Motamadawi said the translator told police before he died that the abduction took place near a mosque. The journalist was heading to meet Ahmad al-Dulaimi, head of the Sunni Arab Iraq Accordance Front, in the Adel section of the city.

The abduction was coordinated by Sunni Arabs and considered one of the toughest in Baghdad.

According to Samir Najim, a guard at al-Dulaimi's office,

ture has been devastated by decades of war and neglect. Najaf's near-limitless economic potential was recognized long before the fall of Saddam's government, which brutally persecuted Shiites here. Three million Shiite pilgrims flock here annually, most of them from Iran, other Persian Gulf states, India and Pakistan. But since the U.S.-led invasion nearly three years ago, Najaf 90 miles south of Baghdad, has remained deserted with most residents helping the providers of a modern city including reliable electricity, potable water and a sewerage system. The city's population is about 500,000.

But in the past few weeks, when Shiite pilgrims flocked to Najaf immediately after the invasion. And an uprising by a Shiite militia, which clashed twice with U.S. forces in 2004, kept visitors away until a truce improved the security climate dramatically. Real estate prices have jumped tenfold in the Furai district, two miles from the new airport, to about \$100,000 for a three-quarter-acre plot, according to Haziem Hussein, a local broker. Much of the land is being bought by Iraqi investors and Iranian Shiites in order to own property near the city's shrines. Iraqis from across the country in 2004, prevalent are also coming here.

U.S. and Iraqi officials say there are no reliable figures on how many pilgrims are being invited to Iraq. But they acknowledge that outside of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region that has flourished in the north for a decade, the bulk of American military and military protection, Najaf has the greatest potential for prosperity. "Obviously, Najaf wasn't secure for a while there, and now it has turned the corner, which encourages a different type of investment and type of invest-

ment," said Jim Reed, senior consultant for private investment in Iraq at the U.S. Embassy's Iraq Reconstruction Management Office in Baghdad. "It has the makings of a nexus of economic development that can have spillover effects throughout its region."

But even here, severe challenges to private investment remain. Firms have struggled to raise investment capital to fund the projects they commit to building. And Western companies have been slow to join with local partners. Alina said he had tried unsuccessfully to persuade Global Strategies Group, a London-based corporation that provides security for the airport project, to join the airport project here as a joint venture with an Iraqi contractor.

"We'd love to do it," he said. Phil Jackson, development manager for Global's aviation business, said in December, "It has the opportunity to be the hub for the country."

Jackson said Global had not signed a contract out of concern that the Iraq firm leading the project, Ureid, had been slow to engage to raise enough money to complete its end of the deal. "We've got to see a bit more of a detailed business plan," Jackson said.

Employees of one South Korean company that planned to build a tourist complex south of Najaf were prohibited by their government from visiting the site. Some of the projects that the Najaf government is counting on may fall through, said Hussein Uzai, who heads the Trade Bank of Iraq, a state-run institution that coordinates the country's imports and exports. "It's one thing to have an agreement on paper, another thing to see the building complete," Uzai said.

Sill, in a country where large-scale construction is rare, the scope of projects planned or under way in Najaf is striking. Munder said an analysis conducted by the province projected that the airport would bring \$500 million per year in visitors. "People will be able to fly directly here without ever having to go to Baghdad," he said. Kuwaiti and Lebanese firms have signed contracts to build a vast downtown development including a supermarket, parking garage and a pair of of-

fice towers, which at roughly 10 stories each would be the tallest buildings in the province.

An Iraqi American developer is planning a hotel and residential site south of the city that will cost more than \$100 million. Local religious leaders are raising money for a \$60 million memorial complex downtown dedicated to a slain Shiite cleric. It will include an Islamic university and a million-volume library of religious works.

Across much of Iraq, reconstruction projects have been delayed or halted by sabotage or skyrocketing security costs. An exception has been the Kurdish north, where large canvas dots the skylines of the region's main cities, Sulaymaniyah and Irbil. Meanwhile some provinces have seen little if any investment. The drastically different rates of development have sparked concern that a new economic fault line will emerge in a country already deeply divided by tribe, sect and ethnicity.

"As long as the security situation is bad in some parts, the foreign money will never come here," Uzai said. "And as long as Iraq is not secure, there will be insecurity and resentment."

Local officials acknowledge that for investment money to continue to flow into Najaf, security must be maintained. American troops responsible for the city withdrew in August. Iraqi police and soldiers have since kept a tight grip, establishing scores of checkpoints on main highways leading into the city. Those investing in Najaf say they feel confident betting on its future.

"Najaf is different from the rest of Iraq," said Ralfat Abbas Hamadani, 59, who was born in the city moved to Jordan after the 1951 Persian Gulf War, and runs several construction and other companies operating in the Middle East from his home outside Detroit. His holding company, Globe Enterprises, signed a contract in October to build a tourist complex just south of the city, complete with a five-star hotel, a main mall and 1/2 apartment towers. But so far he has raised just \$10 million of the project's estimated \$125 million cost from other investors.

"They are moving too slowly," said Alina, the investment director.

Iraqi leaders say coalition government almost in place

Officials hope this will help end violence

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi fractious political groups are moving ahead to shape a national unity government. The progress that should help end the carnage of the past several days, the prime minister and other leaders said Saturday.

Iraq's Kurdish president predicted that a new government could be formed within weeks. Jalal Talabani made the comments after meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary David Straw, who said Iraqis remain optimistic about their future despite suffering through a violent week that saw nearly 200 people killed in two days, including 11 U.S. troops.

In an effort to help draw Sunni Arabs into the political process as a way to dampen violence, U.S. officials for months have been communicating directly or through channels with members of the disaffected minority connected to the insurgency.

A Western diplomat on Saturday reported a recent "uptick" in those contacts.

The insurgents "sense that the political process does protect the Sunni community's interest," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

A similar "uptick" in communication occurred after last year's parliamentary elections, he said.

A U.S. official said the coalition does not talk to foreign terrorists or supporters of Saddam Hussein's ousted regime but said it was important to isolate extremists from the broader Sunni Arab community. He also spoke only on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic.

Meeting with Straw in Baghdad, Talabani said Shiite, Sunni Arab and Kurdish political groups had agreed in principle on a national unity government that could be formed within a few weeks. Western diplomats in Baghdad have speculated the coalition would be in place by the second half of February.

"Everyone is expecting to have it as soon as possible, but

you know the devil is in the details," Talabani said.

He said it should be easier to form a new government than it was after the Jan. 30 elections last year, when it took nearly three months. "We are expecting within weeks, God willing, we will be able to form the government."

Talabani and other Kurdish leaders met over the New Year's Holiday with Sunni Arab and Shiite political leaders. The meetings in northern Irbil helped shape agreement on the general outlines of a broad-based coalition government.

Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a member of the Shiite Alliance and head of the Dawa party, said in a separate meeting with Sunni Arab leaders, "The Shiite Alliance and the coalition of Kurdistan and the other tickets, fortunately, are able to make a national unity government. That coalition will make the process easier."

Earlier Straw said the situation in Iraq remained violent, but his politicians were optimistic.

"I was trying to avoid any kind of pretense about the situation here in Iraq," Straw told British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "It is very difficult. People are being killed by terrorists."

Violence was greatly diminished on Saturday. Four people were killed in attacks around the country, and police found the bodies of four females — blindfolded and handcuffed — who apparently had been shot to death in Baghdad, officials said.

Almost 200 people were killed in attacks on Wednesday and Thursday.

Thousands of angry Shiites also demonstrated against the wave of bloodshed and what they claimed was American backing for Sunni Arab politicians. Baghdad's Sadr City slum on Friday.

Final results from the elections could be released next week and could be fully certified by the end of the month after any appeals have been heard. Some Sunni Arabs have protested that the vote was tainted by fraud.

Britain closes embassy in Jordan because of threat

LONDON (AP) — Britain indefinitely closed its embassy in Jordan Saturday because of the danger of a terrorist attack, the Foreign Office said.

A spokesman for the office would not comment on whether there had been a specific threat against the embassy in Amman, saying only that the closure was prompted by the security situation in Jordan.

The Foreign Office also updated its advice for Britons visiting the Middle Eastern country to say that "terrorists may be in the final stages of planning attacks against Westerners and places frequented by Westerners."

Jordanian government spokesman Nassef Juhdi would not comment on the reasons for

the embassy closure but told The Associated Press that Jordan's security authorities had "studied information on the threat and did not believe that it warranted closing down the British Embassy."

The Jordanian security apparatus provides the required protection to foreign embassies without any threat and in the event of a threat, steps up protection," Juhdi said. "Britain took this decision because it believes that the threat does not warrant closure of the British Embassy."

Britain's Foreign Office did not wear against traveling to Jordan, but noted in its updated advice that "there have been a number of successful and attempted terrorist attacks in Jordan since 2001."

Blast in Afghan city kills one person, wounds a police officer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suspected suicide blast killed one person and wounded a police officer in an eastern Afghan city on Saturday, officials said.

The man who was killed may have been carrying the bomb, a neighborhood police officer in Jalalabad, where the blast occurred.

The injured officer was driving a police car when the bomb went off in the center of the city, he said. Police were investigating.

Afghanistan has suffered a spate of suicide attacks in the past four months, a new wave of such attacks that began after U.S.-led forces ousted the Taliban.

On Thursday, an attacker detonated a suicide bomb in a crowded market as he headed toward a building in a central Afghan town where the U.S. ambassador was meeting local leaders, killing 10 Afghans and wounding 50.

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EDITORIAL

Board or department? Idaho needs an answer

Idaho is going to successfully adapt its education system for the 21st century. It must first reform some outdated ideas from the 19th century.

That attempt will start Monday night when the Legislature convenes in Boise.

When Gov. Dirk Kempthorne takes the lectern for his State of the State address, one proposal you can probably bet on will be a change to Idaho's Constitution requiring a two-thirds majority on local bond issue elections.

The Idaho Supreme Court's decision on unsafe school facilities has legislators already planning to lower the majority requirement from 67 percent to 60 percent.

But that's just a start. State leaders should go even further in their reforms.

Idaho should debate why it needs two different administrative bodies overseeing public schools, the Department of Education and the State Board of Education.

The two entities' battles over money and authority of public schools have grown trying for Idahoans.

More importantly, the administrative duplication wastes Idaho's financial resources.

Twelve going to change the Constitution's supermajority requirement to strengthen schools, the state could actually gain more by ending the conflict in state school authority.

Last month, the festering dispute flared up again. State Superintendent of Instruction Marilyn Howard unloaded criticism on the State Board when the federal government threw a \$104,000 penalty at the state department for failure to make the Idaho Standards Achievement Test comply with federal guidelines by 2005.

Howard's gripe is valid. Her department was penalized for not having a State Board that assumed control of assessment program back in 2003.

The eight-member State Board provides the general supervision of the state education institutions and public school system. All members are appointed by the governor, except for the state superintendent.

The superintendent also leads the Department of Education, which has its own mission to carry out regulatory responsibilities for schools, and improve education opportunities for elementary and secondary schools. (Stop us when this

sounds repetitious.) The position is an elected post and includes a spot on the state Land Board.

Howard, a twice-elected Democrat in conservative Idaho, argues her department should reassess control of the test. But the controversies are bound to repeat themselves without change.

A starting point would be to combine the board's and department's administrative staffs.

Merging them would set the right standard in Idaho, which has too many school districts for a rural state.

If we can end administrative repetition in state government, we can surely do so at the local level.

This merger would also mean removing either the board or the department, most likely the latter. While some will express outrage at that concept, they should look at the numbers.

Appropriated for the State Board of Education have increased from \$900,000 in 1996 to \$11.7 million this year. That's a staggering growth of 1,160 percent in a decade. The superintendent of public instruction, on the other hand, has gone from an annual budget of \$34.9 million in 1896 to \$17 million in 2006.

Both the board and the department both cite various reasons for that shift. Some say it was a vendetta, others say it's an efficiency. The point, however, is that the dispute distracts from the goals of education.

Reforms are also needed for the State Board itself. With sole oversight for K through 12 public schools, members should be accountable to voters — not the governor.

Constitutional reforms should make each State Board member electable by regions in Idaho. For higher education, creation of separate trustees may be necessary.

For too long, Idahoans have been perplexed whether it's the elected superintendent or appointed board members who control public education policies and budgets.

Many years and political fights later, we still lack a clear answer. If Idaho wants a clear vision for public schools and higher education in the next century, our elected leaders need to act boldly and change the system.

If they don't, confusion will keep rising along with the unnecessary costs for educating Idaho students.

Our view: Idaho needs to reform the state Constitution's split for administration of public schools. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Eight rules for Congress cleanup

As Robert W. Ney gazed at the St. Andrews fabled golf course, he must have paused to take the measure of his riches life. After all, he was a regular Joe who once scraped by on the salary of a low-level bureaucrat in Belaire, Ohio (population 4,892, annual median income \$19,480). Now he was in Scotland for a quick getaway — at the finest hotels, the finest restaurants and at the world's most famous golf course.

And it didn't cost him a thing. Ney is a member of the House of Representatives, and his trip was arranged by the now-infamous lobbyist Jack Abramoff, the central figure in a broadening scandal of influence peddling and bribery in Washington. Abramoff confessed to federal crimes this week and admitted to cooperation against persons who sold their offices for free vacations and sports tickets.

The fact is, such improprieties are all too common in Washington. The recent revelations about Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., add fuel to the fire. Cunningham left a trail of gifts such as Rolls-Royce (and \$17,890 in repairs), use of a corporate jet, silver candelabra, Persian carpets, a mere tip of the iceberg and much more, all courtesy of the defense industry.

Although there are calls for reform, the smart money in Washington has to be on the long-arm lobbyist. Just in case anyone is sceptic, however, here are eight simple changes that would clean up Congress.

1. Close the "outside income" loophole. Members of Congress routinely legislate in areas where they have direct and sizable financial interests. That's because the ethics code doesn't include money earned from investments, such as stocks.

Restraints on the integrity of all too many legislators are not only in the public interest, but they have had far-reaching effects on the public. How? They hire them. Dozens of children and spouses of members of Congress are working for Washington lobbying firms — often with no pertinent experience or skills. Members should be barred from any involvement with legislation or committee assignments that bear on issues

2. Bar quid pro quo arrangements. Members accept



JONATHAN TURLAY

sweetheart financial deals from individuals who then get generous government contracts and legislative perks. Some members have gotten no-interest loans; others have made 500 percent profits on deals in just a few years.

The simple solution is to force members to recuse themselves from any legislation or official action that benefits their business associates or immediate family members.

3. Deter nepotism. Members have become increasingly bold in seeking offices and appointments for their children, siblings, spouses, etc. Again, the simple solution is total recusal. No member of Congress or his or her staff should be allowed to participate in any appointment or hiring of a family member.

4. End family lobbying. Lobbyists aren't allowed to give money directly to members, so they may give it to members' spouses or children. How? They hire them. Dozens of children and spouses of members of Congress are working for Washington lobbying firms — often with no pertinent experience or skills. Members should be barred from any involvement with legislation or committee assignments that bear on issues

5. End "educational" trips. A rule bars congressional members paid for by lobbyists, but as long as the lobbyist uses a shell "research" group and calls the vacations "educational," members can go and take their families. All trips paid for by any outside group should be banned.

6. Bar private-jet travel. Congress allows members to accept flights on private or corporate jets, often with lobbyists tagging along. If

members reimburse those companies for the equivalent of a first-class ticket. The problem is that the value of such travel is far greater than a first-class ticket. Members should be required to reimburse for the total cost of a jet charter.

7. Change the valuation of gifts. Members are supposed to accept no gifts worth more than \$50, but it happens all the time. For example, the owner of a major basketball team reportedly valued tickets to his skybox at \$49.50, at least when they were given to a member. The valuation of gifts should be independently calculated.

8. Create a truly independent ethics office for both houses. With members in control of their own ethics rules, as is now the case, ethical behavior is just one more commodity to be traded in the political market. For example, when ethics charges were filed a few years ago, members simply stepped on a moratorium on such charges — leading to an ethics-free zone for the corrupt.

These loopholes were maintained by members of both parties despite years of objections by outside groups. It's not that they didn't know how to govern; they simply preferred not to. If given the choice.

Jonathan Turlay is a professor of public interest law at George Washington University.

Dozens of children and spouses of Congress work for Washington lobbying firms. ... Members should be barred from any involvement with legislation ... that bear on issues a family member represents.

Public land bill was wrong for Idaho

It was wrong, and it wasn't the first time. And it won't be the last.

I take my lumps as they come — no one in public life should consider themselves immune from criticism. I am, former Gov. Phil Batt, lived by the principle that everyone whom the public holds in trust should be prepared to own up to their mistakes.

I always have, and I always will. For now, that means withdrawing my sponsorship and support for H.R. 3855, a bill before the House Resources Committee that Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo also sponsored.

I joined Congressman Tancredo as an original co-sponsor of the bill in part because I was frustrated that Congress had identified no revenue source to cover the cost of the bill. It was not an appropriate for Hurricane Katrina relief. At the same time, the measure provided the chance for another in a series of "shots across the bow" on the issue of federal land management in the West.

The federal government, which controls almost two-thirds of Idaho's land mass — forest and rangeland that is exempt from the property taxes that you and I pay — has a responsibility to carry its own weight. Counties in Idaho, particularly those in more rural areas, routinely are shortchanged by millions of dollars on Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs). Congress has promised as a



READER COMMENT Butch Otter

way to help compensate local communities — critical dollars that are needed to support such services as education, roads and law enforcement. Federal officials also are failing to maintain such facilities as the backcountry airstrips and other means of access needed for emergency response for citizens who use them.

Regardless, my critics are correct that this bill is not the right approach. I am a strong advocate for greater access to our federal lands throughout my public life. I have fought for many multiple use of our forests and rangelands and for more control by Idahoans over decisions that influence access and use of these tremendous natural resources.

As an avid sportsman, a Grand Slam member of Ducks Unlimited and a life member of Snake River Trout Unlimited, I understand the importance of

public land both to our wildlife and to the hunting and fishing public. I also understand that too often federal policies — from "artificial habitat" and wilderness study area designations to restrictions on motorized vehicles — have kept Idaho citizens from fully experiencing the wonders of our own state's public lands.

But assume I want to continue fighting for better management of, and greater access to, our public lands for all Idahoans. And finally, thank you to the people who have called and written and stopped me on the street to express their earnest thoughts on this matter. I particularly want to thank the members and leaders of a relatively new organization, Idaho Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, for their thoughtful and responsible approach.

Rep. Col. "Butch" Otter represents the 1st District for Idaho and is a Republican candidate for governor.

The Times-News

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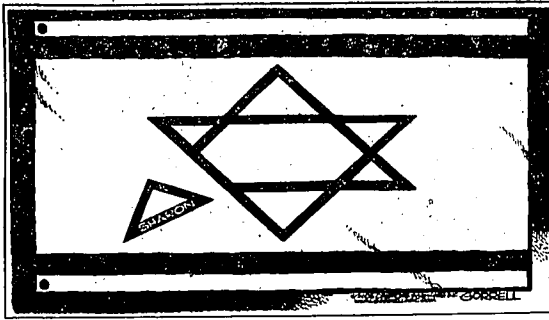
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LETTER

from sooner or later falling through a crack. We should have learned that lesson from the Idaho National Laboratory. 3. What are we going to do with 1,000 people who will be moving here for a few years to farm his plants? They will need barns to live in and larger schools for children. Taxes will go up and when the plant is built, what then? Will they just buy and leave or will they take over some of your jobs? 4. Have you really thought about being with farmers? How long would it take to stock the grocery shelves? You say, "That's silly, we get items from all over the world." What if those other countries decided to cut off that supply just as they did with the oil? How long would it take to get food hungry? And the organic farms, how many could keep going with chemicals being sprayed on them? And again, who can farm without water? How many travelers would we have coming to see our magic, Magic Valley? 5. Why is it that the Sempra promoters say that everything will be fine, but as soon as the plant is built, they plan to put it on the market to be sold. They are not going to stick around and be responsible for the problems they created. Those problems will be some-

one else's mess. These promoters will be wealthy at the expense of our clean air and our health. Why should they care? 6. Why don't we stop building such big homes that require so much electricity and conserve electricity? 7. Why don't we look closer at other options before we commit to our wonderful Magic Valley? I hope this does not offend anyone. It is meant to help people start thinking and maybe voice your opinion, too, before it is too late. ELAINE PIET Wendell

OPINION



Sharon offered rare sense of assurance

Ariel Sharon's nickname is "The Bulldozer." The nickname perfectly captures the man in terms of girth and psychological disposition...



TRUDY RUBIN

after an Israeli commission found him blameworthy for the massacre of Palestinian refugees in Beirut following Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Yet he managed to rise again. Israeli voters made him prime minister in 2001...

He pushed through a withdrawal from Gaza over the vehement objections of many from his Likud party. When those objections grew, he formed the Kadima Party...

So it's no surprise that Israelis are in shock over the massive stroke that felled Sharon on Wednesday. What is surprising is the panic his stroke evokes...

And Sharon's stroke unnerves the Bush administration, which hinged its Mideast peace policy on his ideas. His exit leaves U.S. policy adrift.

Sharon marched ahead despite political and military setbacks that would have cashed other politicians. He was a gambler whose risks often backfired.

Sharon didn't believe in peace negotiations, however. He refused to deal with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat and persuaded President Bush to do likewise.

After Arafat's death, pressure built for renewed talks with the Palestinians. Sharon needed to find a new direction.

The chance of such a plan working was virtually zero, nor is a successor likely to achieve it. Palestinian moderates...

Yet Sharon's bulldozer personality created the sense that he knew where he was going. No other Israeli political leader had an alternative plan.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Don't worry, all is forgiven

PAUL J. WILLIAMS

"I have no animosities," D.C. Council member Marlon Barry declared at a news conference after reporting to police that two men had robbed him at his home Monday night.

Just want to thank you for a tremendous 4 1/2 years of marriage. I hope we can always remain close friends, and I don't blame you at all for leaving me for Angelina. I mean just look at her! She's GORGEOUS!

The former mayor's outpouring of understanding toward a pair of armed robbers last week caused a flood of forgiveness nationwide as victimized Americans everywhere asked themselves: What Would Marlon Do?

Ray Nagin and the residents of New Orleans: "Look, the Big Easy doesn't hold a grudge. Seriously, it was our own fault. Who lives in a city that has so many places below sea level? Who expects timely and well-run government relief? What were we thinking? We were naive, and we just want to apologize to Michael Brown for the shabby way he was treated."

The Choctaw tribe: "Mr. Abramoff, we still love you. People keep overlooking that you did a lot of great work for us. So you charged us millions. So you called us 'monkeys' behind our backs. That water? Under the bridge. We're coming to your aid."

Valerie Plame: "I would just like to say to everyone that I'm very sorry I ever worked for the CIA. I realize that my mess is my fault—I never wanted to be a gate. I should have just told people I was undercover. To anyone who may have leaked my name and hurt my career, I want to say that I forgive you, and that I take full responsibility."

Iran could heat up, or start a cold war



JAMES P. PINKERTON

Here's a safe prediction for 2006: The Mideast conflict will continue to be the world's hot spot. And yet, Iran, which many think will heat up this year, may stay cold—but not for months.

But so long as the United States can say that Saddam Hussein and the Taliban are gone for good, it's hard to see how critics could define a U.S. redeployment as a defeat.

Americans will strike. The German news agency DDP reported last month that CIA Director Porter Goss had advised the Turkish government to be ready for U.S. military action against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Another possibility is that Israel will do the striking. The end-of-the-year prediction from neoconservative pundit Charles Krauthammer on Fox News was just that: Israel would hit Iran's nuclear sites.

As Republicans eye the 2006 midterm election, they seem increasingly likely to follow the advice of the late George Alken, a GOP senator from the Vietnam era who suggested to another Texas president fighting a war: "Declare victory and go home." But would that be an honorable outcome for America? That's a difficult question.

There's a catch, however: The Mideast might not cooperate with this plan for a smooth disengagement. The new president in Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is vocal about his goal of pushing America and Israel out of the Mideast. On Wednesday, The Guardian reported that Iran is scouring the world for ballistic-missile technology.

So in light of the seeming certainty that Iran will get the capability to make an A-bomb and to deliver one, what's going to happen? One possibility is that the James Pinkerton is a columnist for Newsday.

LETTER

Lawsuit reveals Lempa's idea of ethics

Here are some ideas to ponder. Has anyone considered what the "haze" from a coal-fired plant can do to crop production? Has anyone seen "frozen haze"?

Sempra Energy has to pay \$377 million in a settlement in California. I wonder how ethical this company is? Can we believe what they are telling us after they lied to California?

lope around coal-fired plants in Wyoming leave black lungs. The question has been asked of the gold mining industry in Nevada if it is the source of mercury contamination in Salmon Falls Reservoir.

The Nevada gold mining industry says it could have come from coal burning plants in China. Sempra says there is already mercury in our area due to China. That is the "logic" Sempra gives for not monitoring mercury emissions from its proposed coal plant at Lake Jerome.

Sempra has said stray electricity could be a problem around its plant and transmission lines. The Utah Delta Energy plant is being used to dairies in the area for stray electricity. I wonder if Jerome County could be subjected to the same stray electricity problem?

I think the Jerome County commissioners have been presented with a proposal that is complicated relative to their expertise. They have hired several lawyers (one of them a very expensive lawyer from northern Idaho) to help them make decisions.

These lawyers are costing Jerome County citizens a lot of money. Since this coal-fired plant really involves the whole state of Idaho, wouldn't it make sense to form a regional committee to make decisions involving this energy plant?

Write to us The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley offices...

ABCO Wood Recycling Washington-Idaho-Montana Start to Finish Land Cleaning Largest Portable Grinder in the Northwest...

ASK A.N.G.U.S.

The Ask A.N.G.U.S. Column is a fabulous resource for what ares and no arens have posed to us. sickly cow named Angus, born and raised in Southern California, has already suffered from the effects of breathing in toxic-rancid air and grazing on mercury-poisoned lands.

Remember: It's your Air, Food, Water, And Lives At Risk

HEY ANGUS, is it true that Idaho Fish and Game is changing the "Fishing Rules" for Jerome County? Yup, there will be "NO LIMIT" on the number of "HEAVILY MERCURY POISONED FISH YOU CAN SCRAPE OFF THE BOTTOM. HOWEVER THERE IS A LIMIT OF ONLY 24 FOR THE LIGHTER SURFACE MERCURY FLOATERS." NET 'EM AND ENJOY 'EM. A GIFT FROM OUR NEIGHBORS AT SEMPRA.

Hope FOR THE Hurting Matthew D. Geske Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor 735-0090 Individual, Marriage & Family Counseling Insurance, Employee Programs & more...

A Stinking Bad Idea For Southern Idaho! Idaho Destroyed Forever! A.N.G.U.S. prefers that all your comments in the Sempra coal plant be directed to the Jerome County Commissioners: Veronica Lierman, Joe Davidson, and Charles Howell, Jerome County Commission Building, 300 N. Lincoln-Fisher, Jerome, ID 83338. But if you must: A.N.G.U.S., P.O. Box 6552, Ketchum, ID 83340.

Hurricane victims, particularly blacks, are furious that New Orleans still suffers

By Eln Taxira
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — Tangeyon Wall shivers, partly from anger and partly because it's a chilly New Orleans morning and there's no heat in her gutted home.

There's no electricity, gas, sewer service or drinkable water either.

It's been months since Hurricane Katrina flooded 80 percent of New Orleans, and Wall seethes that her city has barely begun to recover.

But she's even madder that her neighborhood, mostly black, is lagging far behind many others in getting its utilities back. And that other black neighborhoods, among the worst hit by the flooding, seem to be getting the least help.

Very few people have returned to those places. And why would they?

Their neighborhoods are wastelands. Most houses are uninhabitable. Garbage is piled with moldy sofas and crumbling plywood. Plans to protect residents from another such day are still "on the way."

And buzzing thru town is a city-commissioned report suggesting that some neighborhoods, mostly black, not be rebuilt at all.

What's happening now reminds blacks of the first days after the flood, when the city was drifting and so many were left to fend for themselves.

There is a growing feeling — despite official insistence to the contrary — that America has abandoned them. And many feel it's happening because the city is mostly black and relatively poor.

They have every right to the same privileges as in any other part of this city," Wall said. "It's reminding me of the civil rights days of old ... The city, the state,



Tangeyon Wall stands by a broken window in her home, which was flooded by Hurricane Katrina, in Eastover neighborhood in New Orleans on Friday. Wall is angry that utility services are returning to her neighborhood of predominantly black residents at a much slower rate than they are to other areas of the city.

the nation have shown us that we're stepchildren. We're not even in the house."

Two weeks after the storm, President Bush stood in the city's historic Jackson Square and vowed to do "whatever it takes" to rebuild.

"There is no way to imagine America without New Orleans," he said, "and this great city will rise again."

A lot of residents figured this meant the city would get as much help as it needed, and quickly. It hasn't.

One simple measure is house trailers. The Federal Emergency Management Administration promised 120,000 of them for people who lost their homes to Katrina, but FEMA data show barely 26,000 are occupied in Louisiana, fewer than 4,000 of

those in New Orleans.

Butch Kinerney, a FEMA spokesman, said his colleagues are "working tirelessly" for hurricane survivors, but the job is enormous. "It's taking longer than anybody wants," he acknowledged.

Costly proposals do account for New Orleans are being considered by the administration and Congress, but people like Wall can't help but wonder what's taking so long.

Immediately after the hurricane, New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin said it would take up to 16 weeks for the city to rebuild. That date has passed.

Barely one in four of the 400,000 people who fled the city have come back, demographers estimate. The city desperately needs more to come home, and

many want to, vowing to spend years and their life savings rebuilding.

But it's tough to get started without federal rebuilding loan guarantees, and a lot of people don't have the income to qualify.

It's also hard to get a loan if you can't get flood insurance, and in some neighborhoods that has become impossible.

To return, people also need somewhere to live while they rebuild. But those FEMA trailers are few, and some Orleansians in livable neighborhoods are fighting plans to put clusters of trailers near their homes.

It's also hard to come home if you are afraid. Katrina killed more than 1,300 people, and the fragile levee system that protects the city is as vulnerable as ever.

Tourists trickling back to New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The paddleheader on which they had planned to take a Mississippi River excursion was being used to house Hurricane Katrina relief workers. But Phoenix residents Barbara Levy and Skip Hanson still had French Quarter antique stores and restaurants to enjoy.

"New Orleans will get going when tourism gets going. It's got to start somewhere. Why not us?" Levy said last week.

Four months after the storm, tourists are trickling back to New Orleans, a city that has always depended on the kindness of strangers.

"They're coming from as far away as Germany, as far away as Paris, as far away as who knows where," Mayor Ray Nagin said Friday at a ceremony to mark the start of Carnival season, which culminates in Mardi Gras, the city's biggest moneymaker.

Many hotel rooms are still unusable, and relief and city workers fill most of those remaining. But there are still rooms to be found.

The city has no figures on exactly how many tourists have been coming to town. But around 500 arrived last weekend. If only for two days, when the cruise ship Dolphin Renaissance made a New Year's Eve port of call.

It was the first cruise ship to bring tourists to New Orleans since Katrina hit Aug. 29. Two other cruise ships are docked here but are housing city police, firefighters and relief workers.

Tourism normally pays for about 30 percent of New Orleans' operating budget. Until the storm, the city was heading toward a third straight record year for tourism, after 8.5 million people visited in 2003 and 10.1 million in 2004.

Bill Langkopf, executive director of the Greater New Orleans Hotel and Lodging Association, said Friday there were about 30,000 hotel rooms in the New Orleans area before Katrina. About 21,000 have reopened, with about 14,000 occupied by evacuees, federal workers, construction workers and others in town for the city's recovery. That leaves 7,000 available for tourists.

And with many of the recovery workers checking out, 5,000 more rooms are expected to be made available by Mardi Gras, hotel association president Darrius Gray said.

Levy said she and Hanson come to New Orleans every year around this time. They made their reservations in August, before Katrina struck.

After the storm, an energy company chartered the American Queen paddleheader for its workers through March.

Alan Tuft, a college English instructor in Stockton, Calif., and his wife, Belinda Tuft, a high school Spanish teacher, were drawn to New Orleans by the scarcity of tourists.

"We're adventure tourists. We've traveled to West Africa, South America, the Middle East and so on," Tuft said. They figured in New Orleans, "there might not be as much frenzy and we might actually enjoy the city."

Last week they drove through the devastated and all-but-abandoned Ninth Ward and wandered around the much livelier French Quarter.

"This is not a recommended resort spot in that sense by any stretch of the imagination," Tuft said, "but it's worth the drive through the Ninth Ward. Still, the French Quarter's worthwhile going to."

Optometrist Jim Dudley and his wife, optician Sarah Selzer, who lives in French Quarter, took a tour of the hard-hit areas and the French Quarter.

"I didn't realize the extent of the devastation," Dudley said. "I didn't realize how much block after block of property was just ruined. I don't know what they're going to do with it. It was just horrible."

Katrina's garbage rates a Category 5

Chicago Tribune

NEW ORLEANS — One of the best views of New Orleans these days is just east of town, on top of a hill that contains a garbage pile that provides a commanding view of the skyline.

The once-closed Old Gentilly landfill is humming with activity, and in the four months since Hurricane Katrina laid waste to the Gulf Coast, it has grown about 100 feet higher.

There is so much garbage left over by the storm that the federal government estimates that it stacked in 1-yard cubes it would wrap around the Earth more than once. And the crews that are picking up the trash aren't close to being finished.

While a dozen or more landfills have sprouted in Mississippi and Louisiana, federal crews are trying a variety of methods to stink the garbage pile as much as possible.

One strategy involves recycling everything from downed trees to appliances, an effort complicated by the fact that much of the garbage has been stewing in saltwater.

Nevertheless, on the top of the Old Gentilly landfill, thousands of refrigerators are stacked together as one crew — dressed in white contamination suits, heavy gloves and respirators — pulls out rotting food while another taps into copper wiring behind the refrigerator to pull out the iron, which is recycled.

It's a cold day it's not that bad, but on a hot day, it's interesting," said H.C. Morris, president of Environmental Recycling, a Kentucky company that is recycling refrigerators and other appliances, when asked about removing the food.

"After about three days, you get used to it. You can eat a sandwich right there, and it doesn't bother you."

Along with washers, dryers and other appliances, the refrigerators are filled by cranes into a hauling machine that is a baler that crushes them into 1,700-pound metal rectangles, 6 feet long by 2.5 feet wide. Morris makes his money by selling the baler's scrap metal.

"We got a little niche here because no one wants to deal with this," said Morris.

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Grandma's Boy

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Hostel

Now at the Twin Cinema

Host of issues likely to affect us in 2006

By Larry Williams
The Baltimore Sun

Sometimes the news explodes, like a hurricane, earthquake or terrorist attack. Sometimes it creeps up gradually. These slower-moving stories that change our lives are almost always the hardest to see and understand.

Here is a look at a few issues likely to have major effects on our lives in 2006:

Economic fears

Americans are increasingly worried about the soaring cost of energy—gasoline for driving and natural gas for heating. Many have been tapping the growing value of their homes in the face of slow growth in family income and are concerned about an apparent weakening of the housing market. Health care costs are up, and employers are pushing more of those costs on their workers.

How will all of this affect the economy in the coming year? Consumers and businesses are likely to remain cautious in the absence of good news, political or economically. That means fewer good jobs and more layoffs—particularly in traditional industries being challenged by foreign competition or changes

In consumer habits.

Iraq

Although a majority of Americans disapproves of President Bush's handling of Iraq, the nation is closely divided on whether the decision to use military force there was right or wrong, and a majority believes it is still possible that a stable Iraqi democracy can be established.

As the new Iraqi government takes form this year, that hope will be tested. If the insurgency devolves into a civil war among religious and political factions, or if attacks on American troops continue without an effective response, it will be increasingly difficult to explain the strategic value of the continued presence of American forces.

Political blues

Democrats should take little comfort in last year's plunge in Bush's approval ratings. Both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government are taking a beating in the public eye.

Congress continued its downward slide, with only 45 percent of the public holding at least a somewhat favorable view of the body by mid-October, according to polling by the Pew Research Center, including

a mere 7 percent who declared a "very" favorable opinion. Overall the federal government scored no better: its favorability rating fell from a high of 75 percent as recently as April 2003 to 46 percent in December.

Severe weather

Severe weather around the world made 2005 the most costly year on record, with unprecedented insurance claims on damaged property, the U.N. Environment Programme reported, and weather experts expect more of the same in 2006.

The UNEP said the record was partly due to the highest number of hurricanes and tropical storms since records began more than 150 years ago. Some scientists believe the upsurge in cases of severe weather may be linked to climate change brought about by emissions of greenhouse gases.

Illegal Immigration

House Republicans voted recently to toughen the border security bill by requiring the Department of Homeland Security to build five fences along 638 miles of the United States' border with Mexico to block the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs into this country. The

amendment to the bill would require the construction of the fences along stretches of land in California, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona that have been deemed among the most porous corridors of the border.

The vote on the amendment was a victory for conservatives who had long sought to build such fences. But the vote was sharply assailed by Democrats, who compared the fences to the Berlin Wall and Germany. Twelve Republicans also voted against the amendment.

Pandemics

In May, scientists urgently called on nations to prepare for a global influenza pandemic. The world could strike as much as 50 percent of the world's population.

In November, Bush announced a strategy for dealing with the potential avian flu or other influenza pandemic.

There are lots of questions but few certainties about the pandemic threat. What is known is that many millions have been killed in previous pandemics that have swept around the world and that the H5N1 strain of Avian flu has the genetic ability to infect a wide range of hosts, including birds and humans.

Man's inventions could finally reap riches — for heirs

LIVONIA, N.Y. (AP) — Inventor Tom Wicker sometimes gets breakthrough ideas during walks around his wooded, 15-acre hilltop spread. On occasion, he says, he'll rush down to his printworker's shop on this village's Main Street and "100 pages of math later, I have something that works."

Wicker's brainstorms are all about ratcheting up security to foil crooks in the multibillion-dollar world of counterfeiting. His father spent much of his career doing the same kind of work, making currency and vital documents harder to duplicate, but he died feeling denied due recognition or compensation.

Now, his sons have taken up their father's fight. Tom and his brother, Ralph Wicker, have attracted formidable allies, and an improbable comeback appears at hand. Tens of millions of dollars are at stake.

Tom Wicker, 44, recalls his father's deathbed words in 1997. "Life's going to be hell," Ralph Wicker whispered, "but if you hang in there, you're gonna make this work."

With the proliferation of high-quality color copiers and scanners, counterfeiting has ballooned to a \$600 billion-a-year headache, the International Chamber of Commerce estimates. Scams range beyond currency to the packaging that secures medical devices, software, aircraft parts and other products of high value.

Back in 1961 when counterfeiting hinged on getting help from engravers and other artisans gone bad, 27-year-old Ralph Wicker was awarded the first of 34 patents in graphic arts: a technique to help commercial printers align screen angles precisely and easily.

Another invention in 1964 netted \$65,000, enough to buy a house in suburban Rochester for his wife and six young children. But the good times didn't last.

Wicker, a former Marine Corps sergeant with a guns-ho spirit but also a weakness for whiskey, gave up a steady job as a lithographer to become a go-it-alone entrepreneur — only to confirm that he was not a businessman.

A pioneering "big dot-little dot" pantograph he devised in 1970 that made the word "void" appear in reproductions was plundered by rivals in the checks-and-forms industry. Over the next decade, he got fitful work as a consultant and binged his family from town to town in western New York to keep ahead of bills.

His alcoholism was getting out of control, driving his children away while still in their teens.

His inability to attract financial backing to develop his anti-counterfeiting tools aggravated him further.

"It was 10 years of never-ending failure," said his middle child, Tom, who had inherited his father's creative flair but

On the Net:
www.documentsecurity.com

opted for a secure job as a chief auto mechanic.

In 1982, his father's esophagus ruptured from the effects of throwing back two quarts of whiskey a day. This life-threatening condition led to a bedside confrontation between father and son. "You have a talent, you need to use it, you're wasting your life!" the father yelled.

Each made a vital concession. The father quit alcohol cold turkey and never went back; the son began relearning everything about printing he'd first picked up at his father's knee.

In 1987, Tom and elder brother David, a bookbinding foreman with a talent for marketing, packed in their jobs to support their father's research.

While testing his fine-line method, Ralph Wicker befriended Patrick White, a print shop owner who put all the latest color-copier models at his disposal. Shortly before securing a patent in 1991, Ralph presented his work to Secret Service officials who urged him not to share it with others, his sons contend.

It was his proudest breakthrough because of its lofty potential to become a key buffer for the nation's money.

Again, however, the euphoria didn't last. The Treasury stopped taking his calls, his sons say, and then unveiled a technique it called "concentric fine-line printing."

That's when Ralph Wicker called in his attorneys.

In a 1995 lawsuit seeking up to \$93 million in royalties, he accused the Treasury Department of incorporating his patented method of incorporating fine-line engravings in its newly unveiled \$100 bill. The micro-patterns cause blurriness, color changes and other electronic distortions when copied.

During the trial, Ralph rejected a \$3 million settlement offer, saying it didn't cover his investors' costs. But his legal case went down in flames.

While finding that "the United States in fact was infringing" his 1991 and 1993 patents, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims determined that two earlier patents secured in Europe invalidated key parts of his invention.

"It was really painful for everyone involved," says an expert witness, Joseph Noga, an emeritus professor of electronic color imaging at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Government lawyers "kept ridiculing his operation as being small, insignificant," Noga says.

"All he wanted was recognition for his invention. He felt he was contributing in a patriotic way to solving a problem with our currency."

WILD COW CHASE



Officer Amy Lowe of the Humane Society of Cascade County runs near an escaped cow Thursday in Great Falls, Mont. The cow escaped from a local slaughterhouse and led police and the Humane Society workers on a cross-town chase. The animal was eventually recaptured and returned to the slaughterhouse.

Ex-teacher gets 6 years for molesting children

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

SANTA ANITA, Calif. — A former middle school teacher so popular that students clamored to be in her class went and apologized Friday, moments before she was sentenced to six years in prison for molesting two former male students and one of their friends.

"There's no excuse for what I did," said Sarah Suzann Bench-Salorio, 29, as she sat handcuffed at a counsel table in a tenth floor courtroom. "I will carry with me forever the remorse and utter regret I possess for having been the cause of such betrayal, embarrassment and shame."

But she added, "I am a good person. I made some horrible mistakes... I will beg and pray for the forgiveness of the families and all of those that hurt."

The parents of two of her victims, however, sat in the courtroom gallery dabbing at their eyes and snaking their heads from side to side.

The mother of another victim said she was angry that Bench-Salorio wasn't going to get more time in prison.

"A teacher's fundamental responsibility is to make sure her students are safe," the mother said. "But here not only does she fail to protect her students, but she became the very predator they needed protection against."

The mother said that at first Bench-Salorio seemed to be the type of teacher who really connected with students, and that most children wanted to be in her class. But then she learned that the teacher had seduced her pre-teenage son.

Two men charged in slaughter of two families

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Two men were captured Saturday and charged in the brutal killings of seven people from two Richmond families, slayings that police hadn't publicly tied together until now.

Police Chief Rodney Monroe said Ray Joseph Dandridge and Ricky Cowan, both 28, were charged with conspiracy to commit murder and auto theft after they were arrested driving a Cadillac that belonged to one of the victims.

The men were arrested in Philadelphia and have ties to the area, but Monroe would not give further details. He said neither is from Richmond.

"We believe we have put an end to what we consider seven very serious cases in this area," Monroe said at a news conference.

The bodies of Percyell Tucker, 55; Mary Baskerville, 47; and her daughter, Ashley Baskerville, 21, were found Friday bound with

duct tape in their ransacked Richmond home.

It was a similar scene when the bodies of Bryan Harvey, 49; his wife, Kathryn, 39; and their two young daughters, Stella, 4, and Ruby, 4, were found in their basement, bound with tape and their throats cut New Year's Day.

The investigation into Friday's triple homicide led police to Dandridge and Gray, Monroe said. He said investigators also found evidence linking them to the four killings in the Harvey home, but he declined to give specifics.

The two sets of vicious killings in the span of a week cast a pall over Richmond, a city of about 200,000.

Bryan Harvey, 49, had been a fixture on the local rock music scene since the mid-'60s — most notably as guitarist and singer for the critically acclaimed duo House of Freaks, which released five albums on three labels from 1987 to 1995.

Kathryn Harvey, 39, co-owned World of Mirth, a quirky toy and novelty store in Carytown, a 12-block stretch of trendy boutiques, cafes and coffee shops just west of downtown. She was the half-sister of actor Steven Culp, who played Rex Van De Kamp on "Desperate Housewives."

A makeshift memorial has built up in front of World of Mirth: bouquets of flowers, flickering candles, condensation scribbles on a large poster, sealed letters addressed in children's handwriting to Stella and Ruby. Glimming in the sunshine is a pair of ruby-red slippers; Ruby liked wearing shoes to match her name.

Friends and associates describe the Harveys as an ideal family — loving, supportive, selfless, hard working and universally well-liked.

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NATION/WORLD

Soldiers question more armor

Some argue it would hinder effectiveness

BEIRI, Iraq (AP) — U.S. soldiers in the field were not all supportive of a Pentagon study that found improved body armor saves lives, with some arguing Saturday that more armor would hinder combat effectiveness.

"The unrelaxed study examined 93 fatal wounds to Marines from the start of the Iraq war in March 2003 through June 2005. It concluded 74 percent of the wounds or shrapnel wounds to shoulders or torso areas unprotected by traditional ceramic armor plating.

"The study and their remarks highlight the difficulty faced by the Army and Marine Corps in providing the best level of body armor protection in a war against an insurgency whose tactics are constantly changing.

Both the Army and the Marines have weighed the expected payoff in additional safety from extra armor against the measurable loss of combat effectiveness from too much armor.

According to a summary of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner's study obtained Friday evening by The Associated Press, the 53 Marines who died from the primary lethal injury of the torso were among 401 Marines who died from combat injuries in Iraq between the start of the war and June 2005.

A military advocacy group, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., who was in Iraq on Saturday, said military leaders told him

Second Lt. Josh Suthoff, 23, of Jefferson City, Miss., said he already sacrifices enough movement when he wears the equipment. More armor would only increase his chances of getting killed, he said.

"You can slip body armor on all you want, but it's not going to help anything. When it's your time, it's your time," said Suthoff, a platoon leader in the brigade's 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment. "I'd go out with less body armor if I could."

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evening, The New York Times reported in its online edition that the study for the first time shows the cost in lives lost from inadequate armor.

Autopsy reports and photographic records were analyzed to help the military determine possible body armor redesign.

Of 39 fatal torso wounds in which the bullet or shrapnel entered the Marine's body outside of the ceramic armor plate protecting the chest and back, 31 were close to the plate's edge, according to the study, which was conducted last summer.

Some soldiers felt unhappy that ceramic plates to protect their sides and shoulders were available, but not offered, when they deployed for Iraq in September.

"It's going to protect a soldier or save his life, they definitely should have benefited the opportunity to wear it," said Staff Sgt. Shaun Benoit, 26, of Conneaut, Ohio. "I want to know where there was a break in communication."

Others questioned the effectiveness of additional body armor.

"It's the Army's responsibility to get soldiers the armor they need. But that doesn't mean those deaths could have been prevented," said Spc. Robert Reid, 21, of Atlanta.

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., who was in Iraq on Saturday, said military leaders told him

that body armor has improved since the initial invasion in 2003 and that the military hoped to gradually transition to the improved armor.

The debate between protection versus mobility has dominated military doctrine since the Middle Ages, when knights wrapped themselves in metal suits for battle, said Capt. James Turner, 35, of Baton Rouge, La., a commander in the 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment.

The issue comes up daily on the battlefield in Iraq, and soldiers need to realize there is no such thing as 100 percent protection, he said.

"You've got to sacrifice some protection for mobility," he added. "If you cover your entire body in ceramic plates, you're just not going to be able to move."

Others in the regiment said the issue of protecting soldiers with more body armor is of greater concern at home than among soldiers in Iraq, who have seen firsthand how life and death hang on a sliver of luck when an improvised explosive device hits a Humvee.

"These guys over here are husbands, sons and daughters. It's understandable people at home would want all the protection in the world for us. But realistically, it just doesn't work," said Sgt. Paul Hare, 40, of Tucuman, N.M.

'Truthiness' takes top honors in '05

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A panel of linguists has decided the word that best reflects 2005 is "truthiness," defined as the quality of stating concepts one wishes or believes to be true, rather than the facts.

The American Dialect Society chose the word Friday after a runoff with terms related to Hurricane Katrina, such as "Katrinage," the scandal erupting from the lack of planning for the monster hurricane.

Michael Adams, a professor at North Carolina State University who specializes in lexicology, said "truthiness" means "truthy but not fact."

"The national argument right now is, one, who's got the truth and, two, who's got the facts," he said. "Until we can manage to get the two of them back together again, we're not going to make much progress."

The group of linguists, editors and academics agreed the most useful word was "podcast" — a digital file containing audio or video files for downloading to an MP3 player.

In a runoff for the most creative word, "white tail" — the appearance of a thong above

the waistband, beat out "muffin top," the bulge of flesh hanging over the top of low-riding jeans.

Tom Cruise became the first public figure in 10 years to be noted for his influence on public discourse. The group coined the term "Cruise-ize" to describe such terms as "Jump the couch" and "Cruisey."

"Jump the couch," meaning to exhibit strange or frenetic behavior, won the best Tom Cruise-related word or phrase. It stems from the actor's antics in May on Oprah Winfrey's couch as he talked about his love for fiancée Katie Holmes.

"Cruisey" means to exhibit crazy behavior.

"I don't know any other public figure who has inspired so many people in a single year," said Erin McKean, editor of the New Oxford American Dictionary.

Other winners included "sudoku," a Japanese number puzzle voted the word most likely to succeed, and "pope squatting" (the practice of registering an online domain that is the name of the pope who is about to profit from it, as least likely to succeed).

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San Diego pension fund officials face fraud charges

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted five current and former San Diego pension fund officials Friday on 29 counts of fraud and conspiracy in an investigation of the city's troubled finances.

San Santhoff, Terri Webster and Cathy Lezin — three former trustees on the board overseeing the city's retirement fund — were named in the indictment along with the fund's former administrator, Lawrence B. Grissom, and current general counsel, Loraine Chapin.

The five were accused of concealing information from fellow board members about a crucial 2002 vote that allowed San Diego to escape payments to the retirement fund and, at the same time, enhance pension benefits.

The 2002 vote and a similar move in 1996 were largely to blame for a pension deficit that has swelled to \$1.37 billion. The pension debacle has crippled the city's budget, and the money spared talk of bankruptcy led Mayor Dick Murphy to resign from office last year a few months after he was narrowly elected to a second term.

Prosecutors allege that Santhoff and the other defendants failed to reveal that Webster and Santhoff's pension by more than \$25,000 a year by letting him combine his union and city salaries to calculate his benefits.

Lezin, Webster, Grissom and Chapin are accused of devising the special benefit to boost Santhoff's retirement pay in a successful effort to his support for underfunding the pension system.

Lobbyist's excesses expose Capitol deals

WASHINGTON (AP) — A luxury skybox for sports fans in Congress. A dinner party that raises thousands of dollars for a political candidate. Helpful suggestions on how the guest of honor might phrase a letter to the president or a Cabinet secretary.

Alone and even in modest combinations, all are examples of business as usual in Washington's billion-dollar world of government, lobbying and campaign finance.

What makes it work is discretion.

What's blown the lid on it now is lobbyist Jack Abramoff's excesses.

It's the unwritten rules as much as the written ones that Abramoff broke: Don't gloat, don't be too greedy, don't say out loud what you're doing and don't ever, ever, put in writing what you don't have to.

There is one other clear difference between Abramoff's actions and those of other lobbyists.

"He defrauded his clients. That's a big difference," said Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at the Washington University law school in St. Louis.

Abramoff, who faces up to 11 years in prison after pleading guilty last week to conspiracy, mail fraud and tax evasion charges, also got caught. A maze of campaign finance laws and changing rules makes it hard to prove a lawmaker took an official action under a "quid pro quo" agreement with a generous lobbyist.

The scandal with Abramoff is just the enormity of it, said Roberta Baskin, executive director of the Center for Public Integrity, a private ethics watchdog group. "Who knows if there are others like him out there or not."

"If so, it's unlikely they had all of Abramoff's trappings."

- Foreign gift trips arranged for former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, and the chairman of the House Administration Committee, Rep.



Jack Abramoff leaves Federal Court in Washington on Tuesday.

Bob Ney, R-Ohio.

- Fundraisers at his skybox or at his upscale Signatures restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue exactly half way between the Capitol and the White House.
- Job offers for top Bush administration officials and senior aides of congressional leaders and committee chairmen.

"He's exceptional in that he was pushing so many levers at once," said Frank Clements, director of Public Citizen's Congress Watch.

More may be known soon.

Under a plea deal with federal prosecutors, Abramoff's e-mails and other documents will be the stuff of federal court proceedings that will expose the mysterious and protected world of Washington lobbying.

Because the law requires limited transparency of lobbyist-lawmaker dealings, the differences between Abramoff and other lobbyists are not entirely clear.

Lobbyists, legislators, campaign fundraisers and presidential appointees frequently wear different hats over the course of their careers. It's been pretty much that way since the nation's beginning. Even public integrity watchdogs ac-

knowledge that lobbyists, properly regulated, are important advocates in the American system of government.

The ethical boundaries get blurred when people play two or more parts, often in the same day.

Rainmakers raise colossal amounts of money that candidates need to wage and win campaigns. Lobbyists try to persuade lawmakers and presidentially appointed officials to take actions that benefit their clients. Often they are one and the same.

What is hard to prove is whether lobbyists press officials — and whether the officials agree — to do these official acts out of gratitude for campaign money or other gifts of value, such as skybox seats and exotic trips.

The law says such quid pro quo only can be proved when explicitly uttered or written down.

Hence, the unwritten rules: Whatever events or contributions might have preceded a public policy decision that benefits the lobbyist's clients, don't talk about it and don't put anything in writing that isn't required.

Abramoff violated both, and the law, in vivid detail.

"Is life great or what?" he exulted in an e-mail to an associate with whom he pocketed \$66 million from six American Indian tribes whose federal influence in Washington.

In a series of e-mails and other documents, Abramoff explained that in 2002 he and an associate secretly took millions of dollars to consultant Ralph Reed, a former Christian Coalition leader, to help shut down a Texas casino operated by the Tigua Indians.

Then Abramoff persuaded the Tiguas to hire him and his associate, public relations consultant Michael Scanlon, to help reopen the casino.

"The annoying losers are the only ones which have this kind of money and part with it so quickly," Abramoff wrote to Scanlon.

Suspects in counterfeiting allegedly flushed fake cash

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP) — Two people suspected of counterfeiting money spent at least a week relieving themselves in public shopping bags because the plumbing stopped working in their apartment when they flushed washes of suspected fake cash down the toilet, authorities said.

Sellina Jean Valdez, 28, was arrested Thursday on a warrant for forgery, possession of forged instruments and criminal mischief. Her suspected partner,

Daniel Marquez, 41, is wanted on the same charges.

The two were suspected of running a low-tech counterfeiting operation, using a combination printer-scanner-copier and a personal computer to make fake \$50 and \$100 bills, detectives said they think.

Investigators said they think Marquez and Valdez flushed washes down the toilet on Dec. 28 when detectives tried to question them. The rental duplex where

Valdez and Marquez were staying was discovered flooded with sewage Thursday when police executed a search warrant.

Detective Shane Pope said police believe the fake money was widely circulated among

the couple's acquaintances, who spent it at local businesses. Investigators plan to compare bills to serial numbers, which seized Thursday to those taken by police after being spent at businesses.

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Quake survivors brace for winter

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Three months after South Asia's monster earthquake, hundreds of thousands of survivors face a fight to survive the Himalayan winter, huddling in unheated tents and tin shacks near the ruins of their homes.

Health workers expect fatalities from cold-related diseases like pneumonia — anecdotal reports suggest dozens of children already have died — but Pakistani officials say enough shelter and supplies are in place to prevent a "second wave" of deaths on top of the 87,000 killed by the Oct. 8 temblor.

Senior U.N. aid officials are more circumspect, saying nobody can predict the weather's impact. But they are backing away from dire warnings in the immediate aftermath of the disaster when the world body's humanitarian chief Jan Egeland said tens of thousands more could die without more aid.

Jan Vandemoortele, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Pakistan, said there were helicopters, scores of clinics and thousands of tons of food stocks — to keep people alive through the crisis, so long as the weather periodically cleared to let aid delivery and medical reach the vulnerable.

"On that basis, we will be able to prevent a second wave of deaths," he said.

A mild December allowed more time than expected to rush in aid for more than 3 million left homeless by the magnitude 7.6 quake that reached across a 12,000-square-mile swath of mountains, stretching from northwestern Pakistan eastward into India's portion of disputed Kashmir, where 1,350 people also died in the quake.

The new year started badly. For three days, driving rains tore through the valleys and up to a feet of snow fell on mountain villages, where temperatures dipped to 5 degrees.

"This weather is the nightmare we were expecting," said Larry Hollingworth, the U.N. deputy humanitarian coordi-



An unidentified Kashmir family who survived the Oct. 8, 2005, earthquake in south Asia sit in their tent in the freezing cold, Wednesday, in a suburb of Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistani Kashmir. Three months after the monster earthquake, hundreds of thousands of survivors chilled by the first blast of the Himalayan winter face a fight for survival until spring.

nator. "People are now at their most vulnerable."

Helicopters were grounded and roads were blocked, virtually halting relief efforts for several days. On mountainsides, hundreds of flimsy tents collapsed under the weight of snow. In the relatively well-supplied lowland camps that house about 250,000 displaced people, rain brought floods that drenched tents.

"We are used to the winter because we live in the mountains but here we have no proper shelter. The children are getting sick," said Akber Jan, a quake widow who lives with her seven children in a tent at a muddy camp in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan's portion of Kashmir.

Survivors on mountaintops were spared the rain, but little else.

At Maidan village, 6,300 feet up in the remote Allai valley, the snow is now knee-deep and residents were starting Friday to slaughter their valuable live-

stock to supplement food handouts from the U.N. World Food Program.

"We only used to plant maize and there's not much left. We have yogurt but we are dependent on WFP for other food," said Saleem Khan, a 32-year-old village elder.

He said that 20 percent of the village's 5,000 people had moved to the valleys, but the rest planned to tough out the winter as they were afraid of losing livestock and land.

Like many villages in the Himalayas, Maidan has no doctor and suffers fatalities from the cold each winter. But Khan said that since the quake, about 30 children had died — far more than usual — because they had been sleeping in the open before their mud and wood homes were rebuilt.

The U.N. estimates that across the quake zone, 400,000 people have opted to stay in villages above 5,000 feet, where the Pakistan army is helping to erect tens of thousands of cor-

rugated iron shelters. At lower elevations about 1.9 million are living in tents.

Pakistan's federal relief commissioner, Maj. Gen. Farooq Ahmad, was confident that adequate shelter has been provided to prevent major loss of life.

"The risk (of more deaths) would have been there if we had failed to provide this," he said. "People should be reasonably comfortable."

Non-government aid groups are less optimistic, saying the quality of preparation for the winter varies widely from well-supplied camps near urban centers to spontaneous settlements that wait for handouts from aid trucks and choppers.

"There are tens of thousands of people without adequate protection," said Shaheen Chughtal, a spokeswoman for Oxfam. "We are poised to see a second wave of deaths unless there's rapid action. For some people, it may already be too late."

PROFILE

Israel's acting prime minister

Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, 60, is a longtime ally of Ariel Sharon and like him, underwent a political transformation from hawk to moderate in recent years.

Ehud Olmert

Military: Officer in infantry unit and reporter for Israeli Army journal.
Education: Bachelor's degree in psychology and philosophy; law degree from Hebrew University in Jerusalem

Political:

- 1973, elected to parliament
- 1988, Cabinet minister without portfolio (no specific department), in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government
- 1990, health minister
- 1993, mayor of Jerusalem
- 2003, appointed vice premier to Sharon and minister of industry, trade and labor

Personal: Married, has four children



Sharon's point man seen as open to negotiations

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ehud Olmert's immediate test as Israel's acting prime minister — and a harbinger of his stand on Mideast peacemaking — will be whether he will allow Palestinians to vote in Jerusalem in their upcoming parliamentary elections.

A "no" could derail balloting scheduled for Jan. 25 and upset the Bush administration, which is pushing for greater democracy in the Arab world. A "yes" might harm Olmert's chances of winning Israeli elections in March if he appears to be caveing to outside pressure.

Olmert-watchers say he is expected to try to work out a compromise to avoid starting off on the wrong foot with Washington.

If Olmert were elected Israel's next leader, they say, he could be more amenable to negotiating a peace deal with the Palestinians than his ailing mentor Ariel Sharon, who did not consider the Palestinians trustworthy partners.

"He is a shrewd lawyer, a very pragmatic man," said Olmert's longtime friend, Moshe Amirav. "If they (the Palestinians) can deliver stability, he will be ready to give up land, and surprise the world with his moderation."

Olmert was thrust into the No. 1 job after the 77-year-old Sharon suffered a debilitating stroke on Wednesday. If Sharon does not recover, Olmert is the most likely candidate to lead the prime minister's newly formed centrist Kadima Party into the March 28 election, and is seen as a strong contender for the premiership.

In the past four years, Olmert has been Sharon's trusted point man, often floating proposals in public that later became policy. Some say Olmert embraced the idea of a unilateral withdrawal from some Palestinian-claimed lands well before Sharon did in 2003, and that he had a role in Sharon's startling transformation into a moderate.

For much of his political life, Olmert was a right-wing ideologue who espoused the idea of a Greater Israel that encompasses the West Bank and Gaza. Born into nationalist "aristocracy," the suave political operator rose through the ranks of the right-wing Likud Party, starting as a parliament member in 1973 and winning his first

several Cabinet posts in 1988. In 1993, he was elected mayor of Jerusalem, the city both Israel and the Palestinians want as a capital.

Mexico military denies high numbers of deserters

The Dallas Morning News

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's military denied that its soldiers are deserting in high numbers and joining organized crime groups and said that low pay plays no role in any such defections.

Desertion rates in Mexico are no different from what they are in other countries, including the United States, a military spokesman said in a letter to The Dallas Morning News.

The faxed letter was a re-

sponse to questions posed by The News last month for a report on concerns expressed by U.S. officials about corruption in the Mexican military.

"It's strange that American officials would express worries over the situation because just a few years ago soldiers there served for only a year, after which they became inactive ... such as occurs in various countries in the world," the letter stated.

"... Any soldier who commits the crime of desertion and runs

from the law for more than three months is discharged from the military ... as a result of which, this ministry has no link with them, or with any activity they engage in afterwards, which makes it impossible to express an opinion on that subject," wrote the spokesman, who requested anonymity.

Asked to provide desertion rates for the Mexican army, the spokesman declined, saying that he needed time to obtain those figures. But he added that the 18,033 desertions posted on a

military Web site for the period September 2004 to June 2005 were considered official.

Mexico's active military force is 194,000, according to Defense Minister Ricardo Clemente Vega Garcia, so 18,000 desertions would represent a rate of about 9 percent.

A U.S. Army spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Pamela Hart, said the desertion rate among the nation's total enlisted force of 413,515 (as of April 2005) was less than 1 percent, which she said was consistent over the past three years.

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WORLD

Blind obedience

Scandal shows saying 'no' to professors is hardly an option in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—In this hard-driving, Confucian-influenced society, seniority rules.

Challenging bosses is uncommon and falling to bow to seniors invites reprimand. With most men forced to serve a stint in the military, a culture of following orders prevails.

Nowhere is this more evident than in academia, a field that has been rolled by the fraud scandal surrounding the once esteemed stem cell scientist Hwang Woo-suk. Blindly obeying faculty professors is seen as the surest way to success. Graduate students compete for coveted tenured faculty positions known here as an "iron rice bowl"—a Chinese idiom meaning a guaranteed lifetime job.

"In relations with professors, the graduate school students are the absolute weak," said Baek Seung-ki, a fourth-year doctoral candidate in physics at state-run Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology. "You must do whatever you are told to do."

But some are now questioning the system, including a few in academia and a newspaper that editorialized against the university culture.

Hwang, 53, rose to international fame in 2004 when he announced the creation of the world's first cloned human embryo at his laboratory at Seoul National University. South Korea's most prestigious journal, the *Nature*, published his work.

Last year, he claimed to have created embryonic stem cells tailor-made to patients, which stunned the world and suggested a fast progress toward developing treatments for Alzheimer's disease, paralysis and other afflictions.

Kim Sun-jong, a former researcher at Hwang's lab, has told South Korean media that Hwang ordered him to fabricate data for a paper on the designer stem cells published in the *Journal of Science* in May.

Hwang resigned his professorship last month amid a scandal. The university has confirmed all the data in the 2005 paper was faked. It plans to release final results of its probe in a few days, including the veracity of the 2004 embryo as well as whether Hwang actually cloned the world's first dog, as claimed last year.

The problem, editorialized the *Seogyo Times* newspaper, is "an outdated, premodern lab culture of obeying seniors' orders. While it was Professor Hwang who should have ensured truth and conscience, it is lamentable that the researchers could restrain such misconduct and instead blindly followed the orders."

Some experts say Hwang's underlings had no real choice. "Professor Hwang's researchers followed the only logic of survival available to them... even if it meant faking the research results," said Vladimir Tikhonov, a professor of Korean studies at the University of Oslo. "Questioning your professor means full loss of job opportunities, he said.

MBC television network, which has played the leading media role in uncovering the cloning scandal, reported Tuesday that one of the two researchers at Hwang's Seoul lab who donated eggs for research, was pressured to do so for fear Hwang would not list her as a co-author for a paper.

Hwang admits to a November the scientists donated eggs—widely considered unethical. He says he didn't know about



South Korean stem cell researcher Hwang Woo-suk apologizes to the nation as one of Hwang's students, right, cries at Seoul National University in Seoul on Dec. 23. Researcher Hwang apologized and resigned from the South Korean university after the school said he fabricated results in stem cell research that had raised hopes of new cures for hard-to-treat diseases.



South Korean university students leave a campus after school in Seoul on Thursday.

the donations until later. "I regret that I didn't stand up against the professor," MBC quoted the graduate student researcher, identified by her surname Park, as saying in an e-mail message to an acquaintance before donating eggs in 2003. Park said she was "exceedingly disgusted" with herself for having to conduct cloning experiments on her own eggs.

Influential professors at prestigious schools are allowed to build their own private kingdoms, promoting and demoting their underlings largely at will," said Tikhonov, a naturalized Korean of Russian origin also known as Pak Noja.

Listing professors as senior authors on papers even if they contributed little, fabricating receipts to cover up their personal use of research funds, and running errands for them are just a few of the headaches grad school students say they face.

"Most professors tend to think graduate students are their personal secretaries," said a doctoral degree candidate at Seoul's Hanyang University, questioning that his name, and even his major, not be revealed. "It's hard to refuse requests in fear of retaliation," said the 34-year-old, who once had to go to his professor's house on a weekend to fix a computer.

Professors argue such misconduct is uncommon. "I think it's just a small number of professors who make such absurd requests," said Cho

Dong-jun, who teaches international relations at the University of Seoul. "If these were common practices, I, as a professor, would have easily known about them, but I've never seen such a case. Cutthroat competition for a professorship sometimes involves large sums of money changing hands."

In the first eight months of last year, prosecutors penalized 61 professors and administrators, mostly for receiving bribes in exchange for granting tenure.

In 2004, prosecutors punished 23 professors and officials on similar charges as well as misappropriation of funds.

In one case last year, a university chancellor received \$4 million from 42 candidates in exchange for appointing them as professors, prosecutors said.

WHO: Deaths in Turkey first from H5N1 strain of bird flu outside Asia

GENEVA (AP)—Two teenage siblings who died of bird flu in Turkey this week were infected with the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus, the first time the strain has killed humans outside East Asia, the U.N. health agency said Saturday.

The World Health Organization said it was sending specialists to Turkey to determine whether the virus was transmitted from person to person.

The laboratory in the U.K. said that they have detected H5N1 in samples from the two fatal cases. WHO spokeswoman Maria Cheng told The Associated Press.

Cheng said the spread of the disease from East Asia, where it has killed more than 70 people, was "a concern," but the global risk assessment of a human pandemic was unchanged.

The laboratory reported the results Saturday, on the tests from a 15-year-old girl and her 14-year-old brother who died earlier in the week, Cheng said. They have yet to complete testing on the samples from their 11-year-old sister who died of suspected bird flu Friday. A fourth sibling, a 6-year-old boy, was hospitalized.

"Right now these new cases in Turkey, they don't elevate the global risk assessment, so we're still in the same pandemic alert phase that we've been in for the last couple of years," Cheng said.

"But it's something that needs to be monitored very closely," Cheng said WHO specialists are hoping to reach the infected part of eastern Turkey on Sunday to investigate whether the victims were infected by animals or by other humans.

So far H5N1 has been capable in rare cases of transmitting

from poultry to humans in close contact with them, but not from human to human. Experts fear that if the virus should mutate to a strain that passes easily from human to human, it could set off a human flu pandemic.

"It's always a concern when we have H5N1 cases, particularly in a region that hasn't previously reported human cases," said Cheng. "That shows us that the virus is still a threat to public health and clearly that it has a capacity to move and to infect humans."

"But at the moment we don't know enough about the situation to tell whether or not the virus has changed in some way. And that's largely the reason the team has gone in," Cheng said, adding officials hoped to get more information on that next week.

Syrian president denies threatening slain former Lebanese prime minister

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Syrian President Bashar Assad has denied that he threatened assassinated former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and said in an interview published Saturday that he was "direct and frank" when the two men last met.

Assad also indirectly rejected the latest request from U.N. investigators to interview him about the Hariri assassination, saying he has "international immunity."

Syria's former vice president Abdul-Halim Khaddam, who defected to France, told The Associated Press on Friday that Assad had threatened Hariri during their last meeting.

"I don't know what others meant by threatening," Assad was quoted as saying in the Egyptian opposition weekly al-

Osoba. "This never happened and the aim was to connect the threat with the assassination. The game is clear. Nobody attended the last meeting between me and Hariri, therefore, how can they make these allegations?"

The two leaders met in August 2004 to discuss extending the term of pro-Syrian Lebanese President Emile Lahoud, which Hariri opposed. Hariri died in a truck bombing in February 2005.

A report by a U.N. team investigating Hariri's assassination and several anti-Syrian Lebanese politicians have suggested Syrian role in the killing.

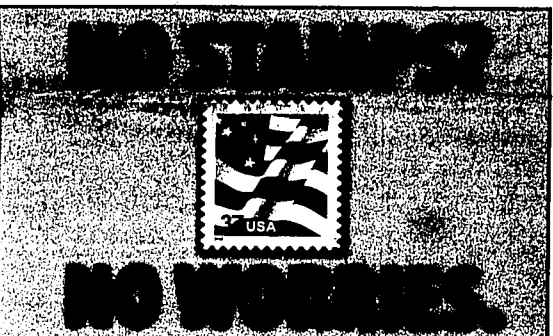
Syria confirmed Tuesday it had received a request by the U.N. investigative panel to interview Assad about Hariri's assassination. Asked in the inter-

view what his reply was, Assad did not give a clear answer.

"This time they asked to meet President Bashar, and the president has international immunity as you know," he said. He added that Syria had replied to the U.N. team but there was no indication that the response directly addressed the interview request.

Assad reiterated past pledges by his country to cooperate in the investigation.

The Syrian leader acknowledged that Hariri opposed Lahoud's extension but said he told Hariri he was not pressing him. He asked Hariri to "go and think it over for one day or more... and he agreed to the Syrian demand. He was not obstinate or tiresome, therefore, there was absolutely no problem and, eventually, there was no threat."



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OBITUARIES

Selma Shaw Morrell

TWIN FALLS — Selma Shaw Morrell, 74-year-old Twin Falls and former Burley resident, passed away Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006, at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

She was born Feb. 8, 1931, in Malta, the daughter of Samuel Holbrook and Eliza Conditina Nye Shaw. She retired from her teaching career in 2000. Selma was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and had served a mission to Thailand.

Survivors include five children, Kay (Gall), Gretia, Lee Ann (Don) Hein, Kenton and Shawn; three sisters, Marjorie (Ray) Longhurst, Virginia McCulloch



Iva L. Burgess McCoy

TWIN FALLS — Iva L. Burgess McCoy, age 78, of Twin Falls, passed away Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, at Heritage Retirement Center. She was born Jan. 27, 1927, the daughter of Lawrence E. and Vivian Robinson Holler at Filer, Idaho. On June 3, 1944, she married Manuel Burgess at Filer and they had three children: two were born, Darrell, Dave and Jacques. This marriage later dissolved in divorce. She later married Greg Hughes, M.D., and they were married until her death in 2000. She was a member of the First Christian Church. She was most important things in her life were her family and being a homemaker.



Her family and being a homemaker. She is survived by her three children and their spouses, Darrell, Kay, and Gretia; four granddaughters, Linda, Barbara, and Rachel (Hickley) of Boise, Idaho; a brother, L.E. Holler of Rupert, Idaho; six grandchildren, many special nieces and nephews; and her special cousin, Betty Pastor. The funeral was held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park." Burial will follow at Filer Cemetery. Should friends desire, funeral contributions can be given to Hospice Visions Inc. Contributions may be given to mortuary staff for forwarding.

She was a member of the First Christian Church. The most important things in her life were

New conservative caucus formed

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A group of conservative state House members has formed a new conservative caucus and founded a political action committee, a newspaper reported Saturday. The Conservative Caucus PAC filed its maiden report this week and will soon have a modest war chest of \$40,000, caucus chairman and organizer Rep. Greg Hughes, R-Draper, told the Deseret Morning News in a copyright story. The group plans to use the funds to promote the campaign to change the state constitution. Hughes said.

Whip Steve Urquhart, R-St. George, and Rep. Dave Clark, R-Santa Clara, a banker who is seen as a state financial expert for House Republicans. Like the old Cowboy Caucus, which has more faded in recent years as some of its most powerful members moved up to the Senate or retired, the Conservative Caucus' first test of strength deals with the state's growing revenues. "A group of us just believe we can't grow government beyond what means to sustain it" when Utah's economic good times turn down, said Hughes. In the past, the Republican-dominated House has seen other informal caucuses, but none has formed its own PAC or raised any funds. Hughes said the PAC is actually a reorganization of the "loose-jointed" Sage Brush PAC, that was formed in early 2005, but folded after failing to raise significant funds. The presence of the new caucus could re-energize the so-called "mainstream" caucus of moderate GOP House members, which was formed in the early 1990s as a political counterweight to the then-powerful Cowboy Caucus of rural House members.

Chubbuck man running for governor

CHUBBUCK (AP) — A Chubbuck businessman who ran for Congress in 2004 is challenging Republican U.S. Rep. Butch Otter to be the next governor of Idaho. Dan Adamson announced Friday that he'll be seeking the Republican nomination for governor, the Idaho State Journal newspaper in Pocatello reported. Adamson, who contends the state needs more visionary thinkers, offered a few of his own, such as shipping high-income earners out and creating four tax-exempt business zones. "We're talking about some things that would really shake the state," he said at a news conference. "My ideas that aren't possible are really quite doable."

Butch is a nice guy... but he hasn't had an original thought since he made the decision to join the GOP. Adamson said he isn't intimidated. Otter is considered the frontrunner for the GOP nomination, but Adamson said he isn't intimidated. Butch is a nice guy... but he hasn't had an original thought since he made the decision to join the GOP. Adamson said he isn't intimidated. Otter is considered the frontrunner for the GOP nomination, but Adamson said he isn't intimidated. Butch is a nice guy... but he hasn't had an original thought since he made the decision to join the GOP. Adamson said he isn't intimidated.

"We may be more active, yes," said Rep. Sheryl Allen, R-Boundary, along with current House Speaker Greg Curtis, R-Sandy, who was one of the original founders of the "mainstream" caucus. The mainstream caucus only met three times last year. Allen noted, and hasn't pushed its own agenda recently. Both Allen and Curtis said Friday that while they recognize any group of legislators has the right to form its own caucus or associations, the new element of a PAC/caucus raises concerns. "I worry that all of us Republicans, Democrats," House members, senators are out there asking the same group of businesses and lobbyists for the same dollars, said Allen. Curtis said he welcomes any and all kinds of political associations, but notes that the majority party will still have to come together to make state policy and budget decisions. "It takes 38 votes in a majority (in the 75-member House) to pass anything," said Curtis. "And no caucus whether the mainstream or Conservative or any other has 38 solid votes all the time. We need to come together."

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his Web site, Adamson has also cited two law firms and several agribusiness companies. With his "Idaho for Idahoans" campaign, he said he wants to take advantage of outsourcing to spur Idaho's economy and raise money for education.

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Idaho officials consider killing wolves to help Clearwater elk

By John Miller
Associated Press writer
BOISE (AP) — As eiders Lewis and Clark tried to prevent nonreintroduction in mid-September 1805, game was so scarce they named one waterway "Hungry Creek" and another "Cold Killed Creek" for a foal they shot and devoured. This paucity of wildlife such as elk in the steep, forested Clearwater Basin persists today, and some are planning their hopes on an Idaho Fish and Game proposal that could change things. The agency has proposed killing some wolves that hunters believe are devouring the herds at an unsustainable pace.

The plan isn't public yet. The number of wolves that may be killed has not been released. Idaho has already slashed the price of tags to shoot black bears and mountain lion in hunting areas near the Lochsa and Clearwater rivers. Those predators also kill elk. And state officials have cut back on the number of elk that can be shot by hunters. When Lewis and Clark passed through here, 200 years ago, they encountered steep trails, thick forests — and little to eat. They acquired dogs from American Indian tribes and killed horses so they wouldn't starve.

"Proceeded on up the Hungry Creek, passing through some 200 miles, at which place we found a horse," Meriwether Lewis wrote on Sept. 19, 1805. "I directed him killed and hung up for the party after taking a breakfast off ourselves, which we thought fine." In 1910, however, a massive wildfire wiped out trees in the area. What followed was good hunting for much of the remaining century, because the blaze opened up large swaths of open ground — good habitat for elk that hunters prize. By the early 1990s, Lewis and Clark's way had gradually returned as crowding out large game, Huffer said. Many wolves also starved in recent years in deep snow.

"The public, including wolf advocates such as Depledge of Wildlife, will also get a chance to weigh in on any kill plans. It becomes a management issue for the state," said David Allen, Fish and Wildlife's regional director in Portland, Ore. "They're going to seek a balance." Allen doesn't think control efforts will lead to significant reductions in wolf packs that now number 61, according to the Idaho Office of Species Conservation's 2005 estimates. Huffer eventually plans to have a limited wolf hunting season — after central Idaho's animals are removed from the list of federally protected species, a step Idaho, Montana and Wyoming are advocating. Still, he acknowledges there will be fierce opposition. Wolves have successfully recovered in central Idaho, Huffer said. "You could take a significant number out, and they'd be back there. Politically, it's more difficult."

"That's one of the areas of the state where we've had our biggest struggle with elk number and Utah jacks and game commission. Director Steve Huffer last week. "Can we say wolves are decimating this elk population? Not specifically. But we can say there are a lot of wolves in that area."

Now, Huffer is working with the U.S. Forest Service to improve elk habitat in the Clearwater National Forest, he said. Wildlife managed properly, could again remove tags. More must be done, he said. "While the Forest Service is

Utah theater balks at airing 'Brokeback Mountain'

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A movie theater owned by auto magnate and Utah jazz and country Larry Miller abruptly changed its screening plans Thursday, pulling a plan to show the film "Brokeback Mountain" on its screens. The film, the R-rated Western gay romance story, was supposed to open Friday at the Regency and Grand Coronas in Sandy. Instead it was pulled from the schedule, disappointing many theatergoers. Late Thursday, the newspaper Agency City, which handles advertising, production and printing for both Salt Lake City newspapers, was asked to remove show times for the film from its ads. Calls to Miller and a spokesperson were not returned Friday. And Cal Gunderson, manager of the Jordan Commons Theater, was reached by phone but declined to comment.

let the market speak to some degree," Miller told Brown. "I don't think I'm qualified to be the community censor." Brown said Friday that Miller was unaware of the story line of "Brokeback Mountain" until Brown described it to him Thursday, less than two hours before the schedule change was announced. On Friday, the official explanation at the theater was a message posted at the ticket window: "There has been a change in booking and we will not be showing 'Brokeback Mountain.' We apologize for any inconvenience." The film, which stars Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, is

about two cowboys who unexpectedly discover feelings for each other while on a job herding sheep in Wyoming. The two eventually marry women but return over the years to rethink their relationship. In a statement, the movie's distributor, Focus Features, said that hours before opening the theater management "reneged on their licensing agreement," and refused to open the film and called the decision a "deplorable" business practice. Conservative groups lauded the apparent decision to not show the film, while others said it was a decision that gives Utahns a chance to see a true work of art.

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Interceptor failures sideline progress at fort

FORT GREELY, Alaska (AP) — Many of the silos are in place, obscured by snow behind barbed wire fences, void of the ballistic missile interceptors that are slow in coming.

It is an abrupt departure from the fanfare that accompanied the July 2004 debut of the interceptors designed to shoot down enemy missiles.

As many as 10 missile interceptors were set to be installed at Fort Greely in Alaska's interior in 2005, joining the first six interceptors installed the previous year. But the final count was only two, raising questions about the Bush administration's commitment to an ambitious — and highly criticized — missile defense program plagued by a series of test failures.

Officials with the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency, however, say MDA director Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry Obering decided to temporarily step back on the advice of two independent panels brought in to scrutinize the test program after the latest failures in December 2004 and last February. The program is very much alive, they said, with much of the action in 2005 staged behind the scenes.

The review groups recommended that more interceptors be made available for both ground and flight testing, and that the reason why only two interceptors were deployed at Fort Greely, said MDA spokesman Rick Lehner.

The 10-interceptor schedule was the maximum that could go in during 2005, not a fixed number, said Army Maj. Eric Maxon, an Alaska-based spokesman.

"There's no rigid schedule for those remaining interceptors. There never has been," Maxon said during a recent tour of the 800-acre complex, built on barren terrain at the edge of an old burned spruce forest.

Currently there are eight in-



In this photo provided by the Missile Defense Agency, an interceptor missile is lowered into a silo at Fort Greely near Fairbanks, Alaska, on Dec. 18. As many as 10 missile interceptors were set to be installed at Fort Greely last year, joining the first three-stage interceptors installed the previous year, but the final count in 2005 was only two.

ceptors at Fort Greely and two at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. Officials initially said two additional interceptors would be put in at Vandenberg, but have since decided to keep two existing silos there available for tests expected to begin this spring, Lehner said. At least two of those tests will involve mock targets fired from Alaska's rocket range on Kodiak Island, he added.

Fort Greely, about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, remains the primary interceptor site for the national missile defense system, with 40 silos planned here.

Silo construction is half-completed, and officials are mum on when interceptors will fill them.

"More will be deployed in 2006 and 2007," Lehner said. "But for operational security reasons the Defense Department will no longer divulge how many interceptors are deployed, only that it is in excess of 10."

The interceptors could now be activated on a limited basis in case of an emergency, Lehner said.

Under the program being developed, interceptors would eventually be linked to other system components, including

satellites, ground- and sea-based radars, computers and command centers. As envisioned by the military, the network would detect and track ballistic missiles, propelling interceptors fitted with optical sensors called "kill vehicles" to destroy enemy warheads.

Congress has authorized \$7.8 billion for the program in the upcoming year.

In reality, however, the multi-billion dollar system has been inconsistent. Interceptor tests have failed five times in 11 tests. Military officials say failures have led to better equipment and a successful interceptor test in December at Kwajalein Atoll in the central Pacific.

Retired Army Gen. Bill Nanon, a member of one of the review panels, said test failures were due more to hardware problems and flight test readiness than any design flaws in the interceptors themselves.

Nanon said the Missile Defense Agency has taken the panels' recommendations for more rigorous testing standards seriously. That means more ground testing of individual components to prepare for future flight tests, which have involved mock targets successfully fired from Kodiak. The panels also recommended taking some interceptors out of the production flow and devoting them to tests.

"I think this system is going to work," Nanon said. "I think we will be able to help defend America from ballistic missile attacks."

But skepticism remains.

The Missile Defense Agency is far behind in its testing program, and at the pace it's going, wouldn't be fully operational for decades — if it's not abandoned first by a future administration, said Philip Coyne, a former chief of testing for the Pentagon and an outspoken critic of the missile defense system being developed.

If highly scripted tests fail, it's hard to see how they could succeed in a surprise attack, said Coyne, who is now an adviser to the Center for Defense Information in Washington. Critics also question the validity of a hugely expensive, highly complex system that would have no effect on low-tech attacks employed by terrorists, such as suicide missions.

"The basic challenges haven't changed. Basically, hitting an enemy missile out in space, at 15,000 miles an hour, is like trying to hit a hole-in-one golf when the hole is going 15,000 miles an hour," Coyne said. "If an enemy used counter measures and decoys, then it would be like trying to hit a hole-in-one when the green is going 15,000 miles an hour and the green is covered with a bunch of black dots that look just like the hole."

Child injured when chair falls from lift

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — An eight-year-old snowboarding at Kelly Canyon Ski Resort suffered a broken pelvis when his chair fell from the lift.

Austin Dyer also suffered facial injuries in the 15-foot fall Wednesday evening, and was expected to be released from Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center this weekend.

The chair was swinging before it fell, resort manager Ned Brown said. It was not clear if the boy had been intentionally swinging the chair, he said, adding that wind was not an issue.



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Plan to expand gun range draws fire

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — A \$3.6 million plan to expand the gun range at North Idaho's Faragut State Park is attracting criticism and legal action.

Fifteen nearby residents are suing to stop the grant-financed project that would modernize and expand the former military shooting range. The Bayview-based group, Citizens Against Range Expansion, filed the suit because they are worried the expansion could increase the number of users at the range from about 200 to thousands.

The suit also claims the expanded range would be "noxious and disturbing" to park users and would "degrade surrounding property values and interfere with residents," reported The Spokesman-Review newspaper of Spokane, Wash.

But the Idaho Fish and Game Department contends the expansion will make the facility safer and accommodate a growing population, said Dave Lepitch, a regional biologist for the department.

Earthen mounds and specialized shooting sheds at the range will reduce peak noise levels despite the increase in shooting, Lepitch said.

"We want to be good neighbors, but we're not going to turn tail and run," Lepitch said. "There's too much support for this project. There's too much need."

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Jacob Calero exits a van to attend his arraignment on at the Contra Costa County Superior Court, in Walnut Creek, Calif., on Friday. Calero and his wife who got a dog sitter for their puppies but left the man's two young children home alone while they partied in Las Vegas face felony child endangerment charges, authorities said.

Couple face charges for allegedly leaving boys alone on New Year's

Knight Ridder News Service

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Prosecutors filed felony counts of child endangerment Friday against a San Ramon, Calif., father and his wife accused of leaving his two boys home alone while they spent New Year's weekend in Las Vegas.

Jacob Calero, 39, and Michelle de la Vega, 32, both sniffling during their brief court appearance, where they appeared in jail jumpsuits. At one point, de la Vega, who glanced several times at her family in the front row of the courtroom, appeared to sob.

The couple each face two felony counts of child endangerment after police alerted by the boys' grandmother went to their San Ramon home Saturday night and found Joshua, 10, and his 5-year-old autistic brother, Jason, asleep and alone.

If convicted, the defendants could each face up to 12 years in prison, said Jimmy Lee, Contra Costa Sheriff's spokesman. They remain in custody in lieu of \$200,000 bail apiece.

Superior Court Judge Charles Treat denied defense motions to reduce the bail and ordered the couple back to court Jan. 12 to enter pleas.

Deputy District Attorney Jon Yamaguchi argued that the defendants were a flight risk and questioned if they would return to court "given the lack of responsibility they've shown with the children."

Defense attorneys said they wanted bail reduced because their clients have no prior criminal records and the children were not harmed.

"They've never been in custody — they're scared to death," Calero's attorney, Thomas McKenna, said after the hearing. "Calero made a major mistake in judgment and we're cooperating. The boys lost their mother to cancer; they don't want to lose their father."

The boys' mother, Maria "Cristina" Calero, died of breast cancer in 2003 at the age of 31. Her mother — the boys' grandmother, Liberata Holden — had been taking care of the children at her Manteca, Calif., home for the past few days. She is trying to gain permanent custody.

On Friday, their godmother, Erin Stoker, watched over them. She declined an interview.

At the arraignment, a swarm of local and national media greeted Calero and de la Vega as they were let out of a sheriff's van. They refused to answer reporters' questions. De la Vega's mother and other relatives also declined to speak with the media.

Police said the couple departed for Las Vegas on the morning of Dec. 30, leaving the boys with cereal and frozen dinners to eat, and a cell phone number to call in case of emergencies. Meanwhile, the couple arraigned for de la Vega's mother to watch their three dogs — Popo, Pumpkin and Snow White.

Calero's sister, reached at her home in North Carolina, said Calero told her Tuesday night that he just "screwed up."

"He's a great person, but he just can be kind of consumed with the stuff he wants to do," Fatsy Black, 45, said in an interview Friday with the Contra Costa Times. "He's a good dad, he loves his children, but he can be irresponsible."

Calero and his newlywed wife left their San Ramon home at 5 a.m. Dec. 30, ready to catch a flight to Las Vegas. Calero told his sister that he understood Holden would come at 6 a.m. to baby-sit the children.

Later that morning in Las Vegas, Calero said he received a voice mail from Holden saying she could not watch the boys, according to Black.

Yamaguchi, the prosecutor, said he's not aware of any miscommunication in child care plans — the parents simply bolted for Vegas.

Holden, who had cared for the boys over Christmas, said she never agreed to watch the boys over New Year's weekend because she had to work.

"Michelle said, 'Just leave the boys at home. Joshua will watch Jason,' but I said, 'No, that's against the law,'" Holden reiterated.

Holden said she spoke with de la Vega two days before the trip and she said they were still going to Vegas even though they hadn't found a baby-sitter.

"On Saturday, I talked to Joshua and he confirmed that his parents had left," Holden said. "He didn't know where they were staying or anything."

Police arrested the couple when they returned to Oakland International Airport on Wednesday morning.

Welsh pastor tries to return to Idaho

OROFINO (AP) — The entire town of Orofino rejoiced the day Paul Cross came home.

Balloons and "welcome back" signs decked many of the homes in this tiny north central Idaho town. Cars lined the streets for miles outside Orofino Tabernacle Church as its members awaited the coming of their pastor.

It had been nearly three months since they saw Cross. Some feared they would never see him again.

Cross had been caught in an immigration maze when The Spokesman-Review first wrote about his dilemma in early May.

The pastor left for Kenya on March 7 to check on a church-supported orphanage there. But he made a huge mistake that day. A native of Wales who doesn't have U.S. citizenship, Cross left the country without receiving permission from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

He had traveled out of the country before and never encountered problems, so he boarded the plane without a second thought. It wasn't until a week later that he learned of his mistake. His wife, Leah, who had stayed in Orofino with their three children, received a letter from USCIS informing her that Cross' application for travel had been rejected.

Apparently, he had failed to

provide evidence that he had filed an I-485 Application, the form to register permanent residence. Paul and Leah Cross said they sent the requested documents to USCIS in February, but the March 9 letter indicated those forms had not been received.

Since Cross was already out of the country, the letter meant he wasn't allowed to come back.

The news devastated Orofino Tabernacle, a congregation that grew from 30 to more than 700 since Cross became pastor more than five years ago. It also saddened the residents of Orofino, a town of 3,247 people nestled between a hillside and the Clearwater River. They all knew Cross and his family. And many from the mayor and the county sheriff to the people who met for coffee every day at the Ponderosa Restaurant wanted him back.

So the entire community rallied to bring him home.

They raised \$3,500 to hire an immigration attorney to take his case to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. They wrote letters to President Bush, Sens. Larry Craig and Mike Crapo and other people in office, extolling Cross' work in Orofino and asking for their help. Orofino's mayor, Joe Phippen, also sent an appeal to Homeland Security officials.

In late May, the USCIS approved a waiver for Cross to return to Orofino. At the time, however, things were still up in the air. Cross wasn't sure how long he could stay. His biggest fear was that he would return to Orofino, then have to pack his bags, sell his house and return to Wales.

"I was excited to come home, but I had to back to my mind. I worried that I would be forced to leave them (his congregation) again," Cross said earlier this month. "At the same time, I felt so lucky to have a community that cared so much."

On May 29, the first Sunday since his return, Cross preached of the importance of putting one's confidence in God. "I've learned to trust God in a deeper way," he said.

Since then, the Cross family has continued to work closely with their attorney and representatives from Crapo's office to

attain permanent residency in the United States.

Last month, he was forced to say goodbye once again to his congregation. On Dec. 6, he and his family flew back to the United Kingdom to complete more paperwork, provide fingerprints and obtain medical clearance so they can get permanent residency. The process is expected to take six to eight weeks. Because of what he went through earlier this year, Cross said he couldn't help but feel a little nervous, but all he can do now is trust in God.

As his family waited in the car on the morning they left Orofino, Cross stood in his living room, gazing outside the window at the town he now considers home.

With outstretched arms and tears running down his cheeks, he said a prayer: "Lord, I place all these things into your hands."

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WEST

Witness' death raises questions in Wyoming community

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP) — In the weeks before his murder, Bryce Chavers had gone from the lighthearted goofball his mother knew to a scared kid who told his grandfather he thought someone was going to kill him.

On Nov. 26 — days before the 16-year-old was expected to testify against his mother's ex-husband in a sex-abuse case — Chavers was found dead in his bedroom, a single gunshot wound to the head.

Authorities believe he died in a bizarre murder plot arranged by the former husband, Kent Proffit Sr.

The alleged plot has shocked this rural community, where killings are rare. But even more shocking is the story that has since begun to emerge: that of Proffit, a middle-aged man accused of molesting Chavers, who allegedly persuaded two young men who lived with him to kill Chavers in return for protection from a drug dealer.

The investigation also led authorities to a second body, that of another teen who briefly lived in the same trailer as Proffit.

"That something like that could happen in our community is pretty amazing to people," Mayor Duane Evenson said.

Authorities have not publicly discussed what Chavers was expected to say in his testimony, and the court file has been sealed. But Proffit's attorney, Terry, said Chavers was the alleged sex-abuse victim.

Proffit allegedly turned to Christopher Hicks and Jacob Martinez to kill Chavers, according to affidavits filed by investigators that were based in part on interviews with Hicks and Martinez. Hicks and Martinez, both 19, shared a trailer on the outskirts of Gillette with Proffit and his son by Chavers' mother — Kent "Bubba" Proffit Jr. — with whom the teens were friends.

Authorities contend Proffit, 42, helped the two men get a marijuana dealer off their backs, but wanted something in return. Martinez, an investigator that Proffit said "he way they could repay that debt was to 'kill Bryce,'" according to court records.

Michael Selsler, a 15-year-old also charged in Chavers' killing, told an investigator he drove to Chavers' home with Hicks and Martinez early on the morning of Nov. 26. Selsler said Martinez went inside and, as Selsler and Hicks sat in the car, Selsler said he heard a popping noise and saw Martinez run out of the trailer, court records say.

His brother says Proffit was nowhere near the trailer at the time, Terry Proffit said he was at his home in Sheridan, 100 miles away.

Martinez also led investigators to the body of Jeremy Forquer, whom authorities believe was killed in late October. Martinez told investigators that he and Hicks strangled Forquer after Proffit said earlier that he believed the man might be working as a police informant, court records say.

Questions still remain about the nature of the relationship between Proffit and the teens. Hicks, who said he refused a request by Proffit to kill Chavers, told The Associated Press that Proffit threatened him and that he became fearful for his life.

"If I could've (left), I wouldn't be in this situation now," he said.

Kemphorne issues disaster declaration for Owyhee County

BOISE (AP) — Flood damage in Owyhee County prompted Gov. Dirk Kemphorne to declare a disaster emergency there Friday.

Several rural roads in the southwestern Idaho county were seriously damaged New Year's weekend when rain and warm weather caused rapid snow melt that flooded the region.

"Damage to these roads constitutes a threat to residents seeking access to property" and limits the ability of emergency workers to reach people who need help, Kemphorne said.

The declaration, requested by Owyhee County Commissioners, means the county is eligible for up to \$25,000 of state disaster-emergency account funds. This amount may be changed after the flood damage is assessed, officials said.



Chavers

him, well and from court records.

One suggests a generous man who loved Chavers like a son and who, despite his large presence — 250-pounds on a 5-foot-10-inch frame — was quite gentle.

"He looks big and mean, but he's not," said his brother, Terry Proffit. "He's a pansy."

Another points to a big talker and manipulator. "He's a helluva con man," Chavers' mother, Tammy Porter said,

her eyes narrowing and jaw tightening at his name.

Terry Proffit believes his brother is a convenient scapegoat because of the sexual assault case. He contends the abuse allegations were "phony" and that Proffit wasn't worried about the trial.

He also doesn't buy claims his brother somehow held sway with a drug dealer. "There's absolutely nothing extraordinary about 'him,'" he

said. "He has no power."

Proffit and Martinez declined interview requests; their attorneys did not respond to messages. Selsler's attorney declined comment.

Proffit, Martinez and Hicks face first-degree murder and conspiracy charges in Forquer's death. Proffit has been charged with conspiracy to commit murder in the death of Chavers. Martinez, Hicks and Selsler are charged with murder

and conspiracy in Chavers' death.

Tammy Porter wants to remember Chavers as the boy who loved bowling and his little brother, and who was her best friend. She's haunted by the picture of Chavers the morning she found him, though, and believes authorities have those responsible for her son's death.

"I hope they rot in hell," she said.



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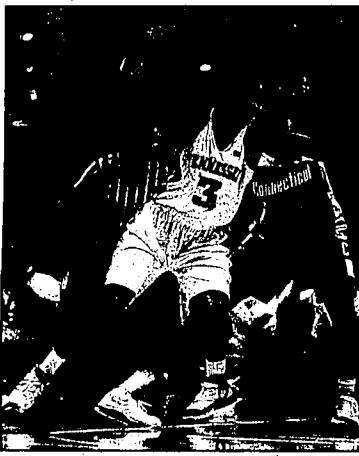
Editor doesn't give Minico athletes credit
I recently read the sports pages printed the last day of 2005...

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Minico baseball received very little coverage when it won the A-State title...

onship in 23 years. We have plenty of Times-News subscribers in the Mini-Cassia area. Perhaps you could acknowledge our athletes and their accomplishments as well.
DENNIS WARBURTON Rupert

Volts win another classic against UConn women

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Sidney Spencer scored a career-high 21 points, including four free throws in the final 2 minutes Saturday afternoon, and top-ranked Tennessee outlasted No. 7 Connecticut 89-80 to add another classic game in this storied rivalry.



Tennessee's Candace Parker (3) drives against Connecticut's Will-nert Crockett (23) during their college basketball game Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn. Parker was injured on the play and was taken to the locker room but returned later.

Candace Parker, Ty'eSha Fluker, and Shanna Zolman each added 13 points, and Alexis Hornbuckle had 14 rebounds, 10 points and nine rebounds for the Lady Vols (15-0).
UConn (12-2) got for the first time in Knoxville since 2001 and dropped back-to-back games to Tennessee for the first time since 1998 and 1999.

Men No. 5 Florida 90, Georgia 72
ATHENS, Ga. — Joakim Noah scored 24 points, Theodore Green had 21 and No. 5 Florida tied a career record Saturday with its 14th straight win, 90-72 over Georgia.

The Gators (14-0) already were off to the best start in school history, and in their Southeastern Conference opener, equaled the school record for most consecutive victories, which has been done two other times.

Iowa 63, No. 6 Illinois 49
IOWA CITY, Iowa — Jeff Horner scored 16 points to help Iowa beat Illinois 63-48 on Saturday, snapping the Illini's 15-game winning streak.
Iowa held Illinois to 34.6 percent shooting and became the first team to keep the Illini under 50 points since Michigan State did it Feb. 11, 1999.

Nebraska 59, No. 12 Oklahoma 58
LINCOLN, Neb. — Joe McCarty hit a 3-pointer with 52 seconds left to give Nebraska its first win over Oklahoma in eight months.
Nebraska's first over a Top 25 opponent since beating then-No. 4 Oklahoma State last February.

Kansas 73, No. 19 Kentucky 46
LAWRENCE, Kan. — Freshman Brandon Rush had career highs of 24 points and 12 rebounds for his first double-double and Kansas handed Kentucky its worst loss since coach Tubby Smith's nine seasons.

Tennessee's Candace Parker (3) drives against Connecticut's Will-nert Crockett (23) during their college basketball game Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn. Parker was injured on the play and was taken to the locker room but returned later.

No. 25 N. Carolina 82, No. 13 N.C. State 69
CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Different year, different players, same result: North Carolina still owns No. 13 North Carolina State.
Freshman point guard Bobby Frasor scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half and had a clutch steal in the final 2 minutes.

Boise 27, New Mexico St. 63
BOISE — Coby Karl scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half Saturday, leading Boise State to a 73-63 Western Athletic Conference victory over four-placed New Mexico State.

Louisiana Tech 66, Missouri 61
MOSCOW — Two-time NCAA rebounding champion Paul Millsap collected 21 points, 15 rebounds, four blocked shots and a pair of steals Saturday to lead Louisiana Tech to a 66-61 Western Athletic Conference victory over Missouri.

Appley close to third Mercedes victory
— KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Whether they change the greens or change the calendar, it doesn't seem to matter to Stuart Appley. Whenever he gets to Kapalua for the Mercedes Championships, he looks unstoppable.

have won five of their last seven games, stand 9-6 overall and 2-0 in WAC play. Idaho, which lost its third straight, drops to 3-9 and 0-2.
Glenn of Millsap's rebounds were on offense and he turned several into easy points, scoring 9-for-12 from the field. He had nine points and seven rebounds. Five offensive in the first half, helping Louisiana Tech take a 32-24 lead into intermission.

BYU 72, Utah 60
PROVO, Utah — Rashawn Broadus had 17 points and five rebounds in the first half, as Brigham Young ended a three-game losing streak to rival Utah with a 72-60 victory on Saturday.

Richfield 62, Dietrich 53
DIETRICH — Shayne Buckner scored 25 points including three 3-pointers to lead the Richfield Tigers to a 62-53 road win over Dietrich on Saturday night.
Harlie Army contributed 21 towards the win.

Camas County 61, Community School 41
SUN VALLEY — Despite a close game throughout, The

The Times-News

MAITA — Senior guard Ryan Leiser hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to lift Hansen to a 53-50 road win over Raffi Saturday night.
Leiser finished with 16 points, including 16 points on 5-of-8 shooting Thursday.

Hansen 53, Raffi 50
Hansen 53, Raffi 50
Points: Hansen 15, Raffi 15.
Rebounds: Hansen 10, Raffi 10.
Assists: Hansen 5, Raffi 5.
Steals: Hansen 3, Raffi 3.
Blocks: Hansen 2, Raffi 2.
Fouls: Hansen 15, Raffi 15.

Burley 56, Minico 50
RUPERT — The Burley Bobcats used some tenacious defense and hot shooting to hold off Mini-Cassia rival Minico in boys basketball action Saturday night in Minico, 56-50.
Behind the defensive presence of Taylor Kerbs, the Bobcats finished the night with close to eight block shots.

Carey 49, Oakley 31
CAREY — Carey turned up the intensity in the second quarter to pull away for a 49-31 home win Saturday night.
Blake Bedko scored 10 for the Hornets. Tyler Cook scored 13 and Todd Green 12 for the Panthers.

Valley 52, Shoshone 21
HAZELTON — The Valley Vikings defeated their south-handed Shoshone team 52-21 Saturday night in nonconference play.
Valley was led by senior post Austin Stiggle with a game-high 15 points. Patrick Johnson added eight of the 6-5 Vikings.

Richfield 62, Dietrich 53
DIETRICH — Shayne Buckner scored 25 points including three 3-pointers to lead the Richfield Tigers to a 62-53 road win over Dietrich on Saturday night.
Harlie Army contributed 21 towards the win.

Camas County 61, Community School 41
SUN VALLEY — Behind Beth McLain's game-high 17 points, the Camas County Muehlers extended their winning streak over the host Community School Outthroats on Saturday afternoon.

Kimberly 55, Wood River 51
HAILEY — Jason Mudgett scored 17 while Nick Wright added 14 to pace Kimberly past Wood River 55-51 Saturday night.
Mudgett's clutch shot added 11 inside. Drew Turvey scored 10 for the host Wolves, which trailed by six late in the third quarter.

Jerome 48, Declo 41
DECLO — The Jerome Tigers escaped Declo with a 48-41 win in boys basketball action Saturday night.
The Hornets, trailing 44-41, had a chance to tie with 20 seconds left, but a shot by Spencer Stoker missed.

Camas County 61, Community School 41
SUN VALLEY — Despite a close game throughout, The

Local sports

Community School went a little closer in the fourth quarter to give Camas County a 51-41 IA Magic Valley Northside Conference win on Saturday.

Camas County 61, Community School 41
Camas County 61, Community School 41
Points: Camas 15, School 15.
Rebounds: Camas 10, School 10.
Assists: Camas 5, School 5.
Steals: Camas 3, School 3.
Blocks: Camas 2, School 2.
Fouls: Camas 15, School 15.

Burley 56, Minico 50
RUPERT — The Burley Bobcats used some tenacious defense and hot shooting to hold off Mini-Cassia rival Minico in boys basketball action Saturday night in Minico, 56-50.

Carey 49, Oakley 31
CAREY — Carey turned up the intensity in the second quarter to pull away for a 49-31 home win Saturday night.

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SUN VALLEY — Despite a close game throughout, The

man scored 15 points and Lindsey Kain 13. Including three 3-pointers as Jerome defeated Buhi 63-28 in nonconference play Saturday.

Junior Jamie VanPutten scored 10 points in the game.
Jerome (9-6, 2-1) Great Basin West) hosts Declo and Wood River is at Buhi on Tuesday.

Carey 47, Oakley 33
CAREY — The Carey Panthers extended their win in the third quarter and took down the Oakley Hornets 47-33 on Saturday night action on the court.

Carey 49, Oakley 31
CAREY — Carey turned up the intensity in the second quarter to pull away for a 49-31 home win Saturday night.

Wendell 34, Fler 26
FILER — The Wendell Trojans defeated the Filer Wildcats 34-26 behind Bryce Scott's 13 points Saturday night.

Castletford 64
CASTLETFORD — Hagerman pulled away late to record a Magic Valley Southside Conference win at Castletford, 64-35, Saturday afternoon.

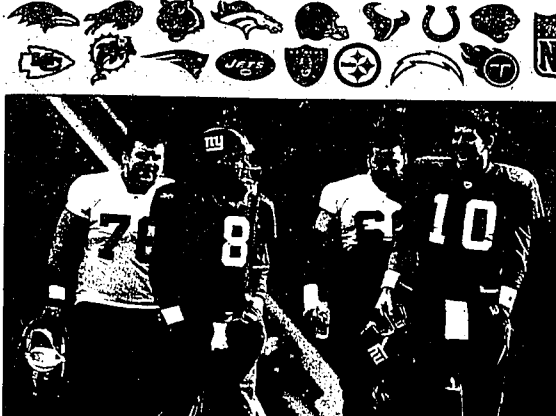
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College Montana St. 84, Idaho St. 72
BOZEMAN, Mont. — Ja'Ron Jefferson scored 17 of his 25 points in the second half in Montana State's 84-72 win over Idaho State on Saturday.

Valley at Richfield, postponed
RICHFIELD — The Valley Vikings and Richfield Tigers varsity game was postponed after the lights went out at Richfield High School on Saturday night.



New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) arrives at practice with backup quarterback Tim Hasselback (8), guard Chris Snee and center Shaun O'Hara, Wednesday, at Glenside Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., as they prepare to play the Carolina Panthers in NFC wildcard playoff football game.

Vick decides to turn pro

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Marcus Vick decided to turn pro Saturday, after he was kicked off the Virginia Tech team for transgressions on and off the field.

"I have decided to enter the NFL draft," the junior quarterback said in a statement released through his lawyers. "I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to proving my athletic ability at the professional level. I believe I am ready for this challenge and the next chapter of my life."

Vick said he appreciated the trust Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer placed in him during his stay at Virginia Tech, and said "I deeply regret that I allowed my competitive emotions to take control" in the Gator Bowl.

left calf of Louisville All-American defensive end Elvis Dumervil after a tackle, but was claimed it was an accident, but hurt his cause by claiming to have apologized to Dumervil, the NCAA sacks leader. Dumervil said he received no such apology.

The last straw came Friday, even as Beamer was preparing to visit Vick and offer him the options of accepting a two-game suspension or deciding to leave Virginia Tech.

A fax sent to Steger's office disclosed that Vick had been revoked for driving 38 mph in a 25 mph zone and driving with a suspended or expired license on Dec. 17.

Vick was suspended from school in 2004 because of several legal incidents, and came under intense scrutiny again because of replays of his actions against Dumervil. Vick claimed it was accidental, but hurt his cause by claiming to have apologized to Dumervil, the NCAA sacks leader. Dumervil said he received no such apology.

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All eyes on Manning as he leads Giants in first playoff game

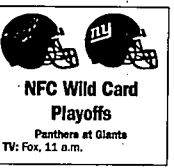
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The glare of the spotlight that has followed every move of Eli Manning's blossoming NFL career is about to get much brighter.

Sunday's wild-card game against the Carolina Panthers at Glenside Stadium will be the latest milestone for the younger and (so far) less-accomplished quarterback of the Manning family, following his first victory first 500-yard passing game and first NFL East title.

Manning admitted last week that after the Giants' 6-10 finish last season he sat home and watched the playoffs and older brother Peyton and the Indianapolis Colts — with a more discerning eye than he did when he was a youngster.

A season later — and ahead of schedule in the eyes of many — he will be at center stage for the NFL's first home playoff game. Manning, a 6-foot-4, 240-pound, first-round pick of the Minnesota in the 2000 NFL championship game.

"I think you have to go out and experience it," he said. "I don't know if it helps talking to the players who have played in the playoffs before. I think it's just a matter of going out and trying to play the game. When you get to the playoffs and you're playing against good teams, it's a matter of who's



NFC Wild Card Playoffs Panthers at Giants TV: Fox, 11 a.m.

going to make the mistake who's going to make the costly plays that are going to win or lose a game."

In direct contrast to Manning is Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme, a veteran of the Panthers' run to the Super Bowl in 2003. Delhomme, a fellow Heisman Trophy winner, appears to be a longtime friend of Peyton Manning's who once was a counselor at a quarterbacks camp in Atlanta.

Both quarterbacks have their favorite targets. Steve Smith (103 catches for a league-leading 1,563 yards) has been Delhomme's receiver of choice by a wide margin; running back DeShaun Foster is second on the team in receptions with 34, and wide receiver Ricky Proehl had 25.

Manning has been more egalitarian in the distribution of his passes. Wide receiver Plax-

co Burress leads the team with 76 catches, two off his career best, but Manning spread the ball around effectively in the second half of the season to tight end Jeremy Shockey (65) and Amani Toomer (60).

The Giants' offensive edge could come from running back Tiki Barber, whose 1,859 yards rushing this season are a career best. Carolina will counter with Foster, who gained 879 yards and 13 touchdowns in 15 games in place of injured three-time Pro Bowler Steven Davis. Foster ran for 165 yards in last weekend's playoff-clinching win at Atlanta.

"I think the way you get the people to not roll their coverages to Steve is to run the ball effectively," Delhomme said. "If we can do that, maybe they'll have to commit more guys to the box and we can get one-on-one opportunities. We say that every week. Run the football to open up the passing game. It worked last week, but it's only going to get tougher from here on out."

Both running backs will indeed have their work cut out for them. The Giants allowed 103 yards per game this season on the ground and held five opponents under 50 yards. The Panthers allowed an average of 92 yards per game, fourth-best in the NFL.

Virginia Tech cited the cumulative effects of Vick's legal problems and his unprofessional conduct in the Jan. 2 bowl in dismissing him from the team Friday.

During the game, he was caught on tape stomping on the

Bengals don't know what playoffs are about

CINCINNATI (AP) — For nine excruciating years, offensive tackle Willie Anderson went home in January, flip up the grill, watched the NFL playoffs and fantasized about getting there someday.

"Turns out, fantasy is nothing like reality."

The Cincinnati Bengals are back in the playoffs for the first time in 15 years, feeling wholly unprepared. Not even the weather is following the script — above-average temperatures leading up to the first-round game Sunday against Pittsburgh.



Jack Chrisman of Lebanon, Ohio, poses recently with some of the Hudepohl beer he bought back in 1981.

Chrisman of Lebanon is willing to part with 150 cases of Hudepohl beer in cans he's been holding since that Cincinnati brewery issued them in 1981. They have Bengals stripes and "Ho-De" markings reminiscent of fans' "Who Dey" cheer "Who dey, who dey, who dey tink gonna beat dem Bengals?" Chrisman is selling the beer for \$12.50 a six pack.

going to feel lining up in warm-up and stretching."

Not the Steelers. Been there, won that.

Forty of them have been to the playoffs as Steelers, so they know what they're all about.

Now, Carson Palmer gets to find out. The Bengals quarterback made the Pro Bowl in only his second season as a starter, leading the NFL with 32 touchdown passes and a 67.6 percent completion rate.

He's done far better than anyone expected at this point in his career. He's never experienced anything quite like what comes next, not even during his Heisman Trophy career at USC.

The new reality is that they have to beat an old rival, one with a playoff-sized chip on its shoulder.

"Just given the rivalry that we have — I know that to me is more important," Steelers safety Troy Polamalu said. "We want to be the dominant team in our division, you know what I mean?"

They do.

Bears' Smith edges mentor Dungy for Associated Press Coach of Year

CHICAGO (AP) — Lovie Smith is in the company of Hall of Famers.

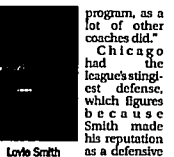
Smith was hired to resurrect the proud Chicago Bears franchise once coached by George Halas and Mike Ditka, and such a strong job he was chosen The Associated Press NFL Coach of the Year on Saturday.

Halas and Ditka each won the honor twice. In his second season with the Bears, Smith took them from 5-11 to 11-5, the NFC North title and a first-round bye.

"Each day I'm living a dream to even be talked about with those guys," Smith said. "I'm blessed to be a Bear. Each day I realize that, and it seems like more and more I realize that."

Smith also beat out his mentor, Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy, drawing 24 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL. Dungy was next with 20.5.

"I would have voted for Tony for the award," Smith added. "I'm really happy for our assistant coaches, to get that award. Tony did a great job with his



Lovie Smith

program, as a lot of other coaches did."

Chicago had the league's stingiest defense, which figures because a use Smith made his reputation as a defensive mastermind, first in Tampa Bay under Dungy, then in St. Louis.

"Now he oversees a team that surged to a Super Bowl contender, armed with a defense that allowed only 202 points; just 61 of those at home.

"I definitely get the sense this is the Bears' year," he said. "We have a special group of athletes, a special team with character. We have a great team chemistry. Whatever it is the good teams have that make a run. I just think that this team has it."

Smith, who served as Dungy's linebackers coach from 1996-2000 in St. Louis, also recently attended the funeral of James Dungy, his close friend's oldest son, who died last month. Their bond remains strong and Smith

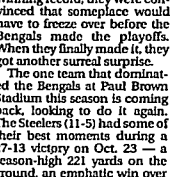
often has credited Dungy with helping develop his leadership skills.

Bears general manager Jerry Angelo also worked for the Buccaneers.

"Lovie, when we went out and started our search for a head coach, it starts with leadership," Angelo said. "And (with) Lovie there've never been any doubts about that. I knew that firsthand. I had the benefit of working with him down in Tampa and saw that come to fruition even more so now that he's in charge."

Smith, who moved from defensive coordinator of the Rams to the Bears, chose Ron Rivera to coordinate the defense, but remains heavily involved with a unit sparked by Defensive Player of the Year Brian Urlacher. Chicago gave up 24 points in a loss to Cincinnati in Week 5, but otherwise never yielded more than nine points at Soldier Field in going 7-1 at home.

Also receiving votes were New England's Bill Belichick (2), and one each for Seattle's Mike Holmgren, Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis and the New York Giants' Tom Coughlin.



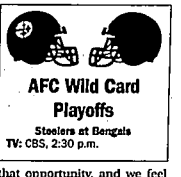
AFC Wild Card Playoffs Steelers at Bengals TV: CBS, 2:30 p.m.

the opportunity, and we feel good because we won in Cincinnati.

That's not all that the Steelers have in their favor. The two cities share a river, but the two teams are in their own worlds when it comes to playing games like this one. The Steelers know what to expect; the Bengals don't have a clue.

Only 13 Bengals have been to the playoffs, all with other teams. The rest have to learn the hard way.

"We've never been in this situation, a lot of guys on the team," receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh said. "I don't know how I'm going to react, how I'm



Lovie Smith

going to feel lining up in warm-up and stretching."

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They do.

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Turnovers

Continued from C1.

The Redskins survived Renaldo Wynn's broken arm in the first quarter. Sean Taylor's ejection for spitting at Michael Pittman in the third quarter, a 14-yard punt by Derrick Frost and a defensive 14-yard gain from his offense against Tampa Bay's No. 1 ranked defense. Clinton Portis ran for 53 yards on 16 carries, ending his streak of 100-yard games at five.

The defense also survived a heart-stopping moment late in the game, when Edell Shepherd got behind Carlos Rogers for what would have been a game-tying, 35-yard touchdown pass — had Shepherd not lost con-

trol of the ball as he hit the ground for the end.

The Redskins defense also made up for an anemic offense. Mark Brunell went 7-of-15 passing for 43 yards and one incomplete pass. Taylor was limited to 53 yards rushing on 15 carries — stopping his streak of consecutive 100-yard games at five.

The victory was the sixth straight for the Redskins (11-6), who advanced to a divisional round game next Saturday at San Diego (8). It also ended a 36-35 loss to Tampa Bay (11-6), a game the Bucs won on Mike Alstott's 2-point conversion run with less than a minute left.

Gibbs, who came out of retirement two years ago took over sole possession of third place on the career playoff wins list for a coach, improving to 17-5 in the postseason, including three Super Bowl titles during his first stint with the Redskins from 1981-92.

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Bistro opens in Jerome

The gifts are still coming, but the bistro is open. Gina's Bistro and Gifts opened Dec. 27 at 1030 S. Lincoln in Jerome.

Its owners are Regina and Andrew Christensen and Regina's mother, Lois Martin. Lois, 72, had managed a deli for more than a decade, and Regina ran a bed and breakfast in Oregon. Arthur is a carpenter who did the woodwork at the business that combines two small storefronts into one.

The bistro serves sandwiches, soups, salads, baked goods, coffee and espresso, said Regina, who invites customers to help expand the menu.

"If you have a neat recipe that you really like, bring it in," said Regina. They'll try it out and might add it to the menu, with your name next to it.

"It's important for us to be important to you" is their motto, she said.

The gift items will include mostly kitchen decor and will be added in the coming months.



CHRIS BALDUS
Money Editor

Visits to Santa Claus at the Magic Valley Mall were up 25 percent over 2004, said Shellen Gilliland, mall marketing director.

McDonald's moved out of the Magic Valley Mall food court this week, but Gilliland is confident another big-name restaurant will replace it.

Toro Viejo, a Mexican restaurant, opened in downtown Twin Falls for its first full day Saturday. It's the seventh restaurant owned by Ruben Briseno, his mother Geranla Briseno and partners, Jose Guzman of Twin Falls is their partner here. The Brisenos' other Toro Viejos in Idaho are in Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Lake, Rathdrum and Post Falls, where they have two locations. They also have Toro Moro in Washington, Utah.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car hopes to move its Twin Falls operations to a new, permanent facility at 256 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. The city's planning and zoning commission will have a public hearing on the company's request for a special use permit at its 7 p.m. meeting Tuesday.

Enterprise has operated in Twin Falls for about 12 years and bounced around to four locations, company official Scott Goldstein said in a letter to the city. It's using a construction trailer at its location behind Rob Green's Hyundai/Alexis, but it wants something better for employees and customers, he said. The new location had been acquired by a hair styling shop but is now vacant, according to city documents.

Engle Rock Broadcasting Inc. is preparing to replace the lattice tower by its KZDX-FM studio at 953 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. in Twin Falls.

The company has a request pending for the city's planning commission Tuesday to take the tower down and put up a 50-foot monopole. The pole is for a microwave antenna system to send the station's adult contemporary music programs directly to a transmitter on Mount Harrison in Albion, about 45 miles away, according to the company's written request.

Historic Downtown Twin Falls Inc. last week put up three of its new kiosks.

The kiosks will replace what had been wooden structures. The kiosks are long, thin, and the little roofed wooden stands have been used for flip-postings. The kiosks will have maps of downtown with business listings and an event calendar. These kiosks and new signs to raise the profile of the free parking downtown are two major projects the organization is working on, said its president, Jim Trovati.

Times-News Business Editor

DAREDEVIL CEO



Steve Appleton, CEO and chairman of Micron Technology Inc., stands in the cockpit of his stunt jet airplane in Boise on Dec. 12.

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

By Christopher Smith
Associated Press writer

On the Net:

Micron:
<http://www.micron.com>
Appleton Air Sports:
<http://www.appletonairsports.com>

BOISE — Just as he completed a low-level aerobics loop above the Idaho desert, Steve Appleton's single-engine stunt plane stalled 25 feet off the ground while traveling 160 mph.

In the second before the aircraft ploved into the sagebrush, Appleton stomped the left rudder pedal, slightly raising the right wing and elevating the nose. "That's about all you can do, because the fact of the matter is you're going to hit," Appleton told The Associated Press recently in his first interview about the July 2004 crash, which left him with a gash across his head. "I got it in a slightly better profile for impact and obviously I lived."

Appleton, 45, uses that same detached risk analysis in his day job: chairman, president and CEO of Micron Technology Inc., the biggest maker of computer memory chips in the United States.

Slowing growth of personal computer sales combined with a worldwide oversupply of Micron's mainstay product, dynamic random access memory or DRAM chips, add up to free-falling prices that threaten the company's future.

In seven of its last nine years, Micron has seen the per-megabit average selling price for its digital memory products drop, including a 24 percent decline in 2005. Many times, the glut of semiconductor on the market means Micron is selling chips for less than it costs to make them at its plants in Boise — where the 10,000 employees make Micron Idaho's largest private employer — and worldwide.

To smooth the financial turbulence, Appleton has

steered Micron into non-PC memory products, including new image sensor chips that are used in cell-phone cameras, medical pill cams and on-board video systems for cars and trucks.

And now he's betting his company's future on advances in the solid-state memory known as NAND flash. Used today to store photos in digital cameras and songs on the iPod Nano, Appleton believes NAND — a logic function used in computers, the name formed by combining the operators NAND and AND — will eventually overtake mechanical hard drives as the preferred way to store data in mobile computers.

"Because there are no moving parts, it won't crash," Appleton said. "And with NAND in notebooks, you'll have instant on, no more of that ridiculous boot-up process."

Patience has never been part of Appleton's resume. The son of a doughnut cutter

Please see CEO, Page C8

MONEY Q & A

Legg on dairy, soccer, Old Towne

By Chris Baldus
Times-News writer

Carl Legg didn't play soccer growing up in Twin Falls. At least not on any team.

That changed when he became a dad. He and his wife, Diane, have four children. So, he learned the game and became a youth soccer coach and a referee.

Three of his children are adults now, one son having made Legg's grandfather for the first time last fall. His youngest son is a junior in high school. And Legg can now tick off 20 years as a referee and being active with youth leagues.

But he made news last year because of scuba diving. He's not a diver, though.

You have to wonder if that will change too.

The Twin Falls resident was the first name mentioned in media reports alongside an idea to transform the Gerelick silos in Old Towne into a scuba diving facility. He's a member of a business group exploring the idea.

Legg isn't new to Old Towne as a businessman. He had a refrigeration business based in the 1910 Challenge Co-op

Creamery building just outside what's technically considered Old Towne today. The building was part of the town's start, he said. It's vintage Old Towne.

It is also where he and his wife had a furniture store for a year from 1990-91. Called My Grandfather's Attic, it sold Amish and handcrafted furniture.

Not long ago, he left his refrigeration business, which set up and serviced refrigeration units for customers in 11 western states, to work for DeLaval Direct Distribution LLC in Buhl. The company sells and services dairy equipment.

As an Old Towne businessman, Legg got involved in local government. He served on the parks and recreation commission and a few years back, tried to get on the planning and zoning commission and was being talked about as a candidate for the Twin Falls County board. He didn't run, though.

Legg didn't want to talk about the silos project when he sat down with *The Times-News* last week, but he did talk about family soccer, working in the dairy industry and the needs of the Twin Falls downtown area in this abridged Q & A.

FN: Is there any particular moment as a referee that you think back and say, "Yeah, that's why I'm doing this?"

CL: I used to do it for (our) kids. It was a worthy cause. Now I actually do it for the exercise. And if you want to blow off a little steam, it's a pretty good release. It's a good opportunity to interact with the kids and promote the sport ...

I have two boys that are referees as well. My son Matt and my son Christopher are soccer referees now. They both played the game.

Probably going back to that greatest moment was the opportunity to actually ref with my son. We went over to the Idaho Falls Shoot Out a couple years ago and we had the opportunity to ref together, the three of us as a team ... It went really well, you're all on the same page, that's for sure.

FN: You grew up here and you have a background on what the dairy farms were like before.

Please see LEGG, Page C8

INTERACTIVE GAMING



Alliance Gaming's chief technology officer Bob Luciano talks about the future of downloadable gaming in the company's showroom on Dec. 7 in Las Vegas. Luciano said some downloadable technology has been a part of the gaming industry since the 1980s, but it has only been in the last four years that manufacturers have begun solving applications problems and security issues.

New technology promises gambling as you like it

By Richard N. Volotta
Las Vegas Sun

LAS VEGAS — Some day gamers will be able to stride up to a slot machine, insert their slot club cards and be offered a list of their favorite games at the exact denomination they like to play.

And if it's the player's birthday, the machine may automatically print out a voucher for a free meal at one of casino's restaurants. "Welcome to the world of server-based casino games. Experts say they have the potential of being the next big advancement in industry technology, an innovation that could increase the appeal of slot machines the way iTicket in ticket out technology has."

Industry professionals got their first look at the technology at this year's Global Gaming Expo in September. Regulators are slowly advancing the rules and technical standards to equipment manufacturers and casino operators so that field trials can begin next year.

The top Nevada players in server-based games — Reno-based slot machine behemoth International Game Technology and Las Vegas rival Alliance Gaming Inc. — are excited to bring the technology to the market, but aren't talking much about how it will change a slot player's experience. They don't want to tip their competi-

live hands. In the early stages, the focus will be on how the technology can make a slot floor more profitable, open them up and change out the components," IGT spokesman Ed Roglich said. "Not only does that take a lot of time, but the machines are down for that period of time."

Roglich said that type of transformation is particularly cumbersome for software changes involving currency modifications because every machine has to be altered to recognize the new bills produced by the U.S. Treasury.

But with server-based games, every machine is electronically linked to a central computer file server and changes can be made in the time it takes for a software download. With the large bandwidth most slot systems use, changes can be made almost instantaneously.

Bob Luciano, Alliance Gaming's chief technology officer, demonstrated the capability of one of its system by changing games and denominations on 10 slots linked in a showroom. The modification involved a few computer mouse clicks and took just seconds.

Please see GAMBLING, Page C8

Optimism depends on the territory

NEW YORK — It's a mile to try to pin a label like the "optimistic" or "pessimistic" on small business owners as a whole. But those who are feeling upbeat about business in 2006 are likely to be in industries that serve or in a market niche that ensures their companies will have solid growth.

Some are optimistic because they see signs of improvement in their clients' and customers' businesses.

Shelly Sun, CEO and founder of owner health care LLC in Chicago is optimistic because her three-year-old company, which arranges medical staffing for hospitals, pursuing hospitals and school districts, has a market projected to expand rapidly for years to come.

SMALL TALK

Joyce Rosenberg

"Right now, the number of people 65 and older is growing by 500 a minute," Sun said, adding that the company, which had \$3 million in revenue last year, is expected to have at least \$7.5 million in revenue in 2006. It has two locations in the Chicago area and plans to open four more this year. It is also selling franchises.

Phyllis Brasch Librach is up-just-in-time in business. SydneyCinset.com serves market long ignored by many other retailers: prom dresses and other formal wear in plus sizes. Customers' positive reactions and repeat business have allowed the three-year-old St. Louis-based company to grow quickly.

"We are feeling very optimistic for 2006 because we will be able to offer her (the customer) more choices than she ever could have had in dresses that she was having trouble finding," Librach said.

Still, as optimistic as these business owners are, their outlook isn't necessarily representative of other small business owners. A survey of small business owners taken in November by the National Federation of Independent Business found that while they were generally optimistic, they weren't as upbeat as they had been in October, and some were paring back their 2006 job creation plans. Worries about higher prices contributed to lower uncertainty.

The Institute for Supply Management's report this week of a slowing in manufacturing growth is also likely to nip into the company owners' outlooks.

But some owners are optimistic simply because business continues to improve from the downturn that came with the high-tech bust and the 2001 recession.

Chris Consorte, owner of Integrated Direct LLC, a New York-based marketing firm, has seen his company recover from what he called a rough year, 2005.

"We lost a lot of clients," Consorte said. "We started doing dot-com work and everything dried up the first year we were in business."

Since then, "I've personally seen each year get better," he said. "Clients are reaching out to us, starting to work more again. There were so many years when we couldn't get clients to call us back."

He sees evidence of optimism among other small business owners.

"People are doing marketing planning again, their budgets are lightening they're hiring," he said.

Emerge-Core, a Boise, Idaho, information technology firm, is one of the companies that has come back from the dot-com crash. CEO Dave Green said the company feels upbeat because it has restructured and is now focused on the small business market with a product line that will sell well a package of IT products such as a router, firewall, e-mail server and domain server.

Brooks, who owns a Flatburg, Mo.-based marketing firm, says he's optimistic because he sees other company owners running their businesses more prudently. "A lot more are being smart with their money," a change from the dot-com bubble days, he said.

Brooks, owner of West Third Group, credits technology for helping many companies, allowing them to do business with clients and customers all over the country.

"The environment for entrepreneurialism in this country hasn't been this good in my lifetime," he said.

YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

Casino workers

JACKPOT. — Cactus Pete's Resort Casino announced its month members of the team for November 2005.

Winkle Dry works in the Support Division as a sales associate. In the Gift Shop, she joined Cactus Pete's in July 2004.

Tim Schlund is a Dealer in the Table Games Department in the Gaming Division. He has been with Cactus Pete's since January 1996.

Octavio Aguilera is in the beverage section in the Food and Beverage Division. He started at Cactus Pete's in September 1994.

Shari Condit HEYBURN — Shari Condit, daughter of Edna and Doc Peterson of Heyburn and a teacher in Woodland.

She has passed all sections of the national board certification process to become the first teacher in the Woodland School District to receive her national certification.

She also is the second high school history teacher in southwest Washington to achieve national board certification for young adult social studies and now joins the ranks of only 20 teachers in Washington State to hold this kind of certification. She began the 15-month certification process last school year and says it is "one of the best professional development experiences" of her career.

Condit has a bachelor's degree in history from Illinois State University and has been teaching for six years, three in Chicago and three at Woodland High School, where she currently teaches the advanced placement U.S. History class and leads the social studies committee. She has been a member of the school's assessment team and has run numerous clubs and groups. She received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the Schi Family Trust.

Susan Morris TWIN FALLS — Susan Morris received the 2005 winner of the Year Award for the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Idaho.

Science-Idaho. The ASCLS-Idaho is an affiliate of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, a national organization representing members of the laboratory profession.

Morris received this award because of her ongoing dedication and work for the society through the years. She served as president of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, the first from Idaho to be elected to the national society. She has served in numerous positions in the state, regional and national levels during her years of involvement with the society and has served as a mentor to countless numbers of members through the years.

Morris is a medical laboratory scientist working as director of Ancillary Services at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

Scott Roberts TWIN FALLS — Alliance Tide Corp. announced Scott Roberts is now the vice president and general manager at the Twin Falls branch where he will be responsible for the day-to-day operations and marketing.

Roberts was born and raised in Twin Falls. He graduated from the University of Idaho and holds a bachelor's degree with a double major in marketing and management. He brings more than 18 years of business management and marketing experience to his new position, having been in quality management at Con Agra-Lamb Weston the last four years and previously owning his own publishing company and property management company. He has served with the Blue Lakes Rotary Club, was an ambassador for the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce and is a graduate of the chamber's leadership program. He is married, has two sons and two daughters and enjoys mountain biking, white water rafting and golfing.

Dana Sawyer and **Steven Harris** TWIN FALLS — Professional Truck Driving School announced three students completed its three week class and obtained their Class A commercial driver's licenses.

Salvador Lemus graduated Dec. 12.

Steven Harris graduated Dec. 28.

Salvador Lemus graduated Dec. 30.

Dentists

TWIN FALLS — Drs. John Roberts and Kevin Hall of Roberts & Hall Cosmetic Dentistry attended the Dental Implant Institute of Las Vegas to study advanced concepts in implant dentistry.

Immediate implant loading and implant techniques for restoring a completely edentulous were among the topics explored. This means that, in many cases, the implant patient can have a tooth or secure fitting denture the same day the dental implants are placed.

William Baxter

TWIN FALLS — William A. Baxter attended the Created Solutions Users Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., where he is receiving training on the latest updates to the Creative Solutions software which also included new technologies and tax issues.

Baxter is a certified public accountant with Stevens Pierce & Associates CPAs. He can be reached at 734-8662.

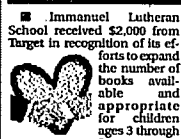
Accountants

TWIN FALLS — Nolan Jordan and Jill Throell attended the 2005 Sletzer QuickBooks Consultants Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. They received information on the new 2006 QuickBooks products at the event. Information presented by Intuit. They attended various trainings on troubleshooting problems and adapting to specific business needs and met business owners that offered add-on software that integrates with QuickBooks.

Chandra Wilhite

TWIN FALLS — Chandra Wilhite is the newest staff member at Body IQ, Women's Fitness and Weight Management. Wilhite specializes as a trainer's apprentice. She became a member of Body IQ in September 2004, lost 50 pounds, 27.75 inches and 74 percent body fat. She said she hopes to help make a difference in others' lives.

CONTRIBUTION



"We are thrilled to be partnering with Target. Our library has served students since 1945, and we strive to make reading enjoyable and encourage reading diversity now and in the future," said Cindy Fulcher, principal at Immanuel Lutheran.

Immanuel Lutheran School received \$2,000 from Target in recognition of its efforts to expand the number of books available and appropriate for children ages 3 through 8.

The grant is part of ongoing support Target provides to local communities throughout the country.

Immanuel Lutheran School's mission is to provide a Christ-centered environment to nurture spiritual growth, academic excellence and personal responsibility.

MILESTONES



Independent Growth Inc. moved to a new location. Associates include, from left, owner Lynda Brennan, Deelyn Dudley, Mary Etta Tubbs, Irene Lemus, Juanita Agustin and Kay Johnson. Not pictured are Tammie Walls and Michelle Lara.

Independent Growth Inc. moves to new location

BURLEY — Independent Growth Inc. moved from 200 S. E. in Burley to a new location at 3 E. 200 S. in Burley. The owner is Lynda Brennan, and associates include Deelyn Dudley, Mary Etta Tubbs, Irene Lemus, Juanita Agustin and Kay Johnson. Independent Growth offers service coordination in English and Spanish for people of all ages with various medical or emotional problems and/or disabilities. It offers assistance to individuals and parents in dealing with physicians, schools, health and welfare and Social Security. It also offers crisis assistance and coordinates activities needed in emergency situations for health and safety. Medicaid eligible participants can take advantage of coordination of services offered through the business. For more information or assistance in qualifying for service coordination programs, call Brennan or Dudley at 678-9165.

TELL US YOUR BUSINESS

Your business is a weekly feature that highlights commercial activity in the Magic Valley. If you have information about any of the following, The Times-News wants to hear about it:

- Promotions and staff changes.
- New certifications.
- Seminars and workshops.
- Awards and achievements.
- Outstanding business activities.
- Other business news.

Or contact Baltes at: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303, 733-0931, Ext. 259. Fax: 677-4543 or 734-5538.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

WE APPRECIATE OUR CUSTOMERS!



The Starley-Laavitt Insurance Agency Inc. of Twin Falls and Burley celebrated Customer Appreciation Days Dec. 24, 25 and 28. Customers were treated to holiday treats and a drawing by gift certificates to Fred Meyer was held. Pictured is Rita Knack, operations manager at Starley-Laavitt, presenting the certificate to winner Tom Tucker of A & T Security Systems.

Learn about stocks at workshop

The Times-News — Introduction to Stock Options, offered by the Community Education Center, will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 24 through Feb. 21, in Shields 107 at the College of Southern Idaho. The workshop will help participants better understand what stock options trading is all about. The fee is \$45. The optional text, "Options as a Strategic Investment, 4th Edition," is available for \$32.50 from Traders Press at <http://TradersPress.com>. For more information or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

Miscarriage — The heartache, the coping, the effects. See page E1.

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MONEY

CEO

Continued from C8

and a school teacher. He was raised on the sketchy side of Los Angeles and won a tennis scholarship to Boise State University.

"By the time my Dad was 21 and my Mom was 19, they had three kids," he says. "The reality of the circumstance is that parents with three kids at that age do not have a lot of money."

After graduating in business administration, he went to work in 1983 at Tucson, a fledgling startup on the fringe of Boise near a log yard. He earned \$4.46 an hour working graveyard on the chip fabrication plant. Six months after starting, the struggling company eliminated all benefits and cut salaries.

"I remember a number of occasions, talking to the founders Joe and Ward Parkinson, where we were two weeks from bankruptcy," Appleton recalled.

But the company survived and Appleton was promoted eleven times to become Micron's president by 1991, then chief executive officer in 1994.

In November, he announced that the fiercely independent Micron was embarking on its first major partnership, joining forces with the world's largest maker of computer processing chips, Intel Corp., to produce more and higher density NAND chips under a new company, IM Flash. Over the next three years, the two firms will invest a total of \$5.2 billion in IM Flash to challenge the dominance of Asian rivals Samsung and Toshiba in supplying NAND for the emerging array of consumer digital devices available in both markets.

The demand for NAND — Apple Computer Inc. is prepaying \$250 million each to Micron and Intel to secure a supply for its iPod line — may herald the second coming of the tech boom. The technology analyst firm Gartner says worldwide NAND flash sales are projected to rise from \$1.5 billion in 2000 to \$10.7 billion in 2005. The firm predicts \$10 billion in sales in 2008.

"It's a long time, we have done DRAM by ourselves," Appleton says. "But when you look at the strength of Samsung and Intel in the NAND flash market, success alone would have taken a lot longer than we wanted given that the market is at such a high-growth stage. We just can't do it all by ourselves."

Some semiconductor industry analysts have long expected a joining of Micron and Intel. In 2003, Chairman Dick Bartlett even joked in 2004 after Appleton presented him with an award that he was announcing the merger of the two companies.

"Steve is a real competitor in everything he does, whether sailing, flying, motocross, or other athletic pursuits," says Barrett, who got his first snowboarding lesson from Appleton. Appleton has a passion for high-risk recreation. He's a regular on the Boise ski slopes and course and he began flying high-performance aircraft after he became bored with skydiving in the 2000s. He's also chased the moonlights at air shows under the guise of Appleton Air Sports.

The company's motto is "I take my adrenaline straight up," but Appleton says that he's not into craves is the precision and critical decision-making involved in tumbling earthward in an F-16. "I'll get hurt. Making those decisions improves my business skill set."

He puts it another way when Micron's board of directors asks why the CEO of a Fortune 500 company in a volatile business is spending his weekends pulling 12 Gs in a stunt plane. "I'll only board a plane for a reason. I fly high-performance aircraft. It's I have to do something less riskier" than the DRAM business," says Appleton.

Never miss the action The Times-News

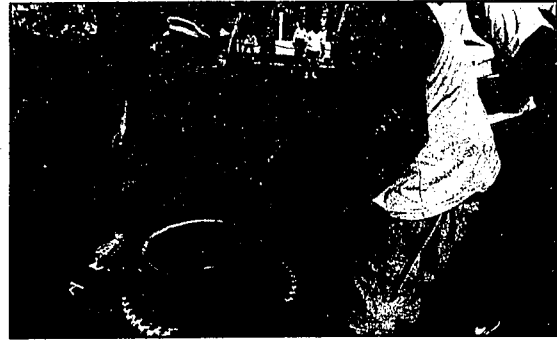
CAFTA-Dominican Republic hits procedural snags

TWIN FALLS — The Central American Free Trade Agreement-Dominican Republic is struggling to get on its feet after six Central American countries, including the Dominican Republic, failed to meet a Jan. 1 preliminary start deadline.

All CAFTA countries have ratified the agreement with the exception of Costa Rica, El Salvador, being the first in December 2004 and Nicaragua the most recent in September 2005.

All countries recognized the Jan. 1 date was an ambitious goal and that they might not have completed their implementation process by that time," said Stephen Norton, spokesman for the U.S. Trade Representative office.

At issue are the "technical changes" the nations must make in customs procedures and regulations regarding intellectual property rights, telecommunications and procurement.



Vendors of pirated CDs and DVDs burn tires to protest upcoming implementation of the Central American Free Trade Agreement-Dominican Republic in San Salvador, El Salvador, on Tuesday. Vendors of illegally copied merchandise have shut down their booths starting Jan. 1 fearing confiscation because of CAFTA regulations.

Snow piles up in Idaho mountains; more likely

BOISE — A shift in the storm patterns has put southern Idaho directly in the path of the "water cannons." Snowpacks of 120 to 150 percent of average are good news for water engineers, but heavy rains in the valley are causing flooding problems.

The trend is expected to continue through at least mid-January.

Sea surface temperatures are cooling, which allows the storm track to shift a little more to Idaho, said Jay Breidenbach, a spokesman for the National Weather Service in Boise. Cool-

Legg

Continued from C8

"Sure, I worked on them when I was a kid. We actually milked 50 cows for Ben Rudolph. It was done a whole lot different than it is now. We still milked family farms, that hasn't changed as far as the principle of how the dairy farms are made up. Just the numbers of cows is probably the biggest change. Back in the '70s, Idaho became an area where a lot of California dairymen were relocating to."

Back when he milked cows, a cow putting out 12,000 to 14,000 pounds a year was pretty good. Now 28,000 pounds of production is pretty normal.

"There is that because of feed or something else." CL: Genetics are a big part of it. Feed, of course. They know a lot more about nutrient management ... The synchronization between farming and dairy, I think that the dairymen have brought that along.

In Idaho, we had a lot of family farms. And now you have a lot of dairy farms that are not just raising milk but they're actually big farms as well. The way they handle their corn silage to the way they're growing their alfalfa and all those things, that's a part of how the nutrient management program is. Today, there have just been some big advances there.

CL: There are a lot of good people. The dairy families, I mean, these are probably some of the hardest-working, honest-most, most driven people you'll ever get a chance to work with and that's what makes life fun: to be around people that have grounded values and integrity and honesty. You bet, all those things are a big part of it and that's what makes it fun.

CL: Are there things that can be done to add vitality to historic downtown and Old Towne? CL: I think there are some things that would: If we were to do a little more as far as getting people living down there again, getting apartment complexes, sort of condominiums, some high rises, stuff like that. I don't know what that will go over in Twin Falls, but that's really what it needs.

You need people to move into there; that's what keeps it vital going ... I don't know if we're ready for that. Let's take Salt Lake and the

AG WEEKLY
Farmbeat
Highlights of this week's Ag Weekly.

temperatures indicate a shift from the El Nino ocean conditions that have held for the last several years to a "neutral to La Nina" pattern.

"In terms of the drought, that's the best news we could possibly get," Breidenbach said, adding Idaho usually ends up with an above-normal snow-

"
As far as the businesses (downtown), if you look at the shops that are there and the banks that are there, yeah that's healthy ...
"

- Carl Legg, former Old Towne business owner

Dairymen deal with full containment lagoons

TWIN FALLS — The fourth-wettest December on record might have Gem State crop growers dancing, but it's causing problems for some southern Idaho dairies.

Rainfall last month of 3.06 inches was nearly three times more than average, and that has Mary Patten hopping. The Idaho Department of Agriculture Dairy Bureau chief has had his hands full as heavy rains fill

dairy lagoons and threaten regulatory compliance.

"It's been pretty busy. I run around this week looking because it's been extremely wet," he said.

While Patten found "things were holding pretty good," a dozen or so dairies in the Magic and Treasure valleys are dealing with full lagoons and containment ponds. With the excess water needing to go somewhere, the Department will be allowing those dairies to land-apply effluent but will also issue the operators noncompliance violations.

Gambling

Continued from C8

Luciano said some down-loadable technology has been part of the gaming industry since the 1980s, but it has only been in the last four years that manufacturers have begun solving applications problems and security issues.

Nevada regulators have moved slowly on approving standards for systems, completing a series of workshops in 2005.

State Gaming Control Board Chairman Dennis Nellander said regulators took a slow and deliberate pace to gather suggestions from all corners of the industry before setting final approval.

The final approvals are adopted early this year, field trials on limited numbers of games and systems will be conducted. The casino companies will be able to determine just how much revenue will be generated by the technological advancements.

Analysts believe the results could be huge. By having the ability to change games instantly, floor managers will be able to analyze what games and demographics would perform best at any particular time of the day. They can also alter hold percentages within regulatory parameters.

"For example, a floor manager could determine that most video poker players are on the floor in the afternoon, but that nighttime crowds lean toward rock games."

A manager could change a machine, a row of them or an

entire floor in seconds.

Do afternoon players prefer nickel slots while the nighttime crowd enjoys playing a dollar at a time? Change it. Does a certain game theme resonate more with the weekend tourist? Put more of them in as the Californians get off the highway.

Then, there's the matter of hold percentage, or the percentage of wagers that the casino keeps. "Will the appearance of "loose slots" produce more volume and more revenue than a higher hold percentage?"

Almo Marcel, a gaming analyst with Jefferies & Co., said IGT, Alliance, WMS Industries Inc. and Aristocrat Leisure Ltd. are poised to capitalize on server-based gaming, but the advancements won't begin affecting most companies' bottom lines until 2007 or 2008.

Large companies that have the most to gain by economies of scale — and can afford to change out their floors — would likely be the first to move on installing new systems, Marcel said.

As with the change to ticket-in, ticket-out technology, which replaced coins with paper tickets, other companies would follow to keep up competitively. When that happens, the manufacturers will capitalize.

"The MGMs of the world would be able to afford the transition, then the smaller operations would follow," Marcel said. "Eventually, there could be a replacement cycle involving replacing a million slots."

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After lightning deaths, Scouts faulted on safety

By David Cray
Associated Press writer

CLIFTON, N.J. — The forecast was ugly the day Matthew Tresca died.

The National Weather Service warned throughout the afternoon of severe weather in the Pocono Mountains where the teenager and more than 300 other Boy Scouts were at a one-week camp. At the end of supper, as lightning flashed in the distance, Scout leaders dismissed the boys from the dining hall and sent them to their tented campsites in the woods. Around 7 p.m., lightning struck a tent pole near the picnic table where 16-year-old Matthew sat under a tarp. He suffered cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead within 90 minutes.

That was Aug. 2, 2002. Since then, attorneys have pursued a slow-moving lawsuit against the Boy Scouts' national leadership and the Scout council that ran the camp, alleging that proper training and planning would have kept the boys longer in the shelter of the dining hall, preventing Matthew's death. They're not the only ones criticizing the Scouts when it comes to lightning safety — editorial columnists and experts share such concerns.

"It's going to take the Boy Scouts getting hit in the pocket to protect anyone else's family, then that's what I guess it takes," said Mary Tresca, sitting with her husband in their suburban New Jersey home as they spoke of Matthew's case.

The Boy Scouts deny any negligence. Scout officials have described Matthew's death as "an act of God" and blamed a "rogue lightning bolt" from skies that appeared to be clearing. More generally, national Scout officials say they do their best to provide sound safety recommendations to local Scout councils and then trust council personnel to make good use of that information.

Since 1995, however, Associated Press and newspaper archives show that seven Scouts and Scout leaders have been killed and about 50 injured in 15 lightning incidents at Scout camps or on excursions. National Scout officials testifying in the Tresca case said they were unaware of several of those incidents, including the death of a Scout leader at a camp near Pittsburgh in 2001.

BSA urged to do more

A half-dozen of the country's foremost lightning safety experts and advocates said in interviews that the organization — which sends roughly 1 million boys into the outdoors each summer — has an out-of-date approach and should be doing more in terms of training and vigilance.

"I was an Eagle Scout — I love the Boy Scouts," Air Force meteorologist William Riederer said. "But on this one they're wrong. I do believe the Boy Scouts of America need to improve their lightning safety."

Riederer has provided weather advice to the space program at Cape Canaveral, and said he offered to help the Scouts update their policies but was rebuffed. "They have their heads in the sand," said Dr. Mary Ann Cooper of the University of Illinois-Chicago, a leading expert on lightning injuries.

"Just about everybody else has come around on lightning safety — golfers, boaters, park managers. The Boy Scouts are the one hold-out." Experts say some lightning casualties are inevitable when an organization sends so many young people into the wilderness, sometimes on multi-day hiking trips with limited shelter options. But Ronald Holle, an Arizona-based meteorologist and lightning-detection expert, believes some of the deaths — including Matthew Tresca's — were preventable.

"This was not a 'rogue bolt of lightning,'" Holle wrote in a court brief submitted on behalf of the Trescas. "It only on the basis of hearing thunder and seeing the flashes during the day trained people should have kept everyone in the dining hall."

Two areas of criticism

The criticism of the Scouts falls into two main categories.

Holle and other experts say local Scout councils should be required to adopt detailed lightning-safety plans for their camps, encompassing severe weather and planning. In advance where Scouts should be taught the rules of waiting 30 minutes after a storm's last visible bolt before resuming outdoor activities. They also want to spread the word that only substantial buildings and metal-enclosed motor vehicles — not tents — provide safe shelter from lightning. Some experts suggested the Scouts could offer a merit badge in lightning safety, thus creating a larger corps of adult leaders versed in the topic.

John Jensenius, a National Weather Service lightning expert based in Gray, Maine, said every major outdoor recreation group should require lightning-safety training for leaders. "With lightning safety, you're balancing inconvenience and risk," he said. "If you're with a group, you should be willing to be more inconvenienced than if you're on your own."

The Boy Scouts, offered an opportunity to respond in detail to the criticisms and suggestions, issued a statement.

"Lightning safety education is an important part of our comprehensive safety program. It is taught to Scouts and Scout leaders at every level, at our schools and in the field," the BSA said. "Of course, Scouting is always alert to ways to improve its safety regime. However, no other youth organization spends as much effort on lightning safety and education as the Boy Scouts of America."

Councils have final say

More on the Scouts' thinking about lightning safety is laid out in sworn depositions obtained over the past two years by the Tresca's lawyer, Peter Korn. Senior Scout officials said they expect local councils to draw up emergency response plans, but leave the details — including



Michael and Mary Tresca sit at their dining room table behind a portrait of their son, Matthew, during an interview last month at their home in Clifton, N.J. Matthew was killed by a lightning strike while on a Boy Scout camping trip in the Pocono Mountains in 2002. The Trescas have filed a lawsuit against the national Boy Scouts of America and the local Scout council.

On the Net:

Boy Scouts:
<http://www.scouting.org/>
Lightning-safety group:
<http://www.stuckeylightning.org/>

any lightning-safety plans — up to the councils. The premise is that they know best about local weather and geography.

"Our standard of care is to provide good information to the local councils and the local volunteers to make decisions," BSA director of camping David Bates testified. "We haven't told anybody that it was their responsibility to develop a lightning-safety plan."

Bates said his office would have no way of knowing if councils were negligent in addressing the matter. Debra Griffith, who oversees handling of insurance claims against the Scouts, said lightning safety had not risen high on her office's priority list because other problems — including falls and motor-vehicle accidents — trigger far more claims. "Lightning's not even in the top 10," she testified, although she said she was unsure how many lightning injuries had occurred recently.

Edward Woodcock, the BSA's director of health and safety services, testified that the national office had no staff member whom he considered a lightning-safety expert; he knew of no effort to consult outside experts. Woodcock also said he was unaware of several recent lightning incidents injuring Scout personnel. He said his office relied on local councils to report such incidents and conduct any reviews as to whether safety procedures need improvements.

"Each of these is different," Woodcock said of lightning threats. "Each of our properties, each storm, each facility. You can't come up with a magic answer for every situation."

The top BSA official, Chief Scout Executive Roy Lee Williams, also gave a deposition after his lawyers failed to quash the request. Asked

how many Scouts and leaders had been killed and injured by lightning during his leadership, Williams replied, "I couldn't say if it was one or a hundred."

Michael and Mary Tresca, both 47, say they never heard from the national Scout office since their son's death, and are disillusioned with an organization they once admired.

"In any organization, there needs to be accountability," said Michael Tresca, a buyer for a telecommunications company.

Although his two younger brothers became Scouts as adolescents and were at the Poconos camp with him, Matthew was the most enthusiastic about scouting — joining the Cub Scouts in kindergarten.

"He absolutely loved it," said his mother, an executive waitress at a pharmaceutical company.

Matthew checked into the Resica Falls Scout reservation in Monroe County, Pa., in late July of 2002, along with other Scouts from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The camp was run by the Philadelphia-based Cradle of Liberty Council.

Storm reports heard

On the evening of Aug. 2, some 350 campers and leaders were in the dining hall as rain began to fall, and lightning flashed in the distance.

The camp's aquatic director, Marc Spem, testified that he heard reports of an approaching storm on his ham radio and suggested to leaders at the head table that the Scouts be kept longer in the dining hall.

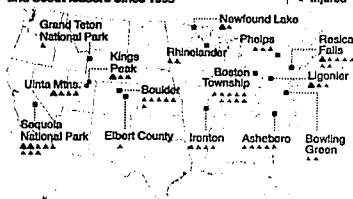
Spem quoted the camp's program director, John Gross, as replying, "No, let it go. I don't want to cause panic."

Gross, in a deposition, denied having any such conversation with Spem. He said leaders at the head table felt the storm had passed and it was safe to dismiss the Scouts.

Had he known of the weather service storm warning, "it would not have changed things," Gross testified. "The campers were in their campsites, a safe place

Boy Scouts' lightning safety questioned

Several experts say the Boy Scouts have an outdated approach to lightning safety. Seven Scouts and Scout leaders have been killed and about 50 injured in 15 lightning incidents since 1995. Major lightning accidents involving Boy Scouts and Scout leaders since 1995



Killed or injured

... and a random bolt of lightning struck."

Oros and camp director Gerald Reed said they, like many Scout leaders, had attended a BSA training program known as National Camp School, but testified that they received no detailed instruction there regarding lightning storms.

"Nobody seems to be able to come to a consensus of what is safe," Reed testified. "Nobody says, 'This is what you do.'"

Reed said he had never heard of the walk-30-minutes rule. He also said a review of Matthew's death prompted no policy changes: "We didn't find anything that we could have done better."

Raymond Braun, the Cradle of Liberty Council's director of camping, was at the head table with Gros. The decision to dismiss the Scouts was "a fine call," he said, based on observing the weather.

Korn asked Braun whether the campsite was safer than the dining hall. "I'm not sure it's knowable," replied Braun, who later testified that the camp's safety policies didn't address whether Scouts should stay in tents during lightning storms.

Braun also discussed the review conducted by camp officials after Matthew's death. It dealt solely with the emergency medical response after the lightning strike, not with events beforehand, he said; no one was reprimanded.

"I didn't see this as a preventable-or-not incident as much as if being an act of God with a rogue lightning bolt," Braun testified. "We had done everything in our powers to try to help the young man."

The Tresca believe their lawsuit could help save other young men — but the slow pace of preliminary proceedings has taken a toll.

Many Tresca cried as she spoke of carrying on a tradition of buying each of her four children — including Matthew — a new tree ornament each Christmas. She sometimes has trouble wandering through the latest batch of legal papers.

"I can see why people don't do it," she said of suing the Scouts. "But I can be very persistent. It's for every boy who's going to wrap himself into the Scouts the way Matthew did. I want to protect those boys."

Some doing a good job

Some local Scout councils do a good job with lightning safety, noted Richard Kihl of the National Lightning Safety Institute.

One that wins praise is the Chattanooga, Tenn.-based Cherokee Area Council. A new development safety buff, Jack Wright, drafted a detailed lightning-safety plan for the council, and it invested in storm-alert equipment at its Skymont camp, including a computer that accesses National Weather Service radar and a device that can detect lightning 300 miles away.

Bill Fisher, a council troop leader, said the monitoring system cost \$300 — "that's nothing in comparison to providing safety to people" — and was established to honor a Scout killed by lightning at Skymont 20 years ago. He was puzzled that national BSA officials hadn't pressed other councils to take similar steps.

"That's frustrating for me, because I sit here wondering how many more boys are we going to lose before we make the change," Fisher said. "It's just not that hard."

The Tresca's suit, which may go to trial later this year, seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages; jurors would decide the amount if the Trescas prevail. A second lightning suit is pending against the Boy Scouts in western New York. The family of James Rizwood has filed a \$50 million claim against the BSA and Iroquois Trail Council in connection with a July 2001 strike that hit Rizwood, then 16, at a Scout camp rifle range, leaving him a quadriplegic who communicates by blinking his eyes.

The Rizwoods, like the Trescas, allege that the Scouts lacked an effective lightning-safety plan and disregarded safety developments. Scout officials deny any negligence.

WORLD



Then Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, foreground, rides an armored personnel carrier on a tour of Israeli units advancing to the outskirts of Beirut, Lebanon, on June 25, 1982, during Israeli occupation. Sharon suffered a massive stroke last week.

Attacks spur identity crisis for Britain

By Tom Hundley
Chicago Tribune

LONDON — The image is incongruous: Muhammad Siddique Khan, ringer for the suicide cell that attacked the London Underground on July 7, is wearing cowboy boots and a leather jacket, exclaiming the virtues of life in America.

Yet this is the image of "Sid" — as he styled himself back then — that sticks in the minds of his high school classmates.

In the months after the July 7 bombings, Britain has been undergoing a process of questioning and introspection. What does it mean to be a multicultural society? Can Muslims be truly British? Do they even want to be British? And what led two British Muslims to commit mass murder against their fellow citizens?

Some of the answers have been unsettling. Certainly, discovering Khan's cowboy persona came as a shock to Nasreen Sulaiman, a journalist for the British Broadcasting Corp. who spent time in Khan's old neighborhood, talking with friends and acquaintances, trying to piece together a portrait of the good-looking British Muslim who led Britain's first home-grown jihadist terror cell.

"Cowboy boots! Nobody could have prepared me for that," Sulaiman said. "It's so much more evocative of Bush than (Osama) bin Laden."

Fluent in Urdu and the daughter of Pakistani immigrants, Sulaiman said her own background closely parallels Khan's. She grew up in working-class Sheffield; he grew up 30 miles away in working-class Leeds. Her parents insisted she go to the mosque for Koranic studies every day after school; Khan's parents were more lax. He attended his elite school, Leeds, where he met Pakistani friends and he managed to steer clear of the gang fights that often broke out between the two groups.

The cowboy boots appeared after a trip to the United States when Khan was 17. Sulaiman said she was unable to pin down where Khan had visited, but the memory was vivid in the minds of several classmates.

While obtaining his university degree and marrying into a respected middle-class Muslim family, he got a job as a teaching assistant at the Hillside Primary school in Leeds. His co-workers thought highly of him, as did the parents of his students, mostly white working-class boys.

"If I ever met Tony Blair, I'd tell him that he (Khan) was the perfect example of what multiculturalism should be."

But unbeknownst to co-workers and parents, something had changed for Khan. He became a "revert" — rediscovering his Islamic roots while nursing a deep sense of grievance against the Western society in which he seemed to thrive.

As near as anyone can tell, the transformation did not take place in the community mosques of Leeds, nor did it happen as a result of Khan's exposure to the sway of some radical preacher.

Rather, it appears to have come as a kind of self-administered indoctrination, a politicized mix of anti-imperialists and Web sites, violent videos and paint-balling excursions with other acolytes. A trip to Pakistan in the summer of 2004 completed the transformation.

As the "big brother" figure, 30-year-old Khan acted as mentor to 16-year-old Haniyeh Hussain and 22-year-old Hasib Hussain, both of Leeds, and 19-year-old Irfan Mahmood from nearby Huddersfield.

On July 7, the four traveled to London and blew up three Underground trains and a double-decker bus, killing 52 people and injuring thousands. Britain has long considered itself a tolerant place. It is home to Europe's third-largest Muslim population (after France and Germany), but far-right anti-immigration parties have never

gotten much traction here. A Few Global Attitudes survey, taken just before the July 7 attacks, found 72 percent of Muslims, compared with 64 percent in France and 57 percent in the United States.

The government encourages "multiculturalism," although the precise definition is a bit vague. Most see it as a live-and-let-live approach to Britain's diverse, multiethnic population, tempered by a benign assumption that over time everyone will achieve his own sense of Britishness.

Unlike France, which last year banned the wearing of Muslim head scarves in public schools, British courts have backed the right of girls to wear the head-to-toe jilbab to class. Britain was the only European country in the Pew survey in which a majority thought a head scarf ban was a bad idea.

Like good hosts, Brits will generally bend over backward to accommodate the cultural sensibilities of newcomers to their island.

This fall London audiences enjoyed a widely acclaimed production of "Lambertine the Great," Christopher Marlowe's 16th Century classic. Few noticed that several references to Mohammed had been deleted and a key scene in which the form is burned also was sanitized. Director David Fair explained that he did not want to upset Muslims.

After the July 7 attacks, many in Britain are worried that multiculturalism has produced a nation of parallel communities that inhabit the same space but rarely interact.

The backlash of fear and anger has resulted in tough new anti-terrorism legislation that makes it easier for the government to deport foreign nationals, silence "preachers of hate" and outlaw extremist organizations. It also has resulted in a new "Britishness" test in which applicants for citizenship are now expected to be familiar not only with the Magna Carta and William Shakespeare but also with the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

— If you to spit someone's pint, you offer to buy him another. Last month, Prime Minister Blair traveled to Leeds to meet with young Muslims who had attempted to undertake how three "born-and-bred Yorkshire lads" (the fourth bomber, Lindsay was a naturalized citizen born in England) had been charged with the murder of a young woman.

The young people took this opportunity to tell Blair that his country was all wrong, especially with regard to Iraq. But they also assured him that they felt very British and wanted to find a place in this society.

"I'm a Muslim, but that has nothing to do with my Britishness," said one participant.

Blair was greeted by the Federation of Student Islamic Societies, which speaks on behalf of some 90,000 Muslim students in Britain, draws a weekly number of how many of these young Muslims see themselves in the post-7-7 era.

According to the survey, 83 percent of the respondents said that before the London attacks they felt proud and comfortable as Muslims in Britain. After the attacks, the number dropped to 52 percent.

Asked what it meant to be British, answers ran the gamut from "nothing, it's just an adjective" to "loving this country and being proud of it." Many also mentioned social norms.

Tanlem Mueen, 21, a student at London's prestigious School of Oriental and African Studies, reckoned he fell somewhere in between.

"To me, British means my passport, my voting rights, my job opportunities. It means I support England in the World Cup," he said. "It was born here. Being British is all I know."

Change of perception

Arab neighbors pay Sharon grudging respect

By Megan K. Stack
Los Angeles Times

CAIRO, Egypt — They have called him "the butcher" and seldom mention his name without listing the places where he has been blamed for bloodshed — Sabra, Shatila, Jenin. During long decades of Middle East strife, few men have been more thoroughly vilified in the Arab world than Ariel Sharon.

But after the long years of battles and virioli, and memories of the deaths in those Palestinian refugee camps, many Arabs grappled last week with a nuanced reaction to the falling health of a warrior who helped change the borders of Arab lands.

As the realization hit the region that the Israeli prime minister may no longer lead the Jewish state, a mood of regret and uncertainty crept into the tone of Arab analysts and editors. As Sharon clung to life, the leaders of Egypt and Jordan, Arab countries that signed peace treaties with Israel, sent word of their concern.

In the end, after all his historical grievances against his wartime tactics, many Arabs saw Sharon as the only leader stubborn and strong enough to push Israel into accepting a Palestinian state. Arabs worried that the loss of Sharon would throw Israel into tumult and freeze already stagnant peace talks.

"It's not that they thought that Sharon suddenly turned into a man of peace, but they saw him as capable of making peace."

There is a very big difference," said Imnan Hamud, a professor of political science at the American University of Cairo. They may still think he's a butcher, they may still hate him, but he's the only one with the guts to withdraw from Gaza."

Even the faintest nostalgia for Sharon is an improbable note from Israel's neighbors — and indicates the triumph of pragmatism over history.

In Lebanon and in the rest of the Arab world, Sharon is probably best remembered as the transfer of Palestinian refugees from Lebanon's civil war more than two decades ago.

Many Lebanese hold Sharon responsible for the deaths of civilians at the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila in 1982. The killings in the Lebanon camps were carried out by Israel-backed Christian militias, but an Israeli investigation found Israel "indirectly responsible." Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 2000, but relations remain frozen between the two neighbors.

In Egypt, too, Sharon's image as a warrior is deeply entrenched. He battled against Egypt in 1956, 1967 and 1973, fighting that ended with Israel seizing the Sinai Peninsula. When Sharon became prime minister he had been personally on gaza in Egypt since 1982. His relations with Egypt gradually grew warmer, but continued to falter with spasms

of violence.

In Jordan, similar trepidation fogs feelings toward the Israeli prime minister. Sharon had been cooperating closely for decades on security and intelligence with the late King Hussein, father of the current king, Abdullah.

That cooperation flourished quietly in spite of the widespread Jordanian fear that Sharon's long-term strategy for the West Bank, seized from Jordan in 1967, was to transfer the Palestinians en masse into Jordan.

As for Syria, which lost the Golan Heights to Israel in the same war, Sharon never softened his stance. He repeatedly ignored calls from Damascus to open peace negotiations, saying that the Syrian regime was not serious about making peace.

But with the nudging of the United States, ties have held between Israel and its two key Arab allies — despite the domestic political price paid by King Abdullah and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Sharon traveled to Egypt last year for peace talks in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

In recent months, Mubarak, who used to declare Sharon incapable of making peace, has called Sharon a good peace partner for the Palestinians. And as Egyptian state television reviewed Sharon's biography this week, there was no mention of his wartime exploits. Instead, the announcer soberly reviewed his political and military posts up to 1981, then skipped ahead to his ascension to prime minis-

ter.

Among neighboring countries, his recent concessions were seen as essentially pragmatic moves on the part of a man who had recognized that Israel could not remain a Jewish state without making peace with the Palestinians. But whatever Sharon's motivations, the Arab neighbors couldn't help but welcome the talk of Palestinian statehood, and hope for some progress on a bloodied stalemate.

"I think Sharon, in his last position, was willing to move ahead with some kind of a peace plan," said Adnan Iskender, a former political science professor at the American University in Beirut. "In my opinion, there's nobody who has the support and strength to make bold decisions like Sharon. I think this will complicate the situation rather than help right now."

In a part of the world where nations are often defined by the strength of their leaders, Sharon garnered a begrudging respect as the only surviving Israeli powerhouse. Coming just a little more than a year after the death of iconic Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Sharon's falling health seemed to signal the passing of an era.

"Everything revolved around himself personally," said Labib Kamhawi, a Jordanian political scientist. "I think Sharon would be the only one to force a settlement on both Israelis and Palestinians. It might not be a pleasant settlement, but it would be a serious beginning."

Report challenges legality of domestic spying

Findings are first nonpartisan look at program

By Carol D. Leonnig
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A report by Congress' research arm concluded Friday that the administration's justification for the warrantless eavesdropping authorized by President Bush conflicts with existing law and hinges on weak legal arguments.

The Congressional Research Service's report rebuts the central assertions made recently by Bush and Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales about the president's authority to order secret intercepts of telephone and e-mail exchanges between people inside the United States and their contacts abroad.

The findings, the first non-partisan assessment of the program's legality to date, prompted Democratic lawmakers and civil liberties advocates to repeat calls Friday for Congress to conduct hearings on the monitoring program and attempt to halt it.

The 44-page report said that Bush probably cannot claim the broad presidential powers he has relied upon as authority to order the secret monitoring of calls made by U.S. citizens since the fall of 2001. Congress expressly intended for the government to seek warrants from a special Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court before engaging in such surveillance when it passed legislation creating it in 1978, the CRS report said.

The report also concluded that Bush's assertion that Congress authorized such eavesdropping to detect and fight terrorists does not appear to be supported by the special resolution that Congress approved after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which focused on authorizing the president to use military force.

"It appears unlikely that a court would hold that Congress has expressly or implicitly authorized the NSA's electronic surveillance operations here," the authors of the CRS report wrote. The administration's legal justification "does not seem to be well-grounded," they said.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has pledged to

hold hearings on the program, which was first revealed in news accounts last month, and the judges of the FISA court have demanded a classified briefing about the program, which is secret.

"This report contradicts the president's claim that his spying on Americans was legal," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., one of the lawmakers who asked the CRS to research the issue. "It looks like the president's wiretapping was not only illegal, but also ensured innocent Americans were caught in nothing more than place a phone call."

Justice Department spokesman Brian Rohrkasse said the president and the administration believe the program is on firm legal footing. The national security activities described by the president were conducted in accord with the law and provide a critical tool in the war on terror that saves lives and protects civil liberties at the same time," he said. A spokesman for the National Security Agency was not available for a comment Friday. Other administration officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the CRS reached some erroneous legal conclusions, criti-

calizing the narrow interpretation of what constitutes military force and when the president can exercise his war powers.

Bush has said that he has broad powers in times of war and must exercise them to target not only "enemies across the world" but "terrorists here at home." The administration has argued strongly in 2002 before the FISA court, that the "war on terror" is global and indefinite, effectively removing the limits of wartime authority — traditionally the times and places of imminent or actual battle.

Some law professors have been skeptical of the president's assertions, and they said Friday that the report's conclusions were expected. "Ultimately, the administration's position is not persuasive," said Carl W. Tobbin, a University of Richmond law professor and expert on constitutional law. Congress has made it pretty clear it has legislated pretty comprehensively on this issue with FISA (the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act). And there begins to be a pattern of unilateral executive decision-making. Time and again, there's the executive acting alone without consulting the courts or Congress."

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REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) and the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor (ICL) are seeking public comment on the 2006 Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan has been drafted to comply with Federal requirements for the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Housing and Community Development - statewide housing and community development planning document. The Annual Action Plan is a summary description of the anticipated resources and activities IHFA and ICL will undertake with respect to the goals and strategies of the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Housing and Community Development (also known as the Consolidated Plan) and its accompanying 2006 Action Plan.

1. Via the Internet at IHFA's Web site located at the following URL: http://www.ihfa.org/grants_actionparticipants.asp
2. Via the Internet at ICL's Web site at community.idaho.gov. The document is listed under "ICDBG."
3. Public Libraries in Boise, Nampa, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Moscow, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Blackfoot.
4. IHFA's Boise office and branch offices located at:
565 W. Myrtle, Boise
230 W. Sunnyside, Idaho Falls
1139 Falls Ave. E., Ste. B, Twin Falls
216 10th St., Ste. 101, Lewiston
210 W. Hubbard, Bay 124, Coeur d'Alene

A public hearing to obtain comment from interested individuals and/or organizations will be conducted on January 25, 2006, at 6:00 pm at IHFA located at 565 West Myrtle, Boise, Idaho. The meeting will provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on the 2006 Annual Action Plan. Participants may request reasonable accommodation from IHFA to facilitate participation in the hearing. The hearing location is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Participants may request a language interpreter to assist in participation of the hearing. Copies of the Report can be obtained by calling the IHFA Grant Programs Department, 1-877-447-2037, TDD 1-800-545-1833, Ext. 400, or by sending an email to brandy@ihfa.org. Please indicate how you would like to receive your copy and provide the appropriate contact information. The Public Comment Period ends 5:00 pm, Friday, February 3, 2006. Persons with written comments and questions on the HOME and ESG programs, persons that require language interpretation or special assistance to accommodate physical, sight or hearing impairments, including materials in alternate formats can contact Brandy Nipper at 1-877-428-4472, TDD 1-800-545-1833, Ext. 400, by email to brandy@ihfa.org, by fax to (208) 331-4808 or by mail to Idaho Housing and Finance Association (Attn: Brandy Nipper, P.O. Box 7899, Boise, Idaho, 83707-1899. Persons with written comments and questions on the ICDBG program should contact Diana Clough at (208) 334-2659 ext. 2140, by email to Diana.Clough@community.idaho.gov or by mail to Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0093.

PUBLISH: January 8 and 19, 2006



LANDS FOR LEASE

BIA ACCEPTS BID FOR FARM/PASTURE LEASES
The Bureau of Indian Affairs is now accepting sealed bids until noon, January 24, 2006 on various farm/pasture leases on the Fort Hall Reservation. Bid forms and additional information can be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Indian Affairs at 208-233-2307.

PUBLISH: December 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30, 2005, January 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22 and 24, 2006

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF HOME PROGRAM FUNDS

Request for Applications
2005 Round 2

Notice is hereby given by the Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) of the availability of approximately \$ 2.8 million in HOME Program Funds. Applications must be received at the IHFA office in Boise no later than Friday, February 10, 2006, at 5:00 pm. Applications for the HOME Program Funds must be mailed to P.O. Box 7899, Boise, Idaho, 83707-1899, or hand-delivered to the IHFA Grant Programs Department at 565 West Myrtle, Boise, Idaho, 83707. Organizations eligible to apply for HOME Program funds include private non-profit organizations, 501(c)(3) or (4), private housing developers of affordable housing, units of local government, local or Indian Housing Authorities, or certified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). The applications for the HOME Program Funds may be obtained by accessing IHFA's web site: <http://www.ihfa.org/grants/HOME/05.pdf>. The HOME funds available through this application round may be used for any of the eligible activities described in the Idaho HOME Program Administrative Plan. You may access the HOME Administrative Plan on-line at the web site noted above or contact the IHFA Grant Programs Department toll free at 1-877-447-2037/447-2657, or TDD (800) 545-1833 ext. 400, or fax (208) 331-4808.



PUBLISH: January 9, 2006



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

Notice is hereby given by the Idaho Housing and Finance Association that the second application period for the year 2006 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit has been opened. Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. February 10, 2006. During this application period, approximately \$2,133,000 in credit will be available.

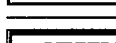
Non-targeted Credit	\$1,820,000
Non-profit Set-Aside	\$ 213,000
Rural Set-Aside	\$ 2,133,000
Total	\$ 4,166,000

Developers of affordable housing interested in applying for a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Reservation may obtain a copy of the 2005 Allocation Plan and application form by contacting the Multifamily Finance Secretary, Idaho Housing and Finance Association, P.O. Box 7899, Boise, ID 83707-1899, telephone (208) 331-4789 or (800) 218-2285 or for hearing impaired, (800) 545-1833. A copy of the Allocation Plan and application is also available on the Internet at www.ihfa.org under Developer Toolbox/ Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

PUBLISH: January 8, 2006



LOST dog, 6 months old, male Shih Tzu, white with brown patches on back & ears. On Carrizo Lane and Filer Ave. E on 12/25. Is missed very much!
REWARD! Please call 208-420-6893



BIRTHDAY PHOTOS
Have you forgotten to pickup your birthday photos? We have some photos we are sure you don't want us to toss. These can be picked up at The Times-News Classified Dept



167 Lost and Found

FOUND key on neck strap on 5th Street in Filer. Call to identify. 208-338-3209 or 208-320-1370.

FOUND adorable, gray, approx. 3 mos. old. Found on Jefferson St. in Kimberly. Call to identify at 423-8371

FOUND set of keys in Park, ID. Call to identify. 208-438-5598.

FOUND Sony PSP 11-22-05 at Magic Valley Bowl/Bowling. Call 208-726-0200

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9 Black lab cross, puppies, 9 weeks old, one male & 2 female lab crosses, one year old. Need homes immediately, due to owners move. Call 733-5238, 734-3087, cell 731-9929 or message at 324-8177.

REWARD OFFERED for the return of our Male German Shorthaired Pointer dog. Answers to Zeus, mostly white with brown patches on his face and smaller brown patches on his body. Owners are devastated, love him like a son. Finder call Joe at 208-961-0054 or 208-731-0597 or Kay at 208-961-0056.

LOST Black Lab mix, 1 year old, answers to "Rowdy". Wearing a blue collar. Lost 01/03/06 vicinity 302 Washington N. Reward offered 731-4935 or 731-0450

LOST Boxer, brindle, black, pulled leather collar. REWARD! Call 731-2993 or 731-3098

LOST cat large neutered male, de-clawed, dark gray with black stripes, yellow mustache on white face near Butley Airport. 208-678-0043.

LOST digital camera, Nikon Cool Pix P2 somewhere between Brantford and Twin Falls. Call 208-734-8745 or 404-3040 ask for Taylor or Jamie.

LOST dog, Brittany Spaniel, on 1/5, Whiting, year old, red collar, and Bristol Cone. Reward 208-735-2422

LOST Golden Retriever, huge, female, 2 years old, red collar, "Molly Girl". Last in Close Sunday and Saturday. Twin Falls. 734-1424.



167 Lost and Found

LOST small dog, last seen on 15th Dr. and west of Rupert Hospital. Short curly all white hair, tail curls up on back. 9-10" tall. Call 208-431-6204.

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2. Terrier cross red short haired female. Found on 2500 East

3. Shaggy Terrier cross, tan with black legs, male.

4. Lhasa cross creme color, female.

5. Short haired black & white spotted short haired dog male. Found outside shelter.

6. Older Shepherd cross, female, gray muzzle. Found at Wil Toyota.

7. Boxer, male, black & white. Found on 2600 E. Hooper, rob & white female, 2300 East on New Years

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1. Terrier/Border collie cross 4 months old.

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5. Griffon short haired, female pup.

6. Pit cross pup, brindle and white.

7. Border Collie cross, bigger pup.

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FOUND cat, female, gray & white. In the Wendell area. Call 208-338-5670.

FOUND dog, German Shepherd, older, female. On Highway, between Declo & Burley. Has chain collar and no tags. Call Ben 208-731-1165 or 208-530-1855

FOUND gold bracelet gold with name and engravings, found in CSI parking lot. Call to identify 404-6819 or 543-5609 lv. mobile

167 Lost and Found

FOUND digital camera, Nikon Cool Pix P2 somewhere between Brantford and Twin Falls. Call 208-734-8745 or 404-3040 ask for Taylor or Jamie.

LOST dog, Brittany Spaniel, on 1/5, Whiting, year old, red collar, and Bristol Cone. Reward 208-735-2422

LOST Golden Retriever, huge, female, 2 years old, red collar, "Molly Girl". Last in Close Sunday and Saturday. Twin Falls. 734-1424.

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HARD # 35

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 D-15.

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Western States
Equipment-CAT
Dealership in
Twin Falls is seeking a
Parts Associate with an
attitude to succeed to join
our growing product
support team.
Preference will be
given to applicants with
warehouse, lift
truck, Microsoft
computer, shipping
receiving, and hydraulic
hoist experience.
Computer skills a must.
We provide paid
vacation, health
insurance, 401k
retirement plan.
Call 208-343-4451 for
application. Or mail
resume to:
D & D Transportation
208-111-8111
Gooding, ID 83330 or
email to
ekunz@ddtransport.com
See our website at
www.ddtransport.com
for job & application
details.
Equal Opportunity
Employer.

GENERAL

Production
Mechanical
CDCL A.
Housekeepers
Plastic Mgt.
Forklift
Factory Workers
Journeyman
Plumber
Service Technician
Personnel Plus
752-7200
1111 Filtr Ave.
www.personnelplus.com
No Agency Fee!

GENERAL

Shutters & Shades
seeks a full-time
position for the
Sun Valley area's
largest window
covering contractor.
This job includes
measuring, preparing,
installing, and
specifying, ordering
and managing lift
equipment, electric
or installers on
manual/inventor, manual
window covers. Applicants
should be people-oriented,
detail driven and
computer literate.
Experienced in
sales, customer service,
or carpentry is
helping, and we will
provide on-the-job
training. Excellent
salary and benefits
package. Includes paid
vacation, paid holidays,
optional health club
membership and
retirement benefits
depending on year
of company tenure.
Send resume by
mail to: 805
Hazelton, Idaho 83335.

GENERAL

Applicator
to run new Patriot
Sprayer with and
Jordan counties. Must
have or be able to
obtain Pesticide
License and CDL
Experience Preferred.
Call 208-829-5482.
Send resume to:
P.O. Box 825
Hazelton, Idaho 83335.

PROFESSIONAL

The Twin Falls Area Chamber of
Commerce is accepting applications for a
Marketing Coordinator to begin 3/1/06.
The successful applicant will coordinate
special events and fund raising, assist
with member recruitment and retention,
implement tourism promotion activities
and website maintenance, and
assist with bookkeeping and membership
database.
The Chamber is a non-profit business
organization that promotes economic
vitality and quality of life in the Twin Falls
area. Salary is commensurate with
experience.
Send cover letter, resume and references
by 1/17/06 to Twin Falls Chamber of
Commerce, Attn: Shawn Barber,
858 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.,
Twin Falls, ID 83301.

GENERAL

The City of Twin Falls is accepting
applications for a **PART-TIME AIRPORT
MAINTENANCE - OPERATOR**.
Beginning hourly wage is \$12.46. Under
the general direction of the Airport
Operations Supervisor, perform a variety
of maintenance, janitorial, and
equipment operation tasks at Magic
Valley Regional Airport. High school
diploma or GED equivalent required as
well as a Class "B" C.D.L. Obtained
within one year of hiring. You may
obtain City employment application at
www.tfid.org. For additional information
contact the Personnel Office located in
City Hall, 321 2nd Avenue East,
Twin Falls, or phone (208) 735-7268.
Closing date is 1/25/06. The City of
Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity
Employer, Drug Free Work Place.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We are currently seeking a
Customer Service Person to execute
our day-to-day load planning.
This individual will be responsible for
loading and securing cargo, 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 track order and equipment and follow up on finding. Solicit freight or identify capacity alternative options as needed. Anticipate problems on a pro-active rather than reactive 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
D & D Transportation
PO Box 118 Gooding ID 83303
ekunz@ddtransport.com
or email to

DRIVERS

Reed Brothers needs
experienced Truck
Drivers for local and
regional. CDL
required. Excellent
benefit package &
401k. Salary DOE.
903 Elm, Buhl, Idaho
or call 208-543-4300

GENERAL

Construction position
prior experience a
plus. Good telephone
skills will be a plus.
Mon.-Fri. Bilingual
a plus. Hourly pay
commensurate with
training. 401k
retirement, 401k
vacation. Apply Now.
250 Blue Lakes Blvd.
Twin Falls, ID 83301

GENERAL

**Parts Person &
Service Writer**
Experienced in stock
ordering & counting.
Must have the ability
to communicate with
drivers on service and
repair items.
Computer skills a must.
We provide paid
vacation, health
insurance, 401k
retirement plan.
Call 208-343-4451 for
application. Or mail
resume to:
D & D Transportation
208-111-8111
Gooding, ID 83330 or
email to
ekunz@ddtransport.com
See our website at
www.ddtransport.com
for job & application
details.
Equal Opportunity
Employer.

GENERAL

Shutters & Shades
seeks a full-time
position for the
Sun Valley area's
largest window
covering contractor.
This job includes
measuring, preparing,
installing, and
specifying, ordering
and managing lift
equipment, electric
or installers on
manual/inventor, manual
window covers. Applicants
should be people-oriented,
detail driven and
computer literate.
Experienced in
sales, customer service,
or carpentry is
helping, and we will
provide on-the-job
training. Excellent
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package. Includes paid
vacation, paid holidays,
optional health club
membership and
retirement benefits
depending on year
of company tenure.
Send resume by
mail to: 805
Hazelton, Idaho 83335.

GENERAL

Production
Mechanical
CDCL A.
Housekeepers
Plastic Mgt.
Forklift
Factory Workers
Journeyman
Plumber
Service Technician
Personnel Plus
752-7200
1111 Filtr Ave.
www.personnelplus.com
No Agency Fee!

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Applicator
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Sprayer with and
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of maintenance, janitorial, and
equipment operation tasks at Magic
Valley Regional Airport. High school
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well as a Class "B" C.D.L. Obtained
within one year of hiring. You may
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Twin Falls, or phone (208) 735-7268.
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Employer, Drug Free Work Place.

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and revenue growth.
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• Communicate effectively with customers, vendors, sales representative and internal associates
• Monitor and track order and equipment and follow up on finding. Solicit freight or identify capacity alternative options as needed. Anticipate problems on a pro-active rather than reactive 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
D & D Transportation
PO Box 118 Gooding ID 83303
ekunz@ddtransport.com
or email to

EMPLOYMENT

**Licensed Industrial
Journeyman Plumber**
Full-time, wage DOE.
Apply at:
Personnel Plus 752-7200
Twin Falls, 208-733-7300

GENERAL

Looking for a mechanical
inclined person
with good people
skills. Must be able to
work in a fast-paced
store. Punctuality and
good driving record a
plus. Must be able to
lift 50-100 lbs. Full-time
wage DOE. Benefits
at Renter Center
851 Main Ave. E.
Twin Falls, ID

GENERAL

Presser/Silk Finisher
Full-time. Mon.-Fri.
Some benefits. Paid
vacation. 401k. Health
insurance. A plus, but will
train. Apply at
Babb's Cleaners
228 Shoshone St. E.

GENERAL

The City of Kimberly is
hiring for civil maintenance
department.
Applications will be
accepted from the
17th of January 2006.
Applicants must have
high school diploma
and valid Idaho
Drivers License.
Must be able to
perform all the
duties of the position.
The City of Kimberly
City Hall, 132
Main Street, Kimberly,
No phone call
please EEO.

GENERAL

**Manufacturing
Machine Operator**
in Carey Idaho. Reliable,
full-time, 40hr. week.
Must be able to
work 12hour. Call
between 7 and 10am
208-324-1000

HEALTHCARE

**Independent Living
Specialist** FT for non
profit. Must have
experience with
people with disabilities.
Excellent written and verbal
communication skills,
computer experience.
Must be a self starter.
Information and references
preferred given to
qualified applicants with
experience in the field.
Send resume by
mail to:
Attn: M. Heinrich
132 Main Ave. S.
Twin Falls, ID 83301

IT

Truck-Master Logistic
is seeking seeking
full-time specialist for
our office.
Qualified candidate
will have at least 3
years experience with
Linux, assembling
and diagnosing problems
with PC compatible
hardware, and setting
up networks.
Customer service skills
are a must. Basic knowledge
of Spanish a bonus.
Salary DOE. Full benefits
and 401k. Send resume to:
PO Box 601
Jerome ID 83338
234-5101

INSTALLERS

**STAR
WEST
SATVILLAGE**
Satellite
Technicians
Seeking individuals
to install satellite
systems in
Twin Falls & surrounding
areas. Must have clean
driving record, valid
and own tools. Must
work weekends.
Will train, excellent
pay 40k available.
For more information
call 888-816-8492
ext 112 or fax/
email resume to
wappellation@
starwestsatellite.net
or 888-885-8778
Equal opportunity
employer an
drug free work
environment.

LPN or RN-LTCU

Part-time and PRN positions available. Med pass, resident assessments and patient care. Current Idaho license
• RN HOME HEALTH (PT)
Skilled nursing visits in client homes. Reliable transportation and current Idaho license
• ACUTE CARE RN (FT & PT)
Varied shifts, primarily evenings & nights. BLS, current Idaho license, ACLS desired. Will train for OB.
• CNA (1 FT, 1 PT + PRN)
Evening and variable shifts. Immediate openings.
• Long Term Care Unit.
• SURGICAL TECH (PT)
3 days/week, certified Surgical Tech or certifiable within 30 months of employment. 30 min response time required.
• CERTIFIED CODER-BILLER (FT) For busy medical and surgery clinics. CCS-P or CPC required.

Competitive Wage/Excellent Benefit

- Group Health/Dental
- EAP
- PTO
- Retirement plan plus 403(b)
- 20% hr. work benefits avail
- Tuition reimbursement
- Life Ins AD & CDC

MAGIC VALLEY

REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
IS NOW HIRING FOR ...
ADMINISTRATIVE/PROFESSIONAL
• MEDICAL TECHNICIAN - Full-time and on-call positions. Bachelor's degree in clinical lab science or related field. CIA (NCA) or MT (ASCP) required.
• IMAGING SPECIALIST - Full-time days and evenings position available. Also there is a per request needed, varied shift position also available. ARRT registered or eligible.
• MEDICAL OFFICIAL WORKER - 20 hours per week, varied shift. BSW or MSW degree required. Must be licensed in the state of Idaho.
• CODER I OR II - Full-time days, CPC, CCS, CCS-P or RHIT required. Minimum of 2 years coding experience. Excellent interpersonal and diplomatic skills required in the maintaining of effective relationships with staff and co-workers.

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVER
Driver wanted.
Must have a clean
driving record. Late
model equip. Home
based. Wage DOE.
Call 208-680-1105

GREENHOUSE

Looking for an experienced
greenhouse worker
who likes working with
the public to manage
the greenhouse.
Must be able to perform
operations, ordering &
cash. Apply in person
to: Jerry Hunsaker
2822 Addison Ave. E.
Twin Falls, ID 83301
208-733-2717.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation
Technician &
Serviceperson
needed in the
Magic and Treasure
Valleys.
Should be a qualified
welder &
backhoe operator.
Insurance, 401k,
vacation, holidays, cafeteria
plan. Wage DOE.
Send resume to:
"Resume"
PO Box 14
Twin Falls, ID
83301

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The City of Twin Falls,
ID is accepting applications
for POLICE
OFFICER. Applicants
must be 21st certified
or corifiable to
participate in the
selection process. Additional
information and
City employment
application available
at www.tfid.org, the
Personnel Office located
in City Hall, 321
2nd Avenue East, Twin
Falls, ID 83301 or by
phoning (208) 735-
9238. Closing date is
01-13-06. The City of
Twin Falls is an Equal
Opportunity Employer.
Drug Free Workplace.

MACHINIST

**Journeyman
Machine**
Experience with
conventional machines
in a job shop environment
required, including
experience with
turning, drilling, lathe
and portable
machining equipment a
plus. Will offer competitive
wages, 401k, profit
sharing, medical,
life and dental insurance,
paid holiday & overtime.
Mail resume to
Yankee Machine Shop
PO Box 545
Boise ID 83705
or fax to 208-388-2293
Pre-employment Drug
Screen Required.

Boise, ID 83707-1899

Above described position is available to all job
qualified. Qualified candidates must be able to
perform essential functions with or without
accommodation. AVE/OE



Work hard. Earn good pay.
Key Energy Services, Inc. is the largest servicing
company in the world. The Rocky Mountain Division
is located in North Idaho, near Coeur d'Alene,
Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls. We are the most
experienced and well-trained workers in the
region. Key offers well-paying from Production Unit
to Coal Bed Methane Drilling to 20,000-foot work in
the region. Key provides equipment and expertise that makes
it a premier service provider in the region to meet
customer needs for horizontal Re-writes, Well
Deepening and Maintenance.

Welder/Mechanic

We are looking for a Welder/Mechanic to support our
operations in Williston, North Dakota. The candidate
will maintain and repair well servicing equipment
located in the Williston, North Dakota area.
The ideal candidate will have at least 2 years of a CDL
or a previous welding certificate.
Mechanical should have well over 10 years of
experience maintaining heavy equipment. On field
equipment experience preferred, as well as
experience with DOT related reports. Must be able
to read welding certification.

We offer a competitive hourly rate and a
great benefits package.
If this sounds like the career opportunity for you,
please email your information to Denise Gustafson
at dgustaf@keyenergy.com
or call us to 701-974-1949. EOE.

PROFESSIONAL

Housing Counselor
20 hrs/week
Idaho Housing and Finance Association, a
nonprofit company, has an immediate
opening in Twin Falls for a part-time
Housing Counselor. The successful
applicant will provide housing counseling
services, assist with housing related
goals and refer clients to the appropriate
resources, and assist with needed
reports, and develop support and referral
systems for clients as needed. Marketing
this program to the community will also
be required.

Experience working with housing or
housing related counseling is required.
Prior experience in case management
methods, motivational techniques and
relational building with community
resources. Familiarity working with low-
income clients, homemaker education,
home purchasing, and financial planning
is preferred. Must possess
excellent organizational and
communication skills. Bilingual skills in
Spanish and English desired.
Compensation will be commensurate with
experience. Interested candidates can
pick up an application at 844 N.
Washington, Suite 400, Twin Falls, ID,
or download an application from our
website at www.ihfa.org.

Please send completed
application and resume to:
Human Resources Department
Idaho Housing and Finance Association
P.O. Box 7899
Boise, ID 83707-1899

Above described position is available to all job
qualified. Qualified candidates must be able to
perform essential functions with or without
accommodation. AVE/OE

ST. BENEDICT'S Family Medical Center

709 N Lincoln Ave
Jerome Idaho 83338
(208) 324-4301
Fax (208) 324-3878

St. Benedict's is a mission-driven health care organization
providing patient-centered care. We are looking for caring
professionals who want to work for a top quality health
care provider.

For a complete listing of open positions, or to
complete an application, visit our website
www.mvrmc.org

NURSING

- REGISTERED NURSES - Positions available in all areas - med/surg, ER, ICU, OR, Full-time or part time.
 - OFFICE NURSE - Full-time days and occasional evenings. CMA, LPN or RN required. Clinical office experience preferred.
- Physician Services is also looking for CMA/LPN
For offices in Twin Falls and Hatley, ID.

We offer a competitive salary & excellent benefit
package. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Resumes must be accompanied
by an application letter and cover
letter. Applications will be accepted on a
first-come, first-served basis.

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVERS
JD Hesthal
is Hiring Local
Delivery Drivers.
Class A CDL
year round position,
excellent benefits,
great working
environment,
overtime,
start \$11 Hour.
Apply in person,
1999 Frontage N.
Wendat, Idaho
No phone calls please

DRIVERS

**Professional
Truck
Driving School**
Oldest & most
complete driving
school in the
valley. Class A-D
Licenses
1-800-900-0586

DRIVERS

We have the miles if
you have the
Right Driver
Reefers/Vans 48 States,
Waking Floors west-
ern states, Miraga
pay, Pick/Drop pay,
per diem, incentive
Bonuses Medical Rese-
ance, FSA Vacation.
208-734-9622

EDUCATION

Kimberly School District
is looking for a
JV Baseball Coach.
This position will run
February 24 through
May 13, 2006.
Available at
www.kimberly.edu
141 Center St. W.
Kimberly or by
calling Cathy at
423-4170 ext 3308

ELECTRICIAN

Journeyman Electrician
needed for
Electric
Highland residential &
commercial work
in the Sun
Valley area. Full-time,
year round
position. Benefits
include vacation,
bonus & insurance
plans in an
employee ownership.
Fax resumes to
208-788-3273 or
call 208-788-3238
for more info.

FOOD PROCESSING

Local food processing
company is currently
looking for non
retail individuals willing
to work both Light Duty
and Heavy Duty
positions. Hiring for
all shifts. No experience
needed at training
is provided. Excellent
pay and benefits are
available.
Apply
person at 754 N.
College Rd., Suite B.
800 am. to Noon only.

GENERAL

MOSS Greenhouses
Accepting applications
for the following:
Seedling Clerk
Tech
(To start in January)
with
"data entry"
experience
• Extensive knowledge
of Excel
required.
• 12 months year
round
• Starting wage
DOE
Please apply to:
Moss Greenhouses
Mon-Fri 9am -4pm.
208-328-7809, or email
adam@2081.k12.id.us
Jerome Idaho
No Phone Calls

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVER
Experienced Class A
Driver with Fuel A
Hazard & tanker
endorsements. Apply
M-F & G Custom
1687 Highland Ave E.
Drug Free Workplace
208-734-9622

GENERAL

**DAVE'S
FOODS INTERNATIONAL INC.**
Jerome Cheese Co.
is looking for
candidates to fill the
following positions:
•NH3/Boiler
Mechanic
•General
Mechanical
•Production
Employees

GENERAL

Successful candidates
must be
responsible and
dependable.
Most shifts are
12 hour shifts, 3
days on, 3 days
off, 4 days
on, 4 days
off.
Excellent opportunity
for advancement.
Competitive Pay.

Benefits Include:

- Medical Insurance
- 401(k)
- Profit Sharing
- Paid Time Off (Sundays & Holidays)

Jerome Cheese Company

321 W. 5th St.
Jerome, ID
83338
208-324-6806
208-324-6892 fax
JCCHR@Daviess-
foods.com

GENERAL

The City of Twin Falls is accepting
applications for Meter Reader. This
position will work March through
November, 30
months a year. 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 drivers license. Meter
Readers are responsible for the accurate
reading and recording of water usage
based on prescribed route. You may
obtain more information and a City
employment application at www.tfid.org,
the Personnel Office, located at City Hall,
321 2nd Avenue East, or by phoning 735-
7268. The City of Twin Falls is an Equal
Opportunity Employer, Drug Free Work
Place. Closing date is January 27, 2006.

MAINTENANCE

Jerome School District is hiring for the
following position:
District Maintenance Supervisor
Experience in electrical, plumbing,
refrigeration, HVAC maintenance,
general construction, and security and
computer operations necessary.
Yard Maintenance
Responsibilities include general building
maintenance and grounds care. Experience
with gas and diesel engines, minor
repair and maintenance of automotive
vehicles and light welding. Must have a
valid drivers license.
Building Custodian
Previous Custodial experience necessary.
Pay based on District Salary Schedule.
All positions are District wide and are
open until filled. Send resume to:
Linda Adams, District Clerk
Jerome School District #261
107 3rd Ave. West Jerome, ID 83338.
Call 208-324-1010,
fax 208-324-7809, or email
adam@2081.k12.id.us
Jerome School District #261 is an
Equal Opportunity Employer

SALES

Affac

Affac, A Fortune 200 Company is opening new offices in all counties of Idaho and hiring new **Sales Associates/ Account Managers.** No previous or account management experience is required, as we provide a thorough training program. Compensation includes:

- \$39,500-\$75,00 commissions
- Cash Bonus & Stock Bonus
- Residual Commissions
- Cash Awards.

To Learn more about this exciting career opportunity, contact **Joe Tyrrell, State Recruiting Coordinator** at 208-426-0020

SALES



Franchise Dealer Needed!
Local Franchise Available

Take advantage of this great franchise opportunity offered by Snap-on! The dream of owning your own business can be yours, and right in your own backyard!

If you are looking for that rare opportunity that matches best-of-class profits, proven business strategies and a company that is driven to deliver, take a look at the Snap-on organization. Residency in the area would be a strong plus for qualified applicants and initial investment is probably less than you think.

A Snap-on Franchise is a business requiring monetary investment.

For more information, call 877-SNAPON.

Snap-on Tools
Kenosha, WI

Snap-on Tools is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Snap-on is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Recognized by Entrepreneur Magazine as one of the Top 25 Franchises

www.snapon.com/franchise

SALES

Construction Sales/ Production Manager

Clearly Building Corp., a national leader in the manufacturing and construction of over 60,000 pre-engineered buildings, seeks a assertive customer service oriented individual to sell our diversified product line and manage our Hazelton, Idaho office. Responsibilities include prospecting, selling and managing the building construction through completion. Construction experience is required. \$25k annual base salary PLUS an incentive program to earn \$60k to \$100k plus annually. Benefits package includes health and dental insurance. Z-cap safety program, 401k plan, paid vacation, holidays and a company vehicle. Clearly Building Corp. is a family owned and operated business with over 25 years of experience. Send resume via fax 608-845-7070 or email sales@clearlybuildings.com

CLEARLY BUILDING CORP.
Attn: Region Manager
2281 E. 1010 S. Hazelton, Idaho 83335
A drug-free workplace

The Times-News & South Idaho Press
Currently taking applications for the Mini-Cassala area. **Careers Wanted!!!!** Adult and Junior routes.

MOTOR ROUTES

FL 644
Times-News
7 Day Delivery
Kasota area, Hazelton, and Eden

FL 644
Times-News
7 Day Delivery
Southeast Burley, South Hwy. 27 and Caldwell area

WALKING ROUTES

RT. 28: Burley
South Idaho Press
Burton Ave. to Overland Ave. & West 18th St. to West 21st St.

RT. 210: Burley
South Idaho Press
Overland Ave. to Hansen Ave. & East 16th St. to East 23rd Dr.

RT. 220: Burley
South Idaho Press
Hansen Ave. to Hilland Ave. & East 16th 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 19th St.

RT. 428: Rupert
Times-News
D St. to H St. & 16th 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: **Andy at 877-8781**
230 East Main, Burley District Service Manager

SALES

Are you looking for a new career with an unlimited opportunity for advancement?

Would you like to be recognized as a professional Sales person in one of the country's leading automotive dealerships?

If so, our salespeople earn an excellent income and enjoy the benefits of working with a successful and progressive dealership.

If you're currently a professional in automobile sales or if you're serious about a career change and are looking for the training and guidance that are essential for long term success. We'd like to talk to you.

Please send your resumes or apply in person to: **Butch Heatwole**
701 Main Ave E.
Twin Falls, ID 83301
or call 208-733-7700.

MIDDLEKAUFF HONDA
1000 S. 10th St. Twin Falls, ID 83301

Help Wanted: SALES ASSOCIATES

Positions Available—Twin Falls

If you are experienced, motivated, and passionate about customer and business—then you must be you.

• Competitive Pay • 401(k) Retirement Plan
• Vacation • Comprehensive Health Benefits
• Life Insurance • Employee Discount

EVERTON
SALES & FINANCIAL
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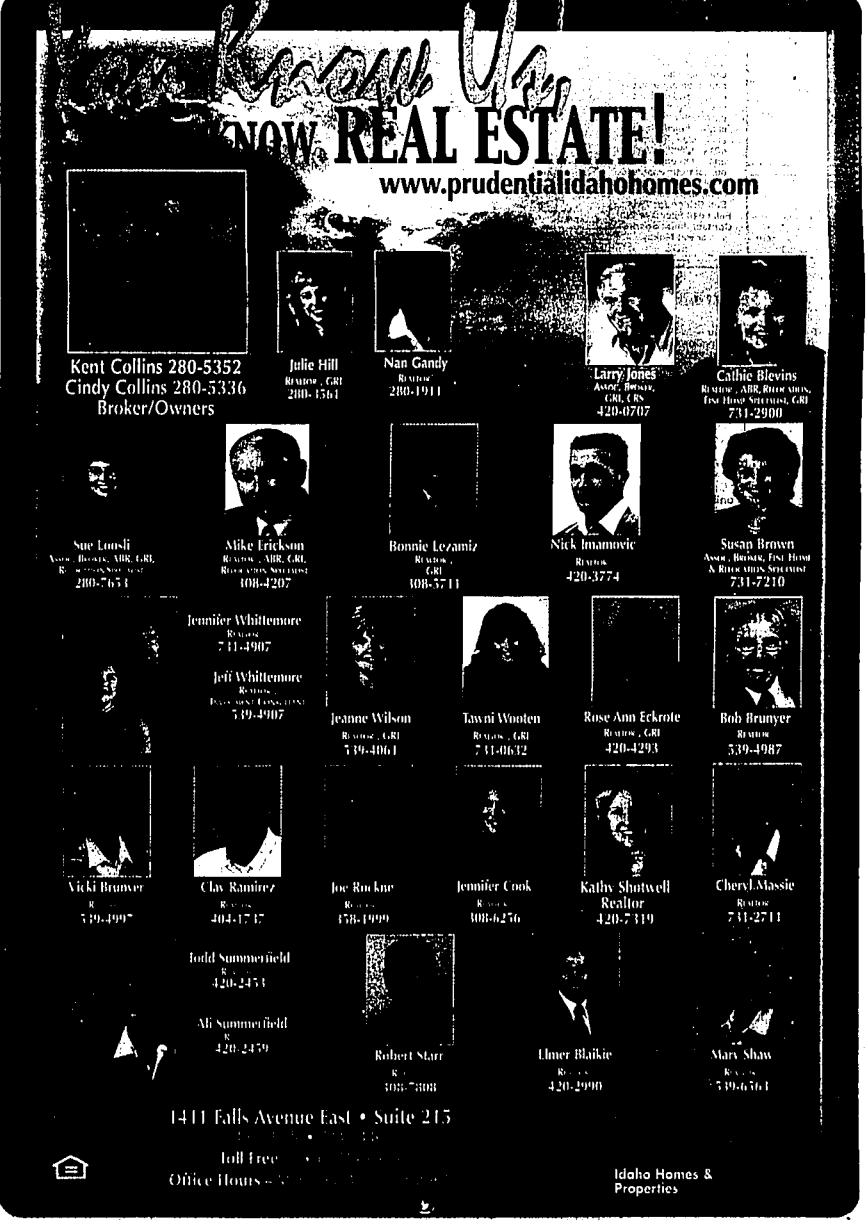
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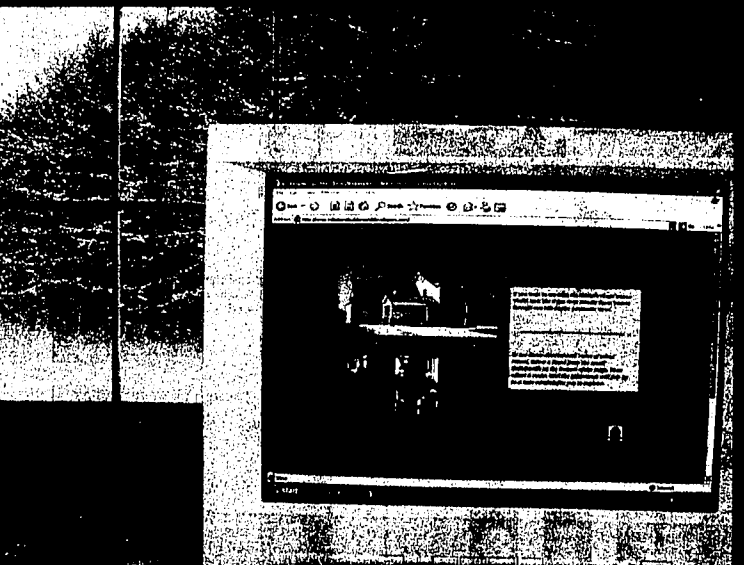
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TWIN FALLS nice 3 bdrm, 2 bath, All appls, \$685 + \$500 dep. No smoking, pets neg. 208-733-5172

TWIN FALLS very nice 2 bdrm, 1 bath, fenced back yd, garage, AC, no smoking, pets neg. \$600 + dep. Avail 2/01/06 Call 208-420-9061.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE
 SWF, 55, N/S, new to the area, likes to ride bikes, read, swim, wants to meet kind, considerate, honest SWM, 58-70, N/S. Hollister #77374

HOP TO HEAR FROM YOU
 SF, 39, mother, kind-hearted, easygoing, soft-spoken, likes camping, fishing, family times. Looking to meet a light-hearted, child-friendly man who wants to share friendship, fun times, and a possible LTR. Burley #277946

SEEKING COMPANION
 DF, 40, 5'2", brown/blue, great smile. Enjoys fishing, slow dancing, romantic evenings and more. Looking for a SM, 38-45, who has a relaxed attitude with the Lord, stable, funny and outgoing. Burley #277925

HARD TO FIND A GOOD ONE?
 Independent SWF, 28, N/S, hard-working, mother of two, fun loving, likes to dance, ride dirt bikes, try new things. Seeking a real SWM, 28-40, for dating, maybe more. Greenwood #648845 @ CROWK27

SINGLE MOM
 WF, 19, 5'6", black/blue, with an daughter, good cook, enjoys anything fun with the right person. Looking for WM, 18-25, to have fun with. Hollister #2559300

SLEEPS IN TWIN FALLS
 SWF, 40, seeks educated, athletic, intelligent, kind, humorous, emotionally/financially secure gentleman for LTR. Must be communicative, enjoy outdoors, horses, dogs, animals, family life. Kimberly #260711

LET'S HANG OUT!
 SWF, 38, homebody ready for a change. I am looking for somebody to hang out with and just have a good time. If your interested, contact me! Twin Falls #283033

I WANT TO LIVE, LAUGH...
 and love again. WF, 34, mother of two boys, loves the outdoors, long conversations, cuddling and more. Looking for an understanding, honest, good man, 34-45. Finley #283542 @ Kamstar

HOP TO HEAR FROM YOU
 SF, 21, 5'2", short brown dark brown 160lbs, looking for someone child-friendly, outgoing, honest man to share a friendship, fun and maybe more. Hollister #274280

ARE YOU THE ONE?
 SF, 27, 5'8", Leo, smoker, blonde/hazel, seeks man, 19-30, smoker, who really needs a friend. Hollister #282003

SEEMS FUN AND MORE
 SWF, 51, outdoors-type, likes dining out, dancing, laughing. Seeking a nice guy, 45-60, for romance, fun, maybe LTR. Albion #210168 @ DeFWyhoopi

CHRISTIAN LADY
 Very fit SWF, N/S, loves working out, the Lord, going to Mass on Sundays, nature, animals. Would like to meet an even-tempered gentleman, 55-63, who enjoys similar things. Hollister #839733

SEEKING SPECIAL SOMEONE
 I'm looking for that special person to be with me. I like the outdoors and someone to cuddle up with. Someone who isn't shy, likes to go dancing and movies. Hollister #263736 @ casu781

SEEKING GOOD FRIEND
 Attractive SF, 49, 5'4", 130lbs. Cancer, likes dancing, seeking open, honest SM, 45-55, to befriend and develop a relationship. #282857

NEEDS SOME SUGAR
 SWF, 48, loves walks, plants, hot tubbing, cuddling on the couch, seeking SWM, 38-54. Hollister #244241 @ SemiButte

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

HOW ABOUT ME?
 SWM, 62, hard-working, loves the outdoors, horseback riding, wheeling, snowmobiling, occasional nights out. Seeking happy, single lady who loves animals and the great outdoors. friendship/relationship. Murtaugh #743399

I'VE BEEN LOOKING
 SM, 39, athletic, enjoys sports. Looking for an older BW that keeps herself up. Gooding #273680

WORTH IT!
 SWM, 28, 6'2", shaved head, red goatee, 225lbs, very athletic, enjoys metal and rock music, snowboarding. Looking for an outgoing girl who wants to have fun. Hollister #274113

NEW TO THE DATING SCENE
 SWM, 35, very real person, enjoys the outdoors, horse riding, hunting, skiing, seeking honest SF, 23-45, to love and cherish. Hollister #267457 @ Jetmet2005

ONE WOMAN MAN
 SWM, 58, 5'6", 150lbs, clean-cut, N/S, easygoing, hardworking, likes movies, dancing. Country music, outdoors, camping. Seeking fun SWF, 48-58, stander, for friendship maybe more. #2651957

LOOKING!
 SWM, 53, kid-at-heart, laid-back enjoys drives in the mountains, thunder storms, fishing, hunting, gardening, slow dancing. W Seeking SF, 40-55, N/S, to share my interests together. Rogerson #240338 @ why

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
 SWM, 53, with various interests. ISO SF 22-35, to share casual dates, good times and just get to know. Possible LTR. Applinton #251521

WORTH YOUR CALL
 Employed SM, 39, 5'8", 165lbs, brown/hazel, Leo, secure, social, likes camping, fishing, road trips, cuddling, dining, movies, sports, NASCAR. Seeking outgoing, spontaneous SF, 25-40, similar interests. Hollister #234722

MAKE ME YOURS
 SWM, 27, outdoors-type, likes dinners, movies. I just got back from Iraq. Looking to meet a nice SWF, 18-27, to have fun and live life to the fullest. Hollister #283243 @ aftershoebob

DO YOU LOVE JESUS?
 SWM, 24, devout conservative, sincere, sensitive, empathetic, N/S, N/D. Enjoys going to movies, candlelight dinners, and more. ISO SWF, 24-34, any race, honest, dependable, church-going, has personal relationship with the Lord. Hollister #282582 @ JesusFanatic

SEEKS PRETTY CF
 WM, 52, 6'4", weightlifter, enjoys hunting, fishing, outdoors, church, animals, cruising in my muscle car. Seeking pretty Christian lady, 30-50. Twin Falls #265699

LET'S HANG OUT
 SWM, 20, looking for SF, 18-24, who enjoys walks, afroreading, snowboarding, video games, dancing, eating out, and trying new things! Hollister #247697 @ skull665

A GOOD MAN STILL EXISTS
 SM, 32, hard-working, active, enjoys family times, golf, stock car racing, shopping, simple times. Seeking single, friendly woman who knows how to enjoy life. Fairfield #742631 @ skull665

TIRED OF GAMES, ETC?
 SWM, 39, very romantic, like to cuddle and give massages, do not like, cheat, or play games. I enjoy the outdoors, listening/playing music, going out. Seeking SF, 18-45, friendly woman who knows how to enjoy life. Fairfield #742631 @ skull665

MAYBE IT'S YOU
 Easygoing good-hearted, affectionate SM, 28, 5'7", long brown/brown, nice smile, 170lbs, likes fitness, camping, fishing. Seeking kind, open-minded, loving SF with like interests. Burley #2767693

LET'S TALK
 SM, 21, 5'10", 210lbs, out going, fun, works construction, likes dining, walks, camping, more. ISO active SF who enjoys the same. Hollister #280445

BURLEY MAN
 SHM, 21, Leo, N/S, loves to fish, camp, and play video games. Seeking an attractive woman, 18-25, to have fun with. Burley #254545

LOOKING TOO
 SWM, 52, enjoys golf, movies, gardening, getting lost and finding the way home, seeks SF, 35-55, to get to know each other. Paul #278269 @ Heibel

ARE YOU THE ONE
 SM, 18, laid back who enjoys the outdoors looking for someone who shares the same interests. please call . . . Hollister #273733

DISO HONEST RELATIONSHIP
 SM, 39, 5'7", 150lbs, black/brown, enjoys fishing, taking walks, dancing, etc. Looking for SF, 18-30, for a LTR, nice girl. Cottrell #285647

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
 WM, 45, black/green, likes movies, theater, walks, bowling, dancing, most music and more. Would like to meet a WF, 45+, for possible relationship. Hollister #2858008

ARE YOU DOWN-TO-EARTH?
 HIM, 28, hardworking, looking for an honest, trustworthy woman, 20-35, who likes to go out and have a fun time. Gooding #2860014

ROMANTIC
 SWM, 42, 5'8", enjoys fishing, cuddling, gardening, enjoys drives and more. Looking for someone for their friendship, maybe leading to something more. Applinton #22225

LOVER, NOT A FIGHTER
 SM, 30, like kids but not sure I want them, enjoys sports, outdoors, taking drives, seeking pretty lady, 20-30, to spend time with. Gooding #283290 @ bigstrap-per42003

COME JOIN ME!
 SWM, 61, 170lbs, enjoys camping, bowling, dancing, movies. Seeking female for a friendship, quality time and good conversation. Contact #26124

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
 SWM, 54, enjoys outdoors, hikes, bike riding, exercises, doing about anything. Seeking SF, 47-57, to share same activities. Hollister #247528 @ onotherwego

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE
 SM, 42, electrician, enjoys the outdoors, rope/climbing, time with friends, quality times with a special lady. Who will be that lady? Buhl #2670343

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 Kind-hearted WM, 29, 5'7", 180lbs, brown/brown, likes camping, fishing, snowmobiling, working out, hanging out with friends, more. Looking for an honest, outgoing WF, 18-36. Burley #243866

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN
 Easygoing DWM, 60, 5'7", 140lbs, self-employed, N/S, likes camping, fishing, traveling, going out. Seeking active SWF, 40-60, N/S, looks unimpaired, must be honest, caring and true. Friendship first, maybe LTR. Twin Falls #261644

HOP TO HEAR FROM YOU
 SM, 50, enjoys the outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping. Seeking SF, N/D, who enjoys the same, for talks, dates, friendship and more. Hollister #25949

MAKE IT HAPPEN
 SWM, 21, 5'11", average build, Sagittarius, N/S, seeks WF, 18-30, N/S, just a friend. CF #276392

SEEKING COMPANION
 SHM, 28, single father of two. Seeking single female 25-35, who is honest, truthful and likes to have fun. Hollister #285493

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7	6	3	8	1	9	4	2	5
9	2	1	3	4	5	7	8	6
6	3	9	4	5	8	2	1	7
1	7	4	6	2	3	9	5	8
8	5	2	1	9	7	6	4	3
2	8	5	9	3	6	1	7	4
4	9	6	5	7	1	8	3	2
3	1	7	2	8	4	5	6	9

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 When Junior helped Dad cut the grass, it was —

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HONDA '01 Accord EX

4 door, silver, automatic, cloth with moon roof. Nice car for only \$12,950

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CHEVY '05 Impala,

CD player, power drivers seat, PW, PL, cruise, AC and lift steering, exc. cond., \$11,000. 40K miles, 734-4319.

CHRYSLER '99 LHS

4 door, gold, heated leather, moon roof, chrome, power windows. Buy! \$8995

PRACTICAL CAR SALES

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JEEP '89 Cherokee

4x4, 4.0 liter, 6 cylinder, auto, super clean, #12628 Only \$43,995

MERCURY '03 Mountaineer Premier,

exc. cond., \$21,500. Call 208-731-3184

1010 Autos

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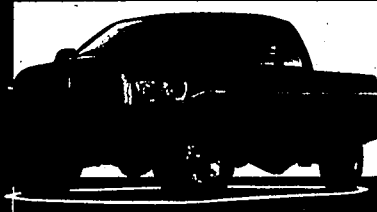
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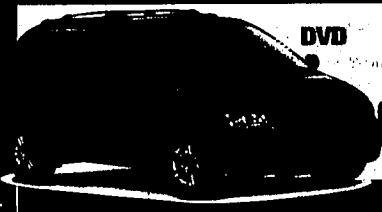
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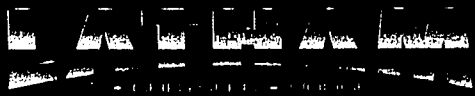
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OPEN
'TIL
7pm

Sleeping with babies by the book

Ever since I was little, I've been a reader. We're talking a flashlight-under-the-blanket, teething-through-new-books-in-one-sitting (even if we were supposed to read them a chapter at a time for school), obsessive kind of reader.

When I became pregnant, of course I found every book I could on the subject. Some I took out from the library, some I read in the bookstore (I tell myself that they want you to do that. Why else would they have all those nice couches?), and a select few I purchased to use as references at home. My favorite book was a week-by-week guide about everything that was happening with my body and the baby. I read this book religiously and was impressed at how accurately it described what I was going through. Naturally, I assumed that baby books must be just as helpful.



So, near the end of my pregnancy, I started the whole process again with baby books. I gathered information online and made a few careful selections. I chose books that seemed to agree with the style of parenting that we wanted to use for our son. Before the baby even arrived, I was already an expert mama.

What? You don't believe me? That's OK, I'm lying. Besides the relatively obvious stuff like "never shake the baby," I found that baby book authors don't really have any idea what they're talking about. The best advice I've come across so far was something like, "Use your common sense and go with your mother's intuition. It's there. Learn to listen to it and trust it."

For example, before Ben was born, I did a lot of research on sleeping arrangements. We bought a crib for him to use when he's older, and a bassinet to place next to our bed for the first few months.

Now, picture our first night home with the baby. I fed him, and his papa changes his diaper. We dress him in some cute, cuddly pajamas and kiss his little nose. We gently place the quiet, sleeping baby into his bassinet—OOO-WAHHHHHHH! (That spelling doesn't even come close to the sound of his shrieking, so you'll just have to imagine, OK?) Repeat steps of holding and calming baby. Place sleeping baby in bassinet. Crying ensues.

Uh-oh. So really, what happened next wasn't a well-researched "decision" at all. One minute I'm holding the baby in my arms, trying to figure out how anyone is going to get any sleep around here when we can't put the baby to bed, and all of a sudden he's crying to be fed again. The clock says 2 a.m. Did I just sleep three hours with a baby in my arms? I'mmm. We appear to have lived through it. In fact, I actually feel pretty peaceful.

So the next day, I look up co-sleeping in my trusty books. One camp says not to do it, fearing that it increases the risk of SIDS. Other people advocate it, saying it actually reduces the risk of SIDS. Well, that was helpful. Really, it doesn't matter what the books say. It's what you're doing. Otherwise no one would get any sleep.

After I mentioned this column to a few friends and relatives, I got the "helpful" advice started pouring in. "Careful, I've heard horror stories about kids who are 5 or 6 years old and still sleeping with their parents."

OK. Here's the thing. Co-sleeping is like breast-feeding. Just because you dook wean your kindergartner doing it is no reason to withhold it from a newborn. Good parents wean their children from babyish things when the appropriate time comes. I'm sure we'll figure it out when we get there.

Maybe there's a book about it. *New mama Suzanne DeSelms sleeps for only two to three hours at a time these days, but at least she's sleeping. She's trying not to think about what's going to happen when she has to go back to work.*

4.4 MILLION

Number of confirmed pregnancies in the United States annually.

900,000

Number of pregnancy losses in the United States every year.

500,000

U.S. pregnancies each year that end in miscarriage.

26,000

Pregnancies each year that end in stillbirth.

19,000

Babies who die during the first month of life.

39,000

Babies who die during the first year of life.

75

Percentage of miscarriages that occur during the first trimester of pregnancy.

80

Percentage of miscarriages that are one-time events for the mother.

Source: March of Dimes

Sometimes, you cry



Carol Howells of Twin Falls holds a poem that was read to her at a perinatal bereavement support group. Howells suffered a miscarriage six years ago but says she still wants to be a mother — whether biologically or through adoption.

There's no getting over the death of a baby who never really lived

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — He turns up in his mother's workaday consciousness whenever Carol Howells sees a happy 6-year-old, or when Thanksgiving shades into Christmas, or when the anniversary of what would have been another birthday rolls around.

Although Howells calls him "he," she doesn't know for sure whether her child — miscarried when she was 39 and seven weeks pregnant — was a boy or a girl.

With one exception, nobody in the medical community who treated her in California in 1999 was especially unkind, and Howells' friends were not at all unhelpful.

It's just that they didn't get it. Still don't.

It's as if — to the rest of the world — that baby never was, or that Howells' miscarriage is some dimly recalled ancient misfortune.

"But a day doesn't go by when I don't think of him," said How-

ells, who has no other children. "He deserves to be remembered."

And therein lies the real agony of miscarriage and of its heart-shredding cousins, stillbirth and early infant death.

"There's a kernel of popcorn stuck in my heart that will never go away," said Bobbi Parrott, 38, a Twin Falls mother of four whose son lived less than a day with a congenital heart defect before his death in 1994. "His name is Riley."

"His name is Riley."

The worst advice
Riley Todd Parrott would have been a sixth-grader now, living a small-town Idaho life full of sports, video games, the outdoors and family.

His baby pictures still hang in the Parrott home, between the photos of his older and younger siblings. They're displayed in the homes of his grandparents, as well.

"The worst advice I got after Riley died was to 'Cowboy up' and 'Get over it,'" Bobbi Parrott said. "I couldn't do it. And I'm

glad I didn't try."
Riley died at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise, which at the time was just developing a system aimed at parents who had lost unborn or newborn babies.

"We held him for three hours after he was gone, and we told him all the things we wanted to tell him," said Parrott, who kept the handmade booties, hat, nightgown and receiving blankets in which Riley was clothed at St. Luke's.

"When a baby passes away early in life, moms and dads don't get a whole lot."

The Parrotts also were given a disposable camera with which to take pictures of Riley, and nurses snipped locks of his hair. They also suggested the Parrotts examine Riley carefully — all things they wouldn't have thought to do.

After meeting Julie Winter, a registered nurse at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center with similar interests, Parrott became a volunteer on-call grief counselor and, with Winter, ran

Please see **BABY**, Page E2

Where to find help

- **Bobbi Parrott**, volunteer baby bereavement counselor for parents, Twin Falls (733-1456).
- **Julie Winter**, maternal child bereavement volunteer support group, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center (733-8356).
- **The Hygala Foundation Inc.**, a Institute for Perinatal Loss and Bereavement, a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to comfort those who grieve the loss of a pregnancy or newborn child (from all causes — e.g., miscarriage, stillbirth, genetic disorders), www.hygala.org or (800) 893-9193.

“
Would you know
my name
If I saw you in
heaven?
Would you feel
the same
If I saw you in
heaven?
I must be strong
and carry on
'cause I know
I don't belong
here in heaven.

— Eric Clapton,
Tears in Heaven

”

FAMILY LIFE

Twin Falls Senior Center

530 Shoshone St. W.
Dinner served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3.50 for seniors. Cost is \$5 for people under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.
Pool room open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lounge room available for television, puzzles and reading. Bargain Center open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Menus:
Monday: Swiss steak, potatoes and gravy, spinach, bread, green salad, fruit, lemon bar.
Tuesday: Veal parmigian with noodles, mixed vegetables, green salad, bread, fruit pie.
Wednesday: Fried chicken, potatoes, gravy, green beans, bread, fruit salad, pudding.
Thursday: Beef goulash, mixed vegetables, bread, Jell-O salad, fruit, cookie.
Friday: Barbecue chicken, fried potatoes, baked beans, salad, bread, cobbler.

Activities:
Today: Magic Valley Bridge Club
Monday: Quilting Monday Bridge Exercise
Tuesday: Ticket Tuesday Blood pressure Medicare D assistance Wednesday: Elks Cards Quilting Exercise class Jerome trip, 3 p.m.
Thursday: Medicare D assistance

Center pinocle
Friday: Blood pressure Lunch bingo Exercise Quilting Neighbor cards Saturday: Super bingo

West End Senior Citizens Inc.

1010 Main St., Buhl
Menus:
Today: Pork roast dinner, 1 p.m.
Monday: Soup and sandwich Tuesday: Spaghetti, green salad, green beans, bread sticks, dessert
Wednesday: Polish sausage and sauerkraut, parished potatoes, green salad, appleauce, bread, cookie
Thursday: Barbecue chicken wings, potatoes, salad, roll, fruited Jell-O, dessert

Activities:
Today: Buffet, 1 p.m.; \$4 for seniors; \$5 for people under age

Baby

Continued from E1
a support group for a time.
"The most important thing that a parent who has lost a baby needs is to talk to someone," Parrott said. "That's the first thing they need to do. And that's exactly what we do."
"People don't know what to say to a mother who has lost a baby," Howells said. "And sometimes they say the wrong thing."

Why babies die

What no one who has never experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant death can understand is the sheer, terrifying, gut-wrenching, why-me nature of the experience, Howells and Parrott say.
"I went to the doctor (shortly) before I had the miscarriage, and was told everything was looking good," Howells said. "I remember when I walked out of the doctor's office the sun was shining, and I was feeling happy."
Parrott experienced a similar shock.
"We went within a period of less than 24 hours from hearing that we had a son to the doctor at St. Luke's telling us that he might be able to keep Riley alive through the night if the chest connections," Parrott said.

The veins leading to Riley's heart were too small—a defect that ultrasound could not detect and that Parrott's obstetrician was unable to diagnose.
"The first thought that pops into your head is, 'What did I do wrong?'"
"It's a scary world. Even in technology-rich America, many babies die before or shortly after birth, according to the March of Dimes. And doctors can't do much to change that.
Half a million pregnancies each year end during the first 20 weeks, which is the clinical definition of miscarriage. Twenty-five thousand more end in stillbirth, defined as death after 20 weeks.
And an additional 19,000 babies do not live a month after birth.
"The pall of grief does not discriminate," said Dr. Michael

60 and \$3 for those age 12 and younger:

Monday: Evening cards, 6 to 9 p.m.
Exercise, 10 a.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Thursday: Blood pressure check, 11:45 a.m.

Filer Senior Haven

222 Main St.
Dinners served at noon Tuesdays and Thursdays. Suggested donation \$3 for seniors. Home-delivered meals available each mealtime.
Menus:
Tuesday: Spaghetti, green beans, cole salad, french bread, mixed fruit
Wednesday: Baked meatloaf, creamed potatoes, spinach, lettuce, ice cream
Thursday: Sliced turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, butter beans, hot roll, raisin rice pudding
Friday: Oven fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, salad, rice pudding

Activities:
Monday: Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m. Cards, 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.
Face class, 1:30 p.m.
Thursday: Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m.
Life Flight, noon
Surgery, 1 p.m.
Friday: Face class, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday: Centennial potato bar, 4 to 9 p.m.

Jerome Senior Center

212 First Ave. E.
All dinners served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3.50.

Menus:
Monday: Sweet and sour chicken over rice, oriental vegetables, fruit, cookies
Tuesday: Macaroni and cheese with hamburger, broccoli, Jell-O with fruit, pudding
Wednesday: Roast turkey, potatoes and gravy, carrots and peas, green salad, apple crisp
Thursday: Pepper steak over potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, custard
Friday: Lasagna, green beans, scalloped potatoes, green salad, raisin squares, garlic bread

Activities:
Tuesday: Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Snack bar, 6 p.m.
Early Bird, 6:45 p.m.
Bingo, 7 a.m.
Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Foot clinic Blood pressure

Friday Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Gem State Fiddlers, 11:30 a.m.

Agelos Senior Citizens Inc.

310 Main St. N., Kimberly
Milk, coffee, juice and tea served.
Menus:
Today: Ham, potatoes and gravy, Jell-O salad, creamed peas, dessert
Monday: Cook's choice
Wednesday: Ham and beans, cornbread, salad, peach cobbler
Friday: Oven fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, salad, rice pudding

Activities:
Monday: AA meeting, 8 p.m.
Tuesday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: NA meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Bingo, 11:50 a.m.
Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Foot clinic, 10 a.m. to noon

Gooding County Senior Citizens

308 Senior Ave.
All dinners are at noon. Suggested donation \$3 for seniors.

Menus:
Monday: Pepper steak, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad, dessert, bread
Tuesday: Spaghetti, mixed vegetables, Jell-O salad, pears, garlic bread
Wednesday: Roast turkey, potato and gravy, peas, cranberries, fruit, bread
Thursday: Roast pork, potatoes and gravy, carrots, salad, custard, cake
Friday: Leftovers

Activities:
Monday: Pinochle, 12:30 p.m.
Pool, 8:30 a.m.
Wild One, 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Hand and foot, 6 p.m.
Pool, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Shuffleboard, 6 p.m.
Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Quilt social, 9 a.m.
Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m.
TOPS, 4 p.m.
Pinocle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Bridge, 1 p.m.
Bowling, 1:30 p.m.
Bingo, 6 p.m.

Hageman Senior Center

140 E. Lake

Open 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday:

lunch is served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors; \$4 for other adults; and \$2 for children under 12.

Menus:

Monday: Roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, salad, fruit, bread, dessert
Wednesday: Spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, salad, fruit, garlic bread, dessert
Friday: Chicken Malibu, vegetable salad, fruit, bread, lemon pie

Silver and Gold Senior Center

Eden
Suggested donation for seniors is \$3. All meals include salad, dessert, fruit, milk and coffee. Tuesdays are cookie and bread bake days, and Wednesdays are cinnamon roll and maple bar bake days.

Menus:
Tuesday: Creamed chicken, mashed potatoes, peas, coleslaw, fruit, dessert
Thursday: Sausage patty, hash browns, squash, salad, fruit
Activities:
Wednesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.
Saturday: Pancake breakfast, 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Golden Years Senior Citizen Inc.

218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone
Orange juice, milk and coffee served daily.

Menus:
Tuesday: Sausage gravy and biscuits, California mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes, gingerbread
Wednesday: Chicken noodle soup, ham and chicken, wild rice, Jell-O, vegetable salad, pudding pie
Friday: Salmon steaks, fried potatoes, five-way mixed vegetables, coleslaw, cookies, chocolate pudding

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 9 a.m.
Coffee, 9:30 a.m.
Quilting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Pinocle, 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Snack bar, 6:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Friday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Richfield Senior Center

Orange juice, milk and coffee served daily.

Monday: Meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, green beans, fruit cocktail, cookies, hot dinner roll.

Thursday: Split pea soup, egg salad sandwich, fries, apple pie

Blaine County Senior Center

721 Third Ave. S., Halley

Menus:
Tuesday: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, green beans, roll, pineapple upside-down cake
Wednesday: Beef stew, biscuits, mixed fresh fruit, cold brownies
Friday: Oven fried chicken, biscuits, mashed potatoes with gravy, carrot raisin salad, corn, cherry pie with ice cream

Activities:
Monday: Shopping in Twin Falls, 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m.
Exercise, 1:15 p.m.
Wednesday: Red Hatters, 11 a.m.
Thursday: Exercise, 1:30 p.m.
Friday: Fullann from Family Connection talks, 12:30 p.m.

Three Island Senior Center

492 E. Cleveland Ave., Glenns Ferry

Meals served at noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; beverages with meals. Bikes are available by phoning the center at 366-2051. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors, \$5 for people under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Menus:
Monday: Liver and onions or chicken fried steak, potatoes, mixed vegetables, cookie, bread
Tuesday: Polish sausage, sauerkraut, steamed carrots, three-bean salad
Thursday: Meatloaf and gravy, mashed potatoes, winter mix vegetables, pudding, bread

Activities:
Tuesday: Business meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Friday: TOPS, 9 a.m.
Saturday: Pancake breakfast, 7:30 to 10 a.m.

Camas County Senior Center

127 E. Willow, Fairfield
Noon meals are served Tues-

days, Wednesdays and Fridays. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on meal days. Cost of the meal is \$3.50; children under 10 pay \$2. The suggested donation for those 60 years and older is \$2.50.

Menus:

Thursday: Chicken pretzels, potato salad, vegetables, fruit, dessert
Wednesday: Ham casserole, vegetables, fruit, muffins, dessert
Friday: Sloppy Joes, cottage cheese, vegetables, fruit, dessert

Activities:
Monday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
Tuesday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
Wednesday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
Board meeting, 7 p.m.
Thursday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
At class, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Friday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.

Saturday: Fundraising breakfast, 7:30 to 10 a.m.; pancakes, sausage panics, fruit, coffee, juice

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center

702 11th St., Rupert
Meals are served at noon and home delivered upon request. Being and assorted beverages are served every day with meals. Gift shop hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Menus:
Monday: Chicken, cornbread, salad, sherbet
Tuesday: Chicken nuggets, fries, corn, macaroni salad, cheeseecake
Wednesday: Potato bar, broccoli, fruit salad, pudding
Thursday: Pizza, salad, apple crisp
Friday: Smorgasbord

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Pinocle, 1 to 4 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Pinocle, 1 to 4 p.m.
Pool, 1 p.m.
Blood pressure, 10 a.m. to noon
Thursday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
SHIBA, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: Bingo, 7 p.m.
Pool, 1 p.m.
Pinocle, 1 to 4 p.m.

A WALK TO REMEMBER

This poem is used in perinatal bereavement support group meetings:

"I walk to remember the steps you'll never take,
"I carry you with me as I firmly plant my feet."
"Our trek started long ago before my belly swelled.
"You were a love that grew like a butterfly wings that flutter.
"You were gentle flutters then became kicks upon which I would dwell."
"And I would talk to you, sweet babe, about the world you would soon meet."
"The sun always shone upon us then, when you were in my womb."
"And I was eager to show you the world that would have been your home."
"How you'd have loved to see the sun shining, blue skies without a cloud."
— Kathia Mayo, 1988

Berman, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Yale University Law School who established FetalTribute, a Web site dedicated to helping parents cope with the loss of an unborn or newly born child. Berman guesses that one American pregnancy in four ends in death.
"One in four. Put together, those tragedies annually affect one-fifth of American adults. That's 42 million people."
Some causes, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, are known. But doctors often can pinpoint why a pregnancy is lost well into the second trimester. In more than half of stillbirths, the pregnancy has advanced to 28 weeks or longer, and about 5,000 stillbirths each year involve full-term fetuses.
"While the numbers are surprising, they may not truly rep-

Something to hold on to

Most stillbirths happen before labor begins.
Sometimes, the pregnant woman will notice that the fetus has stopped moving or kicking. An ultrasound is then usually performed to confirm that the fetus has died. The death can also be discovered during a checkup when the doctor can't detect a heartbeat.
After the death is confirmed, parents face the difficult decision to wait for labor to begin—usually within two weeks of fetal death—or to induce it.
In the case of miscarriage, a surgical procedure called a dilatation and curettage is sometimes performed. Medically, it's not an especially risky procedure, but it underscores clinically—and bluntly—to the mother the tragedy she's recently experienced.
"Losing a child is bad enough," Parrott said. "But there's so much to remind you, over and over again, of what you've lost."
Parents who have lost a child to stillbirth or early infant death always need comforting, but sometimes they need something more tangible—such as plaster impressions of the dead child's palms or locks of hair.
Five years ago, a Burya schoolteacher named Deanna Merrell made a small group to make and collect baby blankets to wrap around stillborn and miscarried infants. Money for materials mostly came out of Merrell's pocket and from her family members and friends.
"None of us has ever lost a

baby, so it's not that," she said in a 2001 Times-News interview. "It's just that we can see the need. It's still that parent's child, and the mom is still the mom. As moms we still have clothes and blankets we'll probably never get rid of, but these moms don't have that."
The blankets went to hospitals, which distributed them to grieving parents.

Each blanket came with a card clipped to it. There was a cutout of a tiny angel and a message to read, "During this difficult time you may feel God's loving arms around you."
"You'll never know unless you've experienced it how important it is to have something of the child to hold on to," Parrott said.

Ready to begin anew

Howells eventually moved from California to Connecticut and began a new relationship, but she and her partner could not agree about whether to try to have another child.
"I've never forgotten the miscarriage or the child I lost," she said. "But I'm ready to make a new beginning."
Parrott and her husband, Eric, set up an endowment through the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Foundation to help ensure that nurses in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit have enough training and equipment to help save other infants. Most of the annual interest from that fund goes toward paying for education and buying equipment.
The endowment contains about \$20,000 now, and donations are welcome.

But the most valuable thing that Bobbi Parrott can contribute, she's convinced, is just listening.
"If another wants to call me in the morning and talk about the child she's just lost, I'll be there for as long as she wants me to be," she said. "I can't get my son back, but I can listen to someone who's going through the same thing."

Times-News writer Steve Crump can be reached at 735-2223 or write to him at scrump@magicvalley.com.

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Husband's porn secrets show deeper problem

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for seven years. I was looking for a document on my computer recently and found some pornography my husband had downloaded. What was most shocking was that he had done some computer artwork on some of it, and superimposed my 15-year-old niece's face onto the girl in the picture. I then went through my husband's things and found a tape from our camcorder. He had hidden it in our bedroom and tried to videotape me after I had gotten out of the shower. I was not surprised.

I had caught him trying to tape us having sex without my knowing last year.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

I no longer feel comfortable with him physically, and I don't care if we get divorced. I don't know if I can ever trust him again. Is my husband a pervert with a serious problem?

We have a son who is almost 4. Is divorce easier when the children are smaller, since they won't remember as much? Please help me. I just don't know what to do.

GROSSED OUT IN GREAT FALLS
DEAR GROSSED OUT: Your husband has serious problems. By substituting your niece's face for that of the girl in the picture, he has shown that he has an incestuous interest in a minor. And by attempting to videotape you during intimate moments without your consent, he has shown that he has no respect for your feelings. If he refuses to get professional help, show the picture to the parents of your children.

Divorce is never easy on children, but your son will accept it more easily if you do it now rather than when he is older and expects you to explain the reason in logical terms.

DEAR ABBY: I have six good friends who live together. When they answer the phone, I never know who I'm talking to. I always say, "This is Vanessa," but they never reply by volunteering their names.

It is reasonable to expect them to identify themselves; I have considered asking them to, but never have. I'm not sure it would be presumptuous or not.

CONFUSED IN COLUMBIA, MO.
DEAR CONFUSED: When you identify your phone, I never think that the response would be, "Oh, hi, Vanessa! It's Julie." How are you? However, since that's not the response you're getting, it's certainly not presumptuous to ask, "... and who is this?" Or "With whom am I having the pleasure?" That's what I'd do.

DEAR ABBY: My father lives in another state and drove here to see our new baby girl. He saw her while she was in the nursery at the hospital.

When I returned home from the hospital, my father wanted to come over immediately. I was very tired, and when I suggested that his wife and her son not come along, he refused to come.

Abby, their boy screams and is out of control most of the time, and I didn't want him disrupting my two other children.

Was I wrong to ask that it not be my dad? It has been eight months since he has been down here, and I don't know what to do. Should I apologize?

FRAZZLED IN NORTH CAROLINA
DEAR FRAZZLED: It couldn't hurt to offer an apology. Your father considers his wife and nephew to be part of your family, too, and probably didn't recognize how disruptive this child can be.

In the interests of family harmony, and before this festers any further, pick up the phone and call.

CONFIDENTIAL TO "WANTS TO GET EVEN" IN ROANOKE: Violence is not the answer, nor any kind of retaliation. To quote Nelson Mandela: "The measure is the most powerful weapon. You can use it to change the world."

THE UNCONQUERED TWIN

By Eric Grazier
Knight Ridder News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — As toddlers, Brett and Cameron Hudson soaked up sights through identical pairs of expressive, green-gold eyes.

They sniffed at their food with identical little crinkled noses, inherited from Mom. Identical smiles brought identical dimples to the centers of their cheeks.

They'd always be mirror images, it seemed.

But 20 years later, as they graduated from UNC Charlotte, they weren't identical anymore.

Cameron stands 6 foot 1 with thick, dark brown hair, a lean, athletic torso and an angular face. Brett is a foot shorter, with a rounder face, wire-rimmed glasses and thinning hair.

Though they remain genetic duplicates, the visual contrast stings for Brett — particularly when girls come around. It's not easy looking at your brother and seeing the man you were supposed to be.

Sometimes, people are surprised to learn the two are brothers. When they say they're identical twins, people do a double take.

"Then," Brett says, "we have to tell the story."

The trouble started in April 1986, just before the boys' second birthday. Maria Hudson, then advertising director for the Charlotte Coliseum Authority, was chiding Brett into his pajamas when she noticed a red rash on her son's arms and chest.

Did you see this, she asked her husband, Byron.

They took Brett to the doctor the next day, figuring it was no big deal.

Doctors ordered tests. The next day, their pediatrician took them into an empty room at Presbyterian Hospital. He laid his hands on Byron's and Maria's shoulders.

I want to pray with you, he said.

Brett had leukemia. It turned out to be acute myelogenous leukemia, a cancer in which the bone marrow makes too many white blood cells. It usually strikes adults, not children.

Brett's chance for surviving was 1 in 5.

He needed a bone marrow transplant. Luckily, Cameron could supply a perfect match.

Brett went through chemotherapy at Presbyterian in Charlotte, N.C. The family also traveled to Minneapolis, where doctors bombarded his 2-year-old body with massive doses of radiation.

It took out his hair, his eyelashes, his eyebrows. It left him pale and thin.

"Hurt," he told his mom.

Hurt, his immune system weakened. Brett had to stay for months in the hospital, where doctors put him in a special plastic-covered crib to protect him from germs. For the first time, he and Cameron were separated.

When his brother visited, Brett usually perked up. They talked in their "twin language" no one else could understand.

The doctors performed the transplant in June 1988, injecting Cameron's bone marrow into Brett's bloodstream.

Then, they waited.

Just before their 14th birthday, Brett and Cameron competed in a chess tournament in Parsippany, N.J.

They were top-rated middle-school players in Virginia, where the family had moved. Cameron was No. 1. Brett was



Twin brothers Cameron, left, and Brett Hudson high-five each other before graduation ceremonies at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte on Dec. 17.



Twin brothers Brett, left, and Cameron pose with a photo of themselves a few months old in Charlotte, N.C., on Dec. 15. Brett has battled leukemia twice while Cameron has been healthy.

ranked No. 2.

The bone marrow transplant from Cameron, a dozen years earlier, had saved Brett's life. He could do just about anything Cameron could do, though he often had to work harder.

The radiation had stunted his growth, leaving him about 5 inches shorter than his twin.

He was legally blind in his right eye. He had metal pins in both hips to support radiation-damaged bones.

They looked like brothers, still, but not identical twins.

Doctors had said that once Brett lived five years without relapsing, the family could consider him cured. Every year they took him for checkups. Every year the doctors said he was fine.

So when Brett's nose bled during his chess match, his father thought little of it, even though he knew unexplained bleeding could be a bad sign.

At Brett's annual checkup a few days later, the doctor pulled Maria aside: The leukemia was back.

The family turned this time to Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Dr. Paul Martin, an associate professor of pediatrics, had never heard of a relapse this far beyond the five-year benchmark.

Brett's chances weren't good.

Less than 5 percent, Martin figured.

In May 1998, Martin took more bone marrow from Cameron and again injected it into Brett's bloodstream.

This time, Brett's kidneys faltered. When the kidneys go, other organs follow. The doctors told Byron and Maria to get their loved ones to the hospital.

The hospital chaplain took Maria's hands in his and said he was sorry.

It was a Sunday. Everyone gathered in a waiting room, thinking that night might be Brett's last.

But Monday came, and Brett still held on. Tuesday came, and they wheeled Brett down from the intensive care unit into his regular room.

Somehow, his kidneys had started functioning again.

A couple of months later, Brett went home.

As different as the twins appear today, they're closer than most brothers. They laugh at each other's jokes. They share a red 1999 Ford Mustang. Both make liberal use of the word "awesome." They share hobbies, just as they did collecting baseball cards and

playing chess.

Now, it's salsa dancing — a good hobby, a visitor notes, for meeting girls.

Brett looks at Cameron. Cameron looks at Brett.

"Daaaaaaa!" they shout, each grinning and pointing an index finger as if he'd just caught the other reading his mind.

It's a twin thing — no different from the made-up language they shared as toddlers. Their dad has seen Cameron and Brett cut up like this for years, and always feels as if he has missed the joke.

It's easy to laugh now. Brett's been cancer-free since the last transplant, but whenever they break out family scrapbooks, the smiles vanish.

Cameron wonders why he didn't get sick. Doctors gave him about a 25 percent chance of developing leukemia, but he never did.

Why Brett?
"Is there something special about me?" Cameron asks. "Or is there something special about him?"

The boys' parents and their minister call Brett's survival a miracle. Martin calls it a mystery, a case that doesn't play by

medical rules.

Brett has once again passed the five-year threshold — a good sign.

But doctors can't promise his leukemia won't return. No one's done what Brett is doing. There's no medical guideposts.

"It's out there on his own," Martin says.

After graduation, the twins' paths will separate.

Cameron will follow his dad into accounting. He's already landed an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and will head to Chicago in January for training.

Brett majored in political science, but hasn't landed a job yet. He's hoping for a position in sales management.

Getting started is proving harder for Brett than Cameron. That's the way it always been. That's the way Martin said it would be.

But Brett remembers something else the doctor told him after the second transplant: Your life will be harder, but it will be more meaningful, too.

"Brett didn't understand back then. He thought, Yeah, right. You'll be driving off in your BMW after this. What do you know?"

But now it makes sense. He realizes every day is a gift. No one's guaranteed to make it to 80, or 40, or even to tomorrow.

He has parents who've done more for him than he can ever repay. He has a brother he can tell anything to. And he just graduated from college.

Brett Hudson is becoming the man he was destined to be. And he's convinced he'll never again need to plan his future in five-year segments.

Come 2010, there's only one thing he's concerned about having: "A job!" he says.

Brett looks at Cameron. Cameron looks at Brett.

"Daaaaaaa!" they exchange a high-five.

Genetics made them identical. Fate made them different.

SINUSITIS or COLD?

Because the symptoms of sinusitis sometimes mimic those of colds, you may not realize that you need to see a Sinus Specialist. If you suspect that you have sinusitis, review these signs and symptoms. If you suffer from three or more symptoms, Sinus Center-Idaho can help!

SYMPTOM	SINUSITIS	COLD
Facial pressure/pain	Yes	Sometimes
Duration of illness	Over 10-14 days	Under 10 days
Nasal Discharge	Thick, yellow green	Thin, whitish or thin
Fever	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes
Pain in upper teeth	Sometimes	No
Bad Breath	Sometimes	No
Coughing	Sometimes	Yes
Nasal Congestion	Yes	Yes
Sneezing	No	Yes



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by Laura Fitzgerald
Re/Max American Dream Realty

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FAMILY LIFE

Buy things of beauty, Cancer

IF JAN. 8 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, you could catch the tail of "Beautiful Dreamer" in the year to come. Gentle, mystical Neptune dances in tandem with your spot on the cosmic map for a prolonged period and under its influence you may become more intuitive and less competitive. Celestial favors may be granted, so on the eve of June 12, early July, so keep an eye out for helpful opportunities and the benevolent actions of others. That is the time to start a new project or set personal plans in motion for the best success. You may yo-yo between pessimism and optimism in September and October. Avoid burdening yourself with extra debt in September or starting new jobs but wait until October when celestial lights turn green.

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Relationships can attain several heights, so do your best to please a significant other. Don't jump the gun with career matters this week, as enthusiasm may be a little kintensive.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The week ahead may challenge your ability to lead others or assert your rights. But someone may be a catalyst under your spell this weekend and give you plenty of things to dream about.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): This is the wisest counselor, so exercise patience with others in the week ahead and avoid being goaded into a rushed decision. Romantic twosomes can produce beautiful duets today.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Rest on your laurels. Buy things of beauty. A bustle in your hair doesn't mean you must act this week. You may not be aware of all the details — or crucial information might not be available.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Just take it easy. Where love is concerned, you can count on finding someone to stick with you through thick and thin. Don't wait far to get away to entertain yourself or others this week.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pure and tranquility reign supreme, especially if you are significant someone. New actions taken in the week ahead could be flawed by poor planning or a hasty decision — but romance still flourishes.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Where romance is concerned you have stars in your eyes that give you look for love in all the right places. Others find you more attractive than usual, so make first impressions count.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the week ahead, you may show tactics can cause you to waste precious energy. It is easy to get into the mood for love tonight to seek out a favorite partner for private bliss.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In this harmonious atmosphere it is best to blend in with the scenery and emphasize compatibility. In the week to come you can cause conflict if you leap before you look.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Buy pretties to delight the soul and warm the heart. Mutual intuitiveness can cast a mystical spell over an affair. Fight off the urge to stir up career matters this week.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's a poor week in which to launch new projects as energies could get scattered. But today is a perfect time to let love run its natural course while emphasis is placed on spiritual harmony.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): If it isn't broken, don't fix it. There is a green light ahead for total accord with a beloved partner. Immerse yourself in romantic moments but don't attempt to put firm plans into motion this week.

'Behavior modification' is dead-end discipline

Once upon a time that sort of the living reward member, the discipline of a child was regarded as a relatively simple, straightforward matter that merited neither mental nor emotional strain. In those days, parents understood that for the most part the discipline of a child was accomplished by simply meaning what one said and saying exactly what one meant. If, for example, a parent told a child he could not have a candy bar, then it was necessary that the parent stick to her guns and demonstrate to the child that no amount of persuasion or distress would obtain the candy bar. Furthermore, most folks understood, and intuitively so, that the need to deliver consequences — i.e., to punish — could be minimized (which would be desirable to both parties) if a parent acted like a competent leader, spoke like a competent leader and followed through like a competent leader. In other words, discipline was (and still is) fundamentally a matter of leadership, not punishment-ship.



PARENTING
John
Rosemond

But those understandings cracked before an onslaught of psychological propaganda to the effect that the discipline of a child was no different than the training of a rat — that the same "behavioral" principles that apply to teaching a rat to run a maze also govern teaching a child the dots and dashes of any task or proper behavior. To train the rat to run a maze, one manipulates reward and punishment (i.e., effect behavior modification); therefore, so it is thought, to train a child in the ways of proper behavior, one manipulates reward and punishment.

But of course this is absurd. Animal nature and human nature are not similar in the least. Consider: If a rat comes to a choice point in a maze where if he goes to the right he will be rewarded with a morsel of food, and if he goes to the left he will receive a slight electric shock, the rat will only go to the left two or three times before he will never ever go to the left again. But given a choice between "going to the right" and being rewarded or "going to the left" and being punished, a human may well go to the left over and over and over again. Just to prove that no one has authority over him, rules do not apply to him, and he is immune to discipline. As the rat would eloquently put it, "You're not the boss of me!" Or as the teen puts it, "I don't care what you do to me!"

A man spends 10 years in jail for robbing a convenience store at gunpoint. He is released, and four months later, he is back in jail for robbing a convenience

store at gunpoint.

This is not because "the system failed him," or some such blather. But because he is a toddler at heart. He's no different from the toddler who keeps right on pulling the dog's ears even though his mother puts him in his crib for 10 minutes following every single pull. Does he believe being confined to his crib? No, not any more than the criminal likes being in jail. But in both cases, the narcissist needs to prove that the rules don't apply, that the only authority in the child's/criminal's life is the child/criminal, cancels the effect of the punishment.

Will more punishment prevail over solitary confinement, confinement in the criminal, or a longer prison sentence? Will upping the ante of his punishment convince the toddler? The answer in both cases, is maybe and maybe not. One needs to understand that of all species, only humans are prone to habitually self-destructive behavior.

Because today's parents do not understand that reward does not necessarily strengthen human behavior and punishment does not necessarily weaken it, the discipline of children, once a relatively simple, straightforward matter, has become ubiquitously frustrating and stressful. The solution to this general agony is the simple, old-fashioned, understanding that discipline is a matter of how well one communicates, not how well one manipulates consequences.

Misleading from the reward/punishment equation is recognition of the fact that humans possess free will while rats and dogs and monkeys do not. It is this free will that attempts to discipline children with behavior modification is making monkeys of many American parents and teachers.

Family psychologist John Rosemond answers parents' questions on his Web site at www.rosemond.com.

Having a pet can be a real gas

A pet owner under gas attack from your four-legged best friend? Have you been there, smelled that and wished you hadn't? New York-based physician Dr. Mehmet Oz, who along with Dr. Mehmet Oz (May 20), is the best-selling book "You: The Owner's Manual," broke ground when they educated America on a "normal" appearance about how normal it was for men and, yes, women to break wind. In case you missed their appearance or haven't yet read the book, the recent TV event passes gas about 14 times a day.

Whether gas is produced in humans by beans, beer or boiled cabbage, or in pets by low-quality pet foods or the contents of a railed garbage can, most gas comes courtesy of the fermentation of certain foods by the gazillions of bacteria in the intestine.

In a peer reviewed study, an article published in the 2001 Compendium, veterinarian Phil Roudsberg of Hill's Pet Nutrition reported that "in a pet, the gas (nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen, carbon dioxide and methane) make up 90 of the intestinal gas of both pets and people. The characteristic unpleasant odor arises primarily from trace amounts of volatile sulfur compounds.

For both dogs and cats, excessive swallowing of air is the most common cause of excessive gastrointestinal gas and may be difficult to manage with dietary changes alone. Flatus (passing gas) is most commonly caused by bacterial fermentation in the large colon of the contents of a fiber or poorly digestible protein or foods that contain large amounts of nonabsorbable sugars (soybeans, beans, peas and chickpeas). Roudsberg's study also found that intestinal gas production is also increased by fresh or dried foods contain-



THE
BOND
Barker

ing fructose, resistant starches and fermentable fiber (e.g., apples, grapes, prunes, raisins, bananas). Flatus is also excessive in adult dogs and cats fed common amounts of lactose-containing foods such as cheese, milk or ice cream.

"Flatus is often an objectionable problem for dog owners but is not usually associated with more serious underlying problems," says Roudsberg. If it is a problem, a veterinarian will look at a history of diet change, dietary indiscretion (ate something it wasn't supposed to), specific foods (perhaps a new treat or supplement) or change in feeding or eating (now pet in house caused the pet to eat faster and swallow more air in doing so).

To manage patients with flatulence, veterinarians may take one or more of the following four steps:

1. Control aerophagia (swallowing air) — Feed several small meals daily and discourage rapid or competitive eating, feeding a mixture of moist and dry foods.
2. Decrease substances that cause noxious gas production — Change dietary protein sources; decrease dietary protein levels; eliminate vitamin, mineral or fat supplements; avoid onions, nuts or cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts; or avoid canned pet foods that contain carrageenan.
3. Decrease Intestinal gas production — Feed a highly digestible food; change to foods

with rice as the sole or predominant carbohydrate; avoid foods containing ingredients from legumes; eliminate vitamin, mineral or fat supplements; avoid foods containing lactose and avoid fresh or dried fruits.

4. Increase activity and exercise — This generally results in fewer problems with flatus. Walk dogs outdoors within 30 minutes of meals to encourage defecation and elimination of intestinal gas.

Whereas flatus may just result in guttaws, belching can be a serious matter.

"Belching in dogs should not be discounted as it is a risk factor for canine bloat and should be considered a serious issue in dogs," Roudsberg said. (Bloat that results in torsion of the stomach is a life-threatening, emergency condition in dogs.) "If you have a flinny gas-passer, because cats are small, their farts usually have less olfactory impact on the human family circle," says a 75-pound Labrador retriever. We can summarize flate flatulence by saying it's relatively rare in cats and even more rarely a problem in dogs.

If your cat has excessive gas, it could mean a serious medical problem like inflammatory bowel disease, food sensitivity, pancreatic insufficiency or lactose intolerance and you should have your cat checked by a veterinarian, Roudsberg said.

But whether it is loud or the "silent but deadly" type, passing gas is a normal part of being alive. You can reduce some of it, but for the rest, all you can do is hold your breath and keep your sense of humor.

Write to former Twin Falls veterinarian Mary Becker in care of Knight Rider/Tribune News Service, 700 12th St. N.E. Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005.

'Perfect relationships' are simply full of forgiveness

By Jud Light Hopson, Emma H. Judson and Ted Hagman
Knight Rider News Service

Most of us would like to have a few perfect relationships. Wouldn't that make life easier?

The truth is, however, there aren't any perfect relationships. None.

All relationships, however wonderful, are full of flaws. Even seemingly perfect relationships are simply flawed relationships that are full of forgiveness.

Consider the woman you know who says her husband is perfect. In reality, she's learned to deal with his imperfections. That's why he's perfect.

To work better with the people in your life, consider how you can steer around their flaws.

"My mother talks way too much," says a friend of ours. We'll call her Sandy.

"Mom makes me crazy in traffic," says Sandy. "I've almost wrecked the car listening to her."

We advised Sandy to change something fast. We suggested she play music while she's in the car with her mother. Her mother is a classical musician and music crosses the opportunity for too much chatter.

Sandy says our tip is working. "I listen to Mom when I'm driving. It's like shopping," Sandy reports. "But now, I tell her we'll listen to our favorite music while we're in the car. I usually listen to the music when we're in heavy traffic, so I won't get distracted by her."

If someone you know aggravates you, figure out how you can avoid something.

• Be honest with yourself about a person's flaws. Name the problems and start dealing with them more directly. Decide how you will take control.

• Define workable activities for the relationship. For example, if you have a friend who helps people, if you might see movies with this person, but you might avoid talking long walks with him or her.

• Spend more time with upbeat people. If you have a friendship with someone, you can deal with it more productively if you have positive friends. Your favorite people make the irritating ones easier to tolerate.

• Use to complain a lot about my husband's mother," says a woman we'll call Tisha. "I didn't have any good friends of my own at the time, so I focused on my mother-in-law way too much. This was slick on my part."

Tisha is right. If you don't have anything positive to focus

on — or anyone else to focus on — you're bound to over-focus on rocky relationships.

One psychologist that we'll call Tyler gets this question a lot: "Should I divorce my spouse? My marriage isn't making me happy."

Tyler says he tells people to get their lives in order, so they are having a decent earthly experience without depending too much on a spouse to make them happy.

By focusing on healthy interests, says Tyler, it makes it easier to judge the marriage. You'll tend to over-judge your mate if you're not focused on your own goals.

"I believe people get fed up with their spouses if they aren't happy at work, for example," Tyler explains. "Bad life experiences put stress on your relationships."

Tyler thinks that individuals who know how to plan their lives around healthy activities can tolerate imperfect relationships better.

"We all have aggravating relatives and friends," laughs Tyler. "Doing nothing when we're grounded in life, or when we're joyless, we don't place our own responsibility on other people to make us happy."

Relationships are a large part of happiness. But the truth is, most people we meet will be a royal pain in us at times. That's life. Imperfect people who live under stress and strain make up the population of the world.

"I work a lot on defining how I want my day to go," says a man we'll call Justin. "I don't react to crazy relatives and my old-beat friends, so I don't let them simply see my life as a sitcom — and I try to get a few good laughs out of the people who used to make me angry. I want to be smiling at the end of each day. The weird people actually will provide the laughter, if you let them."

While no one should stay around abusive people or ignore situations requiring a firm confrontation, it helps to expect imperfection in all of the people we know.

• We're means to try to change or correct them. But we can find other means to deal with their imperfections.

In fact, if you spend too much time trying to change other people, you will only change yourself. You will lose the focus you need to accomplish the goals that keep your personal life on track. Instead of helping another person, you will simply find yourself far off course from where you desire to be.

Judi Hopson and Emma Hopson are authors of a stress management book. Ted Hagman is a family psychologist.

Next weekend, watch fiery Stardust

Centuries from now, historians of science might well regard the early years of the 21st century as marking the beginning of a new era of space exploration. This renaissance is distinguished by efforts to study astronomical bodies not simply by observing them from afar or sending space probes to land on their surfaces, but by returning bits of them to Earth for detailed study.

To be fair, the first sample return missions commenced in 1969, with Neil and Buzz's rock-hounding adventures in the Sea of Tranquility.

Five more Apollo missions also returned samples from our nearest neighbor, as did three unmanned Soviet probes. But except for high-altitude aircraft collecting bits of space dust in the upper atmosphere, almost 30 years passed until the next attempt to bring space down to Earth.

Last year's Genesis mission — which spent three years collecting solar wind particles before returning to Earth — ended with parachute malfunction that sent the spacecraft crashing into the Utah desert. Still, determined scientists have successfully extracted minuscule solar particles from the spacecraft's splintered remains.

The next attempt to return space material arrives next weekend. The Stardust mission, launched in February 1999, passed Comet Wild 2 in 2004



SKY
WATCHER
Chris
Anderson

Sky calendar through Saturday

- Planets: One hour before sunrise: Jupiter; SSE, mid-sky Saturn; W, low One hour after sunset: Mars; SE, high Moon: Full moon 2:48 a.m. Saturday, Close to Mars tonight. Close to Saturn late Saturday night/early Sunday morning.

and scooped up some comet dust. Along the way, it also collected Interstellar ("stellar

wind") particles. Now it's coming home.

At 5:55 a.m. next Sunday morning, Stardust will slam into the Earth's atmosphere at a record-breaking 26,600 mph, heading toward the Utah Test and Training Range, about 160 miles to our south-southeast. Magic Valley viewers will see it streak low across the south-western sky from left to right. If the streaks, it will outshine everything in the sky except the nearly full moon, high overhead. The whole show will be over in less than two minutes.

For the rest, the probe will parachute safely to the ground with its precious extraterrestrial payload.

Next week: Libra's tongue twisting stars.

Chris Anderson is the production specialist and observatory manager at the Faulstich Observatory at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

Coming Monday

Water aerobics

How to get involved, and how you'll benefit.

Image In
The Times-News

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ANNIVERSARY

THE RASMUSSENS

RUPERT — Blaine and Lois Rasmussen of Rupert celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 1. They were honored at a family dinner given by their children.

They were married Jan. 1, 1946, in Rupert. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple.

The couple has lived in the Rupert area throughout their entire lives.

They have been active members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and have served in many capacities.

They are the parents of Michael (Cosette) Rasmussen of Nampa; Bonnie (Jim) Jensen of Preston; Kelly (Arnell) and Shirley Rasmussen of Orem, Utah; Janie (Vearlie) Payne of Deming, N.M.; and Jeffrey (Amy) Rasmussen of Burley. They have 27 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.



Lois and Blaine Rasmussen

WEDDINGS

HANSEN-BATEMAN

PAUL — Amber Lynn Hansen and Harley Earl Bateman were married Jan. 6 in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple.

The bride is the daughter of Kim and Emma Jean Williams of Paul and the late Lowell E. Hansen.

The groom is the son of Mike and Sue Bateman of Rupert.

The bride graduated from American Heritage University in 2001 and College of Southern Idaho in dental hygiene in 2005. She will attend Idaho State University.

The groom graduated in 1995 from Declo High School and served a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Columbus, Ohio, from 1996 to 1998. He at-



Harley and Amber Bateman tends the University of Idaho at Idaho Falls.

A reception to honor the couple will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at the Emerson LDS Ward building, 950 W. 127 S., Paul.

The couple will reside in Shelley.

WALKER-McCLELLAN

GOODING — Sara Elizabeth Walker and Tavis Hoyt McClellan were married Jan. 7 at the Gooding LDS Church.

Sara is the daughter of Sally and Jay Walker of Gooding.

The groom is the son of Jodie Gilley of Rupert and Tom McClellan of Mackay.

Bishop Reid LeGrain officiated the ceremony.

Sarah Eaves, friend of the bride, was the bride's mother of honor. Anna Thurber, friend of the bride, was the bridesmaid. Anna Thurber, friend of the bride, was the flower girl.

Craythorn, friend of the groom, was best man. John Walker, brother of the bride, was the groomsman.

Special guests were grandparents of the bride, Lucy and Don



Tavis and Sara McClellan Walbrecht of Mountain Home.

A reception was held after the ceremony at the church.

The bride is a graduate of Gooding Accelerated Learning Center. She is employed at Walmart in Jerome.

The groom is a graduate of Declo High School. He is employed at Glanbia in Gooding.

The couple resides in Gooding.

ENGAGEMENTS

CAMPBELL-ELIAS

BUHL — Donald and Diane Campbell of Buhl announce the engagement of their daughter, Audrey Rose Campbell of Missoula, Mont., to John Mark Elias, also of Missoula, son of Peter and Cindy Elias of Auburn, Maine.

Campbell is a 1998 graduate of Buhl High School and a 2002 graduate of Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., where she received a bachelor's degree. She is a physical therapy student at the University of Montana.

Elias is a 2001 graduate of Dartmouth, where he received a bachelor's degree. He received a master's degree in algebra from



Audrey Campbell and John Elias the University of Montana and is pursuing a doctorate in statistics. The wedding is planned for June in New Hampshire. A reception will be held in July in Sun Valley.

HENSLEY-DAUGHERTY

TWIN FALLS — James and Helen Hensley of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Brenda L. Hensley of Napa, Calif., to Ronald E. Daugherty of Napa, son of Robert and Donna Daugherty also of Napa.

Hensley graduated in 1988 from Lodi High School in Lodi, Calif., and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1993 and a teaching credential in 1994 from University of California, Davis.

She is employed by the Vacaville Unified School District as a mathematics teacher and is a president of the Vacaville Teachers Association.

Daugherty graduated in 1985 from Vintage High School in



Brenda Hensley and Ronald Daugherty Napa and earned a bachelor's degree in management in 2000 from Pacific Union College in Astoria, Calif. He is employed by JASCO in Napa as a ground school instructor and is a private pilot.

The wedding is planned for July in Las Vegas.

LOVERS' LANES



Jamie Blachoff leans in to kiss his new bride, Sandy Ingram, during a ceremony performed by Magistrate Judge Rick Camaroli at the Tough Guy Bowling Lanes on Dec. 30 in Pocatello. The couple met at the lanes three years ago.

The trouble with multitasking

Women may not have the upper hand after all

By Barbara Mahany Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Pick a house, any house. Peek in the kitchen window. Particularly at the beaching hour, that jam-packed interlude after work and before dinner. This is what you might see.

There appears to be a grown-up walking in small circles between counter and stove. Occasionally she darts into next room where little person is tossing cushions off couch, making mountain to jump in. Grown-up piles things from fridge onto counter. Puts pans on stove. Chops onions. Throws chicken in microwave. Older child walks in and asks question about math homework. Without putting down cleaver, grown-up glances at book, pointers, comes up with some thought.

Grown-up, measuring rice into pot, grabs phone and cradles on neck, trying to resolve orthodontist appointment. Leaves message. Dials another number, this time checks in on friend with sick mother. Little person darts into kitchen, wants cookies before dinner. Grown-up explains that dinner is coming, offers carrots in meantime. Grown-up hears cell phone ringing. Cradling both phones, grown-up gets report spouse is running late.

Older child returns to kitchen, this time thrusting paper into grown-up's hand. Paper must be signed, as child is collecting sponsors for school charity walk. Doorbell rings. Grown-up mutes craziness and calmly answers door.

This is not fiction. This is my

house. You might call it insanity (and mostly do). But it is otherwise called multitasking, that modern-day malady that has us scrambling to cram as much into the moment as is humanly possible.

While as a concept, making the most of our time has been around as long as humans have had two hands and tasks to occupy both, the term multitasking didn't enter the lexicon until 1956, born out of the capacity of computers to do two or more functions at once.

Like all good ideas, it seemed a splendid solution to a world that demands ever more.

But now there's a problem, said Stephanie Wilson, organizational guru and bestselling author of five books on the subject of whipping your life into some semblance of order. This pursuit of doing many things at once "has become inflated, just like an appendix," Wilson said.

"It sits there minding its business until one day it gets inflamed and then it's sick, and suddenly you can't ignore it. Something like that has happened with the fundamental concept of efficiency. It has become inflated to the point of creating chaos."

You can't get too far into the subject of multitasking before someone starts yammering about its gender-specificity, proclaiming that women are naturals and men simply can't keep more than one 'plate spinning."

"Remember, we gals are born with all our eggs, which means we multitask from the start," argued Colby Beutel, an artist and mother of two in Chicago.

"Guys do their stuff one at a time. Interruptions are not dignified, isn't that great?"

And yet, despite howls of protest otherwise ("Male multi-

tasking, men or women. "How much can you do at one time?" asks Just, who examined that question in a 2001 study. "It's a biological system, there have to be limits. You can't just go piling on thoughts."

In addition to the brain's biological constraints, Just's study, published in the journal *NeuroImage*, found that there's a limit to how much attention is available to distribute over more than one task and that there is a limit on how well concurrent tasks can be performed.

In other words, it feels as though the more you try to do, the more you're messing up, you might be on to something.

Another pair of scientists, in this case social scientists, looked at multitasking through another lens and came up with a similar conclusion: Women don't beat men doing more than one thing at once. So report sociologists Barbara Schneider and Linda Waite, co-directors of the Alfred P. Sloan Center on Working Families at the University of Pennsylvania. They've spent plenty of time probing the multitasking question.

The just-released findings of their research, titled *The 500 Family Study*, looked at those hundreds of families in 2000 and 2001. Most of them were dual-career couples with children.

The results show women with only a slight edge over men in terms of how often they find themselves doing multiple things at once. Creating women multitask 57 percent of the time; men, 50 percent of the time, which the researchers claim is not a statistically significant difference.

At home, women multitask 43 percent of the time; men, 37 percent of the time. In the workplace, however, men and women multitask much less, with no difference between sexes. And especially at work, Schneider and Waite found, multitasking creates feelings of stress and frustration.

"The bottom line, and it's very important," Schneider said, "basically when you're in the moment in your work, you get tremendous satisfaction. But our lives are so complicated, we multitask a lot of the time. When we're multitasking, we don't feel so great about it. No one should feel like, 'Oh, that person is multitasking, that person is so efficient; isn't that great?'"

The truth is, it's not so great.

— Barbara Schneider, sociologist

tasker, isn't that an oxymoron," shouted one correspondent to a plea for nominations of men who come to pop a long, sharp stickpin in the rumblings that somehow men are less than equal in the juggling department.

"I don't believe the functional data supports that," reported neuro-psychologist Marcel Just, director of the Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

He swatted away a 1998 study, done by scientists elsewhere, that he believes wrongly suggested that women might have the upper hand when it comes to multitasking.

Just, who has spent years peering into the human mind through functional CAT scans that map brain activity during various cognitive tasks, reports that only when asked to listen to two things simultaneously do women demonstrate higher capacity to do so, in every other pairing of cognitive tasks, listening to a series of true-false statements while mentally twisting three-dimensional figures, for instance, men and women show equal capacities. And, he is quick to add, there

ENGAGEMENT

HARMAN-SWENSON

RUPERT — Kent and Tami Harman of Rupert announce the engagement of their daughter, Kaile Harman, to Brendon Swenson, son of Reed and Nola Swenson of Spanish Fork, Utah.

Harman attends Provo College in Provo, Utah.

Swenson attends Utah Valley State College in Provo.

The wedding is planned for Thursday, Jan. 12. A reception to honor the couple will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Kent Harman residence, #54 E. 1500 N., Rupert.



Brendon Swenson and Kaile Harman

Weekly deadline

The Times-News welcomes engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements and photos. (That is, anniversaries of 50 years or more.)

To submit an announcement, stop by the office at 132 Fairchild St. in Twin Falls and fill out a form. The announcement also can be sent by e-mail to ramona@magivalley.com.

e-mailed, the photo needs to be sent in jpeg format as an attachment.

The deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication the following Sunday. If you miss that deadline, your news might not be published in advance of the event. With questions, call Ramona Jones at 735-3262.

Next week ...

Table manners

What rules do families still insist on?

Family Life in The Times-News

Bridal Registry

Amber Hansen & Harley Bateman January 12th

Katie Harmon & Brandon Swenson January 14th

Natasha Cranney & Chris Jackson January 14th

Scarlett Ruby & Nathan Troy January 14th

Michelle Miskner & Kyle Michael Yoo January 14th

Brandy Mullen & Andrew Perrott January 14th

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COMMUNITY

Community page coordinator: Will Siles - 735-3233

Page E-6

Sunday, January 8, 2006

The Times-News

UI releases names of local graduates

The Times-News

MOSCOW — The University of Idaho in Moscow has released the names of recent graduates from the area.

Bellevue: Anna Jane Edwards, Bachelor of Science, Physical Education.

Buhl: Mark Gerald Van Elderen, Master of Science, Agricultural Economics; Seth Ray Huddleston, Bachelor of Science, Business, Production/Operations Management; and Bachelor of Science, Business, Management and Human Resources; Duch William Bount, Bachelor of Science, Biological Systems Engineering; Patricia Dawn Pounders, Bachelor of Science, Political Science; and Krystle Anne Wengren, Bachelor of Science, Rangeland Education-Management.

Rangeland Management Option: Carmen Jennifer J. Rogers, Bachelor of Science, Communication Studies.

Challis: Logan Wayne Brower, Bachelor of Science, Physical Education.

Filer: Charles Robert Drean, Master of Education, Counseling and Human Services; and Andrew David Wiseman, Education Specialist

In Adult Education, Educational Leadership

Glenns Ferry: Matthew Wayne Benke, Master of Science, Computer Science.

Gooding: Elizabeth R. Benito, Bachelor of Arts, English, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Fernando Valdez, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Bachelor of Arts, Spanish.

Hagerman: Sharon Thueson, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Holly Bailey, Master of Education, Educational Leadership; Marcia Helen Grabow, Master of Education, Curriculum and Instruction; Julie Anne Nordstrom, Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education.

Jerome: Dustin James Allison, Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Economics, Agrusiness; John Thomas Ricketts, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science-Production; Audrey Vaughn Waite, Bachelor of Science, Science/Preventatory; Bradley W. Mowrer, Bachelor of Science, Business, Information Systems, Bachelor of Science, Business, Production/Operations Management; Patrick Lynn Crozier, Bachelor of Science, Secondary Education; Kyle Ray Gutknecht, Master of Science, Mechanical Engineering; Karen Margaret

Marshall, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science; Derek James Perry, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science.

Ketchum: Andrew Elmer Slough, Bachelor of Science, Advertising.

Kimberly: Clayton Gary Seamons, Master of Science, Plant Science; Misti Lin Rutledge, Master of Science, Psychology.

Leader: Jon Chance Peterson, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science-Business Option.

North Fork Lewis W. England: Bachelor of General Studies.

Paul: Gavin S. Abo, Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering; Jacob Alexander Martin, Bachelor of Science, Rangeland Ecology-Management.

Richfield: Marsha Elaine Turgoose, Bachelor of Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, Child Development/Family Relations.

Rupert: Jeremy Scott Higley, Master of Science, Food Science; Kenny Russell Ball, Bachelor of Science, Food Science; Aaron Paul Van Matre, Bachelor of Science, Ag, Economics, Agrusiness; Russell Yonco Maloney, Bachelor of Science, Business, Marketing; Steven Roy Murphy, Jis Doctorate, Law.

Salmont: Michael I. Dodd, Bachelor of Science, Psycholo-

gy; Leslie Allene Gwartney, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Erin Jean Hanson, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Andrea Skinner, Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science-Physical Science Option.

Twin Falls: Nancy Cherie Kinner, Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Science and Technology; William Scott Van Engelen, Bachelor of Science, Business, Marketing-Professional Golf Management Option; Kristin Michele Ingram, Master of Education, Educational Leadership; Rebecca Dawn Willis, Master of Education, Educational Leadership; Benjamin Patrick Robert Meade, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Jacob A. Mable, Bachelor of Science, Forest Products-Wood Construction/Design Option; Jenn Lee Robinson, Bachelor of Science, Resource Recreation and Tourism; Brett V. Bingham, Bachelor of Science, Geography-Geographical Information Systems Option; Joshua D. Fisher, Bachelor of Science, Biology.

Wendell: Megan Arranz Landers, Bachelor of Science, Business Accounting; James Edward Thompson, Bachelor of Science, Business, Production/Operations Management.

STORK REPORT

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Jacob Magana-Ayala, son of Maria Ofelia Ayala of Wendell, was born Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2005.

Leland Thomas Felix, son of Deborah Lee New of Gooding, was born Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005.

Isabel Hernandez, daughter of Maira Elena Delgado of Jerome, was born Thursday, Dec. 22, 2005.

Estrella Marie Small, daughter of Leticia Lua of Twin Falls, was born Thursday, Dec. 22, 2005.

Hudson Joseph Reznick, son of Candita Lynn and Jeremy Charles Felipe of Filer, was born Friday, Dec. 23, 2005.

Hannah Grace Russell, daughter of Crystal Grace Malone and Jacob Randall Russell of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005.

Kaklee Fern Nebeker, daughter of Lori and Thad Franklin Nebeker of Jerome, was born Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005.

Aytzen Makal Dewey, daughter of Candita Lynn and Bradley Joe Dewey of Twin Falls, was born Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2005.

Patricia Giselle Gomez, daughter of Patricia Hernandez and Edilberto Gomez of Jerome, was born Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2005.

Hudson Craig Giles, son of Erika Dawn and Jared Craig Giles of Hansen, was born Thursday, Dec. 29, 2005.

Kobynt Otto Benzval, son of Katie Ann Beem of Jerome, was born Thursday, Dec. 29, 2005.

Jonathan Dale Barth, son of Lori Mitchell and Nathaniel John Barth of Hagerman, was born Friday, Dec. 30, 2005.

Adryen Jeret Hatch, son of Sarah Joan Hatch of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 30, 2005.

To announce a birth

Send a copy of the birth certificate to:

Jami Whitton

The Community Page

The Times-News

P.O. Box 548

Twin Falls, ID 83403

Or fax to: 734-5538

Deadline: Noon Tuesday for Friday's paper; and noon Friday for Tuesday's paper.

More information? Call Jami at 735-3278

Call Jami at 735-3278

Alexandrea Rose Mary

Levis, daughter of Jamie Lee and Spencer Glen Lewis of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 30, 2005.

Ryan Marshall Maughan, son of Jamie Lynn and Steven Howard Maughan of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 30, 2005.

Jared Earl Mix, son of Lisa Marie and Merlin Andrew Mix of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 30, 2005.

Alexander Dale Wilson, son of Jennifer Ann and Richard Mario Wilson of Twin Falls, was born Friday, Dec. 30, 2005.

Nate Joseph Diaz, son of Lisa and Jose Manuel Diaz of Twin Falls, was born Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005.

Andrienne Lee Warmack, daughter of Chantel Marie and Jarrett Lee Warmack of Twin Falls, was born Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005.

Payton Chance Cummings, son of Lynnsay Dawn Cummings and Roger Scott Timmons of Kimberly, was born Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006.

Ryan Marlyns Spagnolo, daughter of Kara Marlyns and Sean Victor Spagnolo of Jerome, was born Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006.

Ryan Steven Stinger, son of Karslin Lynn and Matthew Dee Stinger of Murtaugh, was born Sunday, Jan. 1, 2006.

NEW YEAR'S BABY



Photo courtesy of Cassia Regional Medical Center

Jennifer and Troy Jensen are the parents of the first baby born in the new year at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley. Jaycee Jensen was born at 5:30 a.m. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. With the family is Mary Rittol, president of Cassia Regional Medical Center volunteers. The volunteers collected the items from area businesses and donated merchandise and gifts from the auxiliary itself.

CHRISTMAS GIFT



Photo courtesy of GIMV RPTL

Loraine Bickford and Marie Call, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Auxiliary volunteers, display an ornament with a Christmas card. The Pastoral Care Team presented one to each patient who stayed in the hospital on Christmas Day. The funds were donated by the auxiliary and the Pastoral Team. To volunteer for the auxiliary or serve on the Pastoral Care Team at the hospital, call Loraine Devey at 737-2006 or Sue Summers at 737-2834.

Burley woman's blankets provide warmth, care

By Trena Togan
For The Times-News

RUPERT — Ruth Jeffs shares the warmth of the season by providing knit blankets to residents of extended-care facilities each year.

"It occurred to me," said Jeffs of Burley. "That these people in care centers tend to have cold legs sitting in wheelchairs and such."

Jeffs has been crocheting for 70 years. Since she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, she has been forced to spend a lot of time at home. She says crocheting gives her something to pass the time, and making things for others makes her feel good about herself. Several years ago, she began giving away the blankets to a different Burley care center each year.

Susan Anderson, a close friend who frequently takes Jeffs to the doctor and therapy appointments, says they always try to make a point to stop and stop for yarn when they're out together.

"She loves looking at the new colors and spends her own money on the yarn for the these blankets she gives away," Anderson said.

This year on the advice of friend, Jeff Nichols, Jeff took her hand-crocheted leg



Ruth Jeffs of Burley, center, crocheted 80 throw blankets and donated them to the residents of Countryside Living and Rehabilitation. Left is Jeff Nichols, Jeffs' friend, and right is Jackie Heinrichs, center staff member, and Ara Mae Preston, center resident.

blankets for the first time to residents at Countryside Living and Rehabilitation, the extended care facility at Mindoka Memorial Hospital in Rupert.

The residents warmly accepted the blankets, some coming to tears when they were given the hand-crafted gift.

Trena Togan is a writer with the South Idaho Press.

CHAPEL BEAUTY

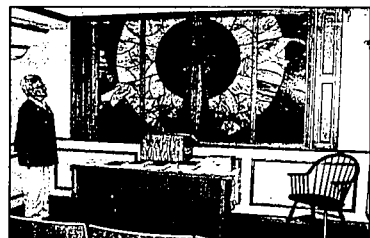


Photo courtesy of GIMV RPTL

Betty Smith, volunteer for Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Auxiliary, admires the stain glass in the hospital's chapel. The chapel is on the first floor and open to the public. For more information, call Sue Summers at 737-2834 or Loraine Devey at 737-2006.

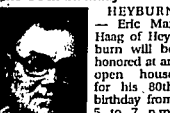
CRAFT SHOW



Photo courtesy of Jerome Senior Center/Craft Show

A pre-Christmas shopper enjoys the items offered at the annual Jerome Senior Center Craft Show.

Heyburn man celebrates his 80th birthday



Eric Max Hang

cross from West Middle Mile School, on 600 West. The family

requests no gifts.

He was born Jan. 10, 1926, in Burley. He married Donna Alnsworth in 1947 and has lived in the Magic Valley all his life. His children are Robin (Jerry) Haag of Burley, Nannette (Dawn) Miller and Rodney (Carla) Haag, all of Heyburn; and Kevin (Laura) Haag of Paul. They have 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Local scrapbook store teaches crafts

TWIN FALLS — Scrap'n' Girlfriends, 123 Main Ave. E., is

having several classes this year.

There is a maximum capacity of 10 people for each class. "Winter Layout" will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday. A two-page 12-inch by 12-inch winter layout will be shown. The cost is \$22 and supplies are included.

"Create the Alphabet" will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 11. Using blank chipboard pieces, a complete alphabet will be made using paint, rub on letters and a diamond glaze. The cost is \$30, and diamond glaze will receive a package of chipboard pieces, a bottle of diamond glaze and a package of

more than 300 rub on letters.

"Painted Palms" will be held at 2 p.m. March 11. A gallon-size paint can will be decorated with embellishments, paper and more. The cans can be used to store many items including pens, markers, ribbons, small hammers and more. The cost is \$22 and all supplies are included. For more information or to register, call 736-2265.

CSI offers computer networking classes

TWIN FALLS — The College

of Southern Idaho, 315 Falls

Ave. is offering several computer classes this spring. "Network Technology 1" will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursdays starting the week of Jan. 17 through May 11, in the Canyon Building, Room 101.

The course is a survey of careers in networking, local area networks, wide area networks, topologies, transmission media, and security. The cost is \$25.

"Network Security" will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 18 through May 10, in the Canyon Building,

Room 123.

Students will receive hands-on training in basic concepts as it relates to overall network security, disaster recovery, safeguards against common network attacks, using various network devices and media to establish a secure network. This course provides the skills and knowledge students need to prepare for one of the Microsoft MCSA exams. Prerequisite is "Microsoft Network Management." The cost is \$25.

For more information, call 732-6441.

COMMUNITY EVENTS