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Twin Falls, Idaho/101st year, No. 10

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

50 cents

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today:
 Scattered rain showers. High 41, low 33.
 Page A2

BYE BYE BABIES

Mindoka Memorial Hospital says "no" to births.
 Page B1



VATICAN MYSTERY?

Some hope release of pope's would-be assassin will shed new light on cold case.
 Page C2

LIVING HISTORY

Couple has made history a part of their lives.
 Page C1



POLITICAL MEANINGS?

Democrats press Alito about whether he's ideologically tilted to the right.
 Page A3

OVERCROWDING

The Legislature needs unconventional ideas for prison populations, today's editorial says.
 Page A6

COMING UP



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

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STATE OF THE STATE

Kempthorne plans to use some of surplus to pay each resident \$50

By John Miller
 Associated Press writer

BOISE — Gov. Dirk Kempthorne wants to use about a third of Idaho's \$214 million budget surplus to give every state resident \$50 to help with high energy costs.

In his State of the State address to lawmakers Monday night, he also backed giving teachers almost everything they are asking for though he stopped short of endorsing many property tax reforms some have clamored for since earlier this year.

In offering a total of \$63 million to help residents defray energy bills, Kempthorne acknowledged that Idaho families have faced a triple hit: Idaho Power, the state's largest utility, has raised rates, as has international gas. Drivers are also paying higher gasoline prices.

Every Idaho resident listed on 2004 state income tax returns would get the one-time money. A family of eight, for instance, would get a \$400 check.

"I think this energy assistance is going to resonate with people," Kempthorne said after his hour-long speech, which he ended by giving four Purple Heart medals to soldiers wounded in Iraq.

Members of the 2006 Legislature, who opened their session Monday, still must sign off on Kempthorne's proposals.

The governor, in his final year in office, promised members of the Senate and House that he'd get tough on crime, introducing proposals to stiffen penalties for gang members as well as a plan that would put ingredients for methamphetamine behind pharmacy counters, as is done in some other states.

He also addressed sex crimes, a topic that gripped Idaho after Joseph Edward Dendrea, a convicted sex offender, was charged with killing three members of the Greene family near Coeur d'Alene, allegedly so he could abduct two children for sex.

Kempthorne backed doubling maximum sentences for some sex-related crimes and boosting registration requirements for convicted sex offenders to four years a year, from just once now.

"You can either live by our rules, or live behind bars," Kempthorne said.



Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne gives his annual State of the State address before a joint session of the Legislature on Monday in Boise, Idaho. It was Kempthorne's last State of the State address since he's not seeking another term as governor.

He wants to build 700 new prison beds, including a 400-bed treatment facility for drug-addicted inmates. The money is

part of a proposed 1.1 percent hike in funding for public safety, to nearly \$220 million.

In all, Kempthorne aims to boost Idaho's fiscal year 2007 budget expenditures by 5.9 percent, to \$2.31 billion. Brad Foltz
 Please see SESSION, Page A2

Idaho farming receipts increased last year

The Associated Press

MOSCOW, Idaho — Last year topped 2005 as the best for Idaho farmers in more than three decades, according to a report released by economists at the University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Adjusted for inflation and put in 1997 dollars, 2005 ranked a bit of hope — it's likely that gross farm cash receipts are what farmers make before subtracting their costs.

Last year also ranked, in 1997

dollars, as the second-best for inflation-adjusted net farm income during that period, falling behind 2004. Net farm income is what farmers make after subtracting costs.

The report, "Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture: 2005 Projections," said Idaho farmers became more specialized as gross farm cash receipts rose 4 percent from 2004. But because of increased fuel and fertilizer costs, net farm income fell 4 percent.

In actual dollars, 2005 gross farm cash receipts in Idaho were \$4.5 billion, and net farm

income was \$1.4 billion. John Hammel, the university's dean of agriculture, presented the report recently to Idaho legislators working on the state's revenue projections for the new fiscal year.

"In 2006, we will watch fuel and fertilizer prices closely and monitor the changing trade climate and their effects on agricultural producers," Hammel said. "The college's efforts will continue to seek ways to help producers increase the efficiency of their operations and increase their competitiveness." According to the report,

much of the increase in receipts came from increased production and stronger prices for dairy products, cattle and potatoes.

Dairy receipts rose 7 percent to nearly \$1.5 billion. Cattle and calf sales were up 9 percent to \$1.4 billion, while sales of other livestock dipped \$2 million from 2004 to \$111 million.

For crops, cash receipts totaled \$1.79 billion in 2005, a drop of 4 percent from 2004. That's despite an increase in cash receipts for potatoes in 2005 of 6 percent, which rose to \$335 million.

Bird flu might not be so deadly

Evidence suggests it could be more common than originally thought

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — As bird flu cases rise at a disturbing pace in Turkey, new research offers a bit of hope — it's likely that many people who get it don't become seriously ill and quickly recover.

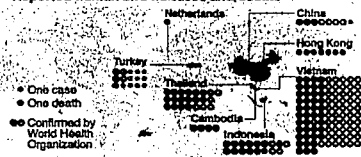
Although not definitive, the new study suggests the virus is more widespread than thought. But it also probably doesn't kill half its victims, a fear based solely on flu cases that have been officially confirmed.

"The results suggest that the symptoms most often are relatively mild and that close contact is not the main transmission to humans," wrote Dr. Anna Thorson of Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm and co-author of the study. It was published in Monday's edition of Archives of Internal Medicine.

More people reported to have bird flu

Officials reported five more human cases of bird flu in Turkey and two in Asia. However, a new study suggests that the virus, probably more widespread than thought, may not kill half its victims, a fear based solely on flu cases that have been officially confirmed.

Reported human bird flu cases and deaths



So far, the bird flu deaths in Turkey involved children playing with dead chickens. The new study involved 45,476 randomly selected residents of a rural region where bird flu is rampant among chickens. Please see BIRD FLU, Page A2

HOW MANY LAWYERS ...

By Molly Seidlo
 Los Angeles Times

"Why are lawyers buried 25 feet underground? Because, deep down, they're really nice guys."

Jokes like that have been around forever, but lawyers are buzzing about a new book that argues they are not just a barometer of the public's feeling about the legal profession, but also are an escape valve for frustrated attorneys.

"Most lawyers actually like lawyer jokes," said Marc Galanter, a University of Wisconsin law professor and author of "Lowering the Bar." Sarcic gripes about ambulance-chasers and unethical criminal defenders who prey on their clients' misery are as old as law itself.

What's new, Galanter said, is that since the 1970s, the web of regulations that govern the

Throwing the (joke) book at lawyers

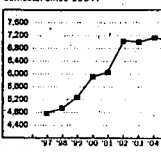
Among the more than 200 lawyer jokes cited in "Lowering the Bar" are these:

- How many lawyers does it take to change a light bulb? How many can you afford?
- Did you hear that Saddam Hussein took a hundred lawyers hostage and said that if his demands aren't met he'll start releasing them one by one?
- Why does California have the most lawyers and New Jersey the most toxic waste dumps? New Jersey had first choice.

lives of ordinary Americans has become a thicket, often forcing people to hire lawyers. Please see LAWYERS, Page A2

CSI student enrollment

Number of both part-time and full-time students registered for spring semester since 1997.



Source: College of Southern Idaho. Credit: Dave Brown/The Times-News

President pushes CSI staff for more

Beck's remarks come during State of the College address

By Joshua Palmer
 Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — On the same day Gov. Dirk Kempthorne laid out his vision for Idaho, President Jerry Beck laid out his vision for the College of Southern Idaho.

The two visions had one thing in common: the importance of community colleges.

Beck praised on Monday the faculty and staff of CSI for keeping the school relevant and vital. "Walking through the buildings today, you can see that they are just empty shells," Beck said to the staff. "You are the ones that make this school what it really is. You are the ones who make this school great."

In the last two years, CSI has struggled to recover from declining enrollment and dwindling financial resources. Although CSI did not meet its revenue goals for last year, it has grown through more offerings as well as its services on satellite campuses.

Beck is the only other community college to lay out his vision. CSI has continued to expand its program offerings, as well as its services on satellite campuses.

The governor wants to create a statewide community college system, and called CSI and North Idaho College "great models."

"These community colleges have already begun to expand their services to rural communities in the Mid-Columbia and the Silver Valley, among many others," he said. "And these true community college programs will grow as enrollment grows. In this way, these programs will be self-sustaining and life-sustaining for individuals who want better jobs, a better education, and a better quality of life."

Enrollment, and the tuition and fees that come with it, has become increasingly important at CSI ever since the state Legislature capped one of the schools' enrollment.

Please see CSI, Page A2

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Scattered rain showers... High 40s.
Tonight: A rain/snow mix possible, otherwise raining... Low 30s.
Tomorrow: Rain likely. A rain/snow mix possible, High 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Cloudy. Chance of mixed rain and snow showers.
High upper 30s to low 40s.
Tonight: Windy with mixed rain and snow showers likely.
Low 30s.
Tomorrow: Rain mostly likely, however a few periods of snow or sleet can not be dismissed. High low 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
Scattered snow shower activity will be common for the next several days.

BOISE

Get out early for a damp and windy period of weather. Rain showers will be widespread and frequent for the next few days.

NORTHERN UTAH

A chance of rain will emerge today and continue as a rain/snow mix direct eastward.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Forecast table for Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday with icons for weather conditions.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Weather tables for Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset.

Moons Phases



Moonrise and Moonset

Table with columns for Moonrise and Moonset times.

U.V. INDEX

Table for U.V. Index with categories like Low, Moderate, High, Very High.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Forecast table for cities: Boise, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

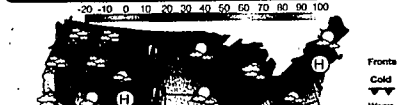
NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table for various US cities like Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table for cities like London, Moscow, Tokyo, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for cities like Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, etc.

STATIONARY FORECAST

Stationary forecast table for cities like Salt Lake, Las Vegas, Phoenix, etc.

GREG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY. Quote: 'All of everything you think, say and do determines your entire life - because in reality, it does!'

The Times-News. Publisher Brad Hurd. News Editor Chris Steinbach. Advertising Director Janet Goffin. Classified Customer service. Circulation customer service.

Bird flu

Continued from A1. "I would call this the smoking gun," said Dr. Gregory Poland, a Mayo Clinic flu specialist. All of us have been contacted and have gathered the data we have so far been the tip of the iceberg.

Session

Continued from A1. man, the state's executive budget director, said the spending plan keeps the budget balanced through 2010.

Lawyers

Continued from A1. just to help them navigate their business and personal affairs. Lawyer jokes help diffuse resentment.

By the numbers

Table with Revenue source and Percent of total budget. Includes State appropriations, Tuition and fees, Property tax, etc.

Continued from A1

are certainly a lot of sensitive issues within the profession and anything that makes fun of them... gets a good laugh.

The Times-News. Home delivery: daily and Saturday. Mail subscriptions rates. Subscription rates.

CSI

Continued from A1. key revenue sources: property taxes. "What this means is that numbers do truly matter," Beck said.

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

Continued from A1. At the time, Safenstein's plea was greeted largely with more jokes... gets a good laugh.

NATION

Alito pledges to respect rule of law

Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — Pledging to do equal right to the poor and the rich, Judge Samuel Alito Jr. said Monday that if confirmed to the Supreme Court he would respect the rule of law and "administer justice without regard to a person's standing in life."

In a deeply personal statement on the first day of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Alito talked of the important experiences in his life from his immigrant parents' struggles to get an education and employment to his own career as a government lawyer and federal appeals court judge.

"No person in this country, no matter how high or powerful, is above the law, and no person in this country is beneath the law," Alito said in a stirring, 11-minute statement at the end of the first day of his confirmation hearings to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

In his 15 years on the Philadelphia-based federal appeals court, Alito said he learned "the way in which a judge should go about the work of judging." It was a "big change in role" for him, he said, after working as a lawyer in the Reagan administration and other family members' prosecutor in New Jersey, where he always sought to get the desired result for his clients.

"A judge can't have any agenda. A judge can't bring any preferred outcome in any particular case," said Alito, with his wife, Martha, two teenaged children and other family members sitting behind him. "The judge's only obligation — and it's a solemn obligation — is to the rule of law."

Alito's remarks came after Republican and Democratic senators staked out their posi-



Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito, right, along with his sister Rosemary, left, and wife Martha, look on during his confirmation hearing Monday before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill.

tions and sought to define the nominee on their own terms. Recent polls have shown that three-quarters of the American public either do not know of Alito or have no opinion of him.

In the opening statements, Republicans presented the 55-year-old Alito as a careful and restrained judge who would faithfully apply the law, stressing his modest upbringing that took him to the Ivy League and top jobs in government service. They accused Democrats of playing politics with the nomination.

"If fairness, integrity, qualifications, an open mind were all that mattered in this process, you would be confirmed unanimously," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. "But we know that's not how the process works."

Democrats, on the other hand, portrayed Alito as a conservative ideologue who has been too deferential to presidential power and who, if confirmed, would scale back women's rights and civil rights. They said he car-

ried a particularly high burden going into the hearings, since he was replacing the moderate O'Connor, who has provided the critical fifth vote with liberals to affirm the right to an abortion, favor the use of affirmative action and maintain the separation of church and state in government affairs.

"This vacancy is going to tip the scales of justice on the Supreme Court one way or another," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. "The Supreme Court is the last refuge in America for our rights and liberties."

In the battle over the nomination, both sides have much to work with. Alito has a long paper trail, with more than 350 opinions from his tenure on the federal appeals court. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said those opinions could make him seem like a "flaming liberal or an arch-conservative" if read selectively. Senate Democrats also said Alito will be pressed to explain

Yates pleads innocent by insanity

HOUSTON (AP) — Andrea Yates pleaded innocent by reason of insanity in the drowning deaths of her children Monday as she made her first court appearance since her 2002 capital murder convictions were overturned. State District Judge Belinda Hill set a March 20 trial date. Yates, 41, will remain in the custody of the Harris County

Sheriff's Department until she is retried for the deaths of three of her five children. Her attorney, George Purnham, had asked that Yates be sent to Rusk State Hospital until the new trial. During her original trial, found Yates' guilty for the 2001 deaths of three of the children drowned in the family bathtub: 7-year-old Noah, 5-year-old John and 6-month-old Mary.

Cheney hospitalized for ... something

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney spent a 1 1/2 hours in a hospital early Monday, but White House officials offered only limited details about his condition.

Officials said Cheney, who is 64 and has suffered four heart attacks, experienced shortness of breath as a reaction to anti-inflammatory drugs he was taking to treat a "pre-existing foot condition." He was taken to George Washington University Hospital, in downtown Washington, at 3 a.m.

The officials said doctors noticed that Cheney was "retaining fluid" as a response to the medication. He was released at about 7:30 a.m. after doctors prescribed additional medicine to relieve the fluid.

The vice president returned to work in the afternoon, and aides said he was feeling fine. But the incident sparked renewed questions about the health and fitness of the man who is first in line to succeed President Bush and, as the behind-the-scenes architect of Bush's foreign policy, has emerged as one of the most powerful vice presidents in history.

While White House officials have routinely offered details of Bush's medical checkups and even of Cheney's heart difficulties, an air of mystery hovered over Monday's events.



Cheney

White House press secretary Scott McClellan repeatedly refused to reveal the details of the foot condition that had prompted Cheney to walk with a cane during public appearances.

A spokeswoman for the vice president could only offer speculation, saying Monday that doctors had not conclusively diagnosed the problem.

"He has occasional bouts with inflammation in his left foot, sometimes in the heel, which has been diagnosed as tendonitis, sometimes in the joint of his big toe, which has not been definitively diagnosed," spokeswoman Lesi Anne McBride wrote in an e-mail. "Some doctors have suggested it might be gout, but he does not suffer from the acute pain usually associated with gout, nor does he have raised levels of uric acid in his blood, which is also associated with gout. Other doctors have suggested that osteoarthritis is the cause."

Gout is an arthritis-like condition that strikes the joints of the toes and fingers.

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Back Row: Mark F. Holmstead, CPA, CVA; Kandra Lockwood, CPA; Brent M. Hyatt, CPA; Rosa Hyatt; Troy L. Mahke, CPA; Chanda Steen; John A. Coleman, CPA, CMAA
Front Row: Shannon Hoffmann; Donita Bog; Trish Webster; Willie Benetelli; Susan Klein, CPA; Shawna Howe; Marla Ann Archibald; Scott E. Hunsaker, CPA, CMAA
Not Pictured: Leslie McCurdy, CPA; Jeannine Frazier, CPA

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NATION

Health care costs take biggest chunk of economic output ever

By Marc Kaufman and Rob Stein
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Rising health care costs, already threatening many basic industries, now consume 16 percent of the nation's economic output — the highest proportion ever, the government said Monday in its latest calculation.

The nation's health care bill continued to grow substantially faster than inflation and wages, increasing by almost 8 percent in 2004, the most recent year with final numbers.

Spending for physicians and hospitals shot up considerably faster than in recent years, while drug costs grew at a slower rate than over the past decade.

Even as health care costs continue to escalate, however, many Americans — especially minorities and the poor — don't get high-quality care, according to two other federal reports Monday. Health care quality is improving slowly and some major disparities are narrowing, the reports found, but gaps persist and Hispanics appear to be falling even farther behind.

"We can do better," said Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt at a Washington conference on racial and ethnic disparities in health. "Disparities and inequities exist. Outcomes vary. Treatments are not received equally."

Political, medical and economic leaders and experts have long warned that health care cost trends will gradually overwhelm the economy, and many companies now complain that employee and retiree health costs are making them less competitive. Monday's report added new reasons to worry.

The overall cost of health care — everything from hospital and doctor bills to the cost of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, insurance and nursing-home and home-health care — doubled from 1953 to 2004, said the report from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In 2004, the nation spent almost \$140 billion more for health care than the year before.

In 1997, health care accounted for 13.6 percent of the gross domestic product. "Americans rejected the tougher restrictions of managed care in the late 1990s, and yet they want all the latest advances in medical technology," said Drew Altman, president of the non-partisan Kaiser Family Foundation, which researches health issues. "Since government regulation of prices and services is not in the cards, the inevitable result is higher costs." The health care increase of 7.9 percent in 2004 was almost three times greater than the overall national inflation rate, which was 2.7 percent. The average hourly wage for workers in private companies was essentially

unchanged that year, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. After a sharp jump in health care costs earlier in the decade, the health inflation rate appears to be plateauing, officials added.

The best news involved spending on pharmaceutical drugs, which increased by less than 10 percent for the first time in more than a decade.

Cynthia Smith of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, lead author of the health spending report, attributed the slower increase in drug spending to greater use of generic drugs and mail order pharmacies, a slowdown in the introduction of costly new medications, and the impact of higher drug co-pays. Mark Merritt, president of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, which represents drug benefit managers, said the trend was also a result of their "work over the past decade to change the way consumers, clinicians, and purchasers think about prescription drugs."

While the fast rise in drug spending in the past decade attracted great attention from officials and health policy experts, it remains a relatively small part of the health care bill — about 10 percent.

Defenders of health care spending have often argued that those added costs would keep people healthier and reduce the amount spent on hospitals and doctors. The 2004 statistics told

a different story, however, with an increase in doctor costs of 9 percent over 2003 and an increase in hospital costs of 8.6 percent. The report's authors said the jumps appeared to be associated with higher Medicare reimbursement rates for some doctors and, anecdotally, to an upswing in the construction of new hospitals.

Doctors try new ways to fight breast cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Radiation may get a little easier for thousands of breast cancer patients. Doctors now can target cancer-killing beams just at the tumor site instead of the whole breast, cutting the usual six-week treatment down to five days. A major study is under way to prove whether the earlier therapy is as effective as the old-fashioned kind — and if so, who's a good candidate.

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Movies	Orpheum
Rumor Has It (12) 7:00-9:15	
Odyssey 6	
Pride & Prejudice (PG) 7:00-9:35	
Six Friends (11) 7:30-9:45	
Walk the Line (11) 7:00-9:35	
Wolf Creek (R) 7:30-9:45	
Family Stone (11) 7:15-9:30	
Sprinkle (R) 7:00-9:45	
Jerome	
Chronicles Of Narnia (PG) 8:45-9:30	
King Kong (11) 7:00	
Fun with Dick & Jane (11) 7:00-9:45	
Fun with Dick & Jane (11) 7:15-9:15	
Twin 12	
Cheaper by Dozen (PG) 7:30-9:45	
Chicken Little (11) 7:00	
Fun with Dick & Jane (11) 7:00-9:45	
Chronicles Narnia (PG) 8:45-9:45	
Yours, Mine and Ours (PG) 7:00-9:45	
Harry Potter (PG) 7:15	
Memoirs of a Geisha (11) 7:45	
The Ring (11) 7:00-9:15	
Munch (R) 7:45	
Grandma's Boy (PG) 7:30-9:45	
Hotel No. 9 (R) 7:30-9:45	
King Kong (11) 7:00-9:45	

Surviving coal miner develops slight fever

The Associated Press

BUCKHANNON, W.Va. — As the investigation into the Sago Mine disaster took shape Monday, the best hope for firsthand details about the explosion and its aftermath lay in critical condition, fighting a fever.

Doctors treating sole survivor Randall McCloy Jr. declined to speculate on when the 26-year-old would fully wake up from a medically induced coma or comment on the extent of any brain damage he suffered in the tragedy that killed 12 fellow coal miners.

But physicians said McCloy's brain stem appeared to be normal, and that a fever is common for patients in intensive care. McCloy was breathing on his own, although he remained connected to a ventilator as a precaution, and was responding to stimuli, doctors said.

"It is likely one of the longest survivors of this sort of exposure, not only carbon monoxide, but the other circumstances in the mine, for about 42 hours," said Dr. Julian Bailes, a neurosurgeon at West Virginia University's Ruess Memorial Hospital in Morgantown.

The updates on McCloy's condition came as three more families held funerals Monday for the victims.

An overflowing crowd of mourners at the Buckhannon Union Mission Church listened as minister Jim Bennett was eulogized as a man of fiery Christian faith. The 61-year-old man who operated the mine's shuttle car wrote a note while trapped indicating he was still lucid 10 hours after the blast. His daughter has said,

"I'm as sure as I'm standing here today. I believe that down in the mine the Sago Mine, there was one fella, not tall in stature perhaps, but was telling the boys, 'You better get ready. We're going to meet Jesus,'" the Rev. Dennis Estes said.

Pet of the Week

You should never judge a book by its cover or its ears. I am Bubba, and I am a wonderful dog. Give me a home, please! **TWIN FALLS ANIMAL SHELTER**
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HOME TOWN BUSINESS GUIDE

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Army begins to expel reservists

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army on Monday began moving to expel dozens of reservist soldiers who failed to report for duty months after being mobilized for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in effect serving notice to hundreds of others that they could face penalties for ignoring or refusing orders to return to active duty.

The proceedings mark a turning point in the Army's struggle to contact, train and deploy thousands of individual Ready Reserve soldiers, nearly half of whom have requested a delay or return, asked to be exempt or simply ignored their orders.

The soldiers in this category of reserve status, who have served previously on active duty but not completed their

eight-year service obligation, are different than those in the National Guard or Reserve, and they are rarely mobilized.

The Army began mobilizing them in the summer of 2004, reflecting the enormous strain it felt in providing enough soldiers for Iraq at a time when it was becoming apparent that no early withdrawal was likely.

So far, mobilization orders

have been issued for more than 5,700 IRR soldiers since mid-2004.

The Army announced that about 60 soldiers will face review panels, known as separation boards, although the number may grow. It is determined that they intentionally failed to obey a mobilization order, they would face one of three levels of discharge from

the service: honorable, general or other-than-honorable.

"Because of these soldiers' disregard of their duty, the Army will initiate separation proceedings on all IRR soldiers who fail to obey mobilization orders," the Army said in a statement explaining its decision to act.

Crunch, Slurp, Smack...

Not necessarily the sounds you would prefer to hear around your table, but given the prices on cereal and milk this week at Swensens Markets, a chorus of munching is unavoidable. Stop by and pick from select varieties of Post and Kellogg's cereals at the hot price of just \$2.00 a box. And when you buy three boxes of cereal, enjoy a gallon of milk on us (with coupon)! So go ahead - satisfy the universal fixation for milk-coated, sugar-faced purifs of puro heaven (at a price to make you smile). Stuuurp!

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When you purchase any three boxes of Post cereals:
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Cereal, 18 oz. Post, 18 oz. Post, 18 oz. Post
Cereal, 18 oz. Post, 18 oz. Post

Amount: Return to Unit Post International Food Store P.O.
Box 177772, Salt Lake City, UT 84177. Limit one coupon per
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EDITORIAL

Buying more beds won't suffice for Idaho prisons

Now that critics are done laughing at state Senate Pro Tem Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs, and his proposal for sleep shifts in Idaho prisons, maybe they can provide a pinchline of their own.

What's the riddle, you ask? How should Idaho cut into its booming prison population?

Idaho has 815 inmates housed in state prisons compared to just 2,788 in 1996. Even with the addition of the Idaho Correctional Center in 2001, Idaho has few if any vacancies in the hoosegow hotel. State corrections director Tom Beaulac is requesting \$160 million from the Legislature to build new prisons. In the meantime, the state sent 302 inmates to a private Minnesota prison in October. More prisoners are planned to be sent in future months.

Under this cloud of rising costs for public safety, Geddes proposed last week at the Associated Press Legislature preview a "hot cot" proposal. Prisons would keep work facilities during the night for inmate shifts. Prisoners who agree to sleep days and work nights would get preferable jobs, while sharing bunk facilities with day shift inmates.

To avoid litigation from inmates, the offer would go to prisoners who volunteer for the night shift. Those jobs are in short supply, because we only use the facilities during the day, Geddes said.

The proposal didn't go far with Beaulac, who said he has no more facility space,

infrastructure or staff to handle rotating shifts. Beaulac says exceeded capacity of prisons is just a start. Correction officers need better pay, treatment facilities for drug convicts are a must, and mental health cases have been shovled off to state corrections.

All of those needs are certainly pressing for Idaho, and if more treatment centers and drug courts are in the works, terrific.

But legislators still get no hints about where funding will come from, and this year's surplus of \$200 million is already being used up.

As legislators hunt for ways to pay for prisons, they're also finding more reasons to put criminals away. This session will include tougher measures for repeat sex offenders, including more lifetime and minimum mandatory sentences. Since this is public safety we're talking about, it makes sense to ramp up those laws.

And yet, Geddes says a total of 2,200 more beds is needed for \$450 million spent. If that's true, throwing more money at the prison population won't suffice. Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Deer, chairman of the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee, said last week that out-of-state treatment centers, more drug courts, and more beds must be part of the solution.

He's probably right about a balanced solution. But where will the money come from for those shifts? Until we have that out, new ideas have to be explored.

Give Geddes points for at least starting the conversation off with something besides a push for more money.



Too much and too little media

Sometimes, I miss reporting. Aside from the tragedy of the 12 miners who died at Sago in Upshur County, W.Va., and aside from the compounded grief of their families, good reporting is increasingly difficult these days.

You'd think it would be easier than ever. We can beam information around like Star Trek characters. Our tools are more portable, more durable and more powerful. There is more data available 24 hours a day and more toys on which to play with it.

But there is a dark side to these advances. The twin culprits of television and the Internet, for all their wondrous applications, come with a price. They have taught us that we are entitled to instant gratification.

Instant gratification is the enemy of sound newsgathering. Yet instant gratification is the defining characteristic of both TV and the Web. Our technology and marketing have created a 24-hour vacuum for news. Our society fills most of it with lame chatter, so much "news-flavored product," punctuated by live reports from unfolding tragedies. This type of coverage is cheap to produce, and repeating it all day makes it cheaper still.

DAWN MILLER

good with the bad. When you're standing around in a pack in the news, trying to find the news and report it, it's very easy to develop a pack mentality, something I see in too many reporters. Everyone is too eager to report the same thing. Better first than second, I tell young reporters, but better slow than wrong.

But all the things wrong with the media, this week's heartbreakingly mistaken report that 12 miners were alive is not one of them. Had reporters at the scene been allowed to do their jobs properly, the coverage would have been much different, and the families would have been spared at least some grief. Instead, reporters were herded about in hopes of minimizing their damage.

Understandable as this tendency is, it also robs the press of its ability to be a public servant. You can physically see information spread through a crowd. It creates a visible wave of altered facial expressions and posture. You can track the message like a weather front.

Having watched this with spread, Charleston Gazette reporter Dave Gustafson searched for someone in a position to have seen those miners or know their status, but those officials were not answering questions. Meanwhile, the news service was convulsed. U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration officials contacted both West Virginia senators' offices to convey the erroneous report.

most of our local subscribers received the accurate news. The Internet, cheap digital photography and cell phones leave people with the impression that newsgathering is something anyone can do. It is true that anyone can work the equipment. But as it turns out, not just anyone with a cell phone is competent to report the news. Not just any anxious relative can do it, either. Not just any governor can do it.

Had professional news reporters been allowed access to those in contact with the rescuers, I doubt that the families would have suffered the added torture they felt Wednesday morning. Allowed access to the source, Gustafson wouldn't have garbled the message. Nor would the AP's G. Fred Evers and Cooper would have gotten it right, but he would have had to turn the camera off for a while and spend some time reporting.

Ironically, people in Upshur County suffered from too much media and too little media simultaneously. There were too many Geraldos strutting about jabbing mikes into the faces of suffering families. But no legitimate reporters could get close enough to the action to report the facts for the benefit of all.

Everyone here is sorry for the erroneous edition, but no one can find anything they would have done differently in the same circumstances. That's small comfort, to us as well as for the families. As long as our society views the news media as some sort of beast that needs to be penned — and as long as the most visible news media deserve that treatment — such failures will continue.

Dawn Miller is an editorial writer for the Charleston Gazette, 100 Virginia St. East, Charleston, W.Va. 25301, or via e-mail at dawn@wvgazette.com.

Myth: Sharon the Peacemaker

A Ariel Sharon's career comes to an end, the whitewashing is already under way. Literally overnight he was being hailed as "a man of courage and peace" who had generated "hopes for a far-reaching accord" with an electoral campaign promising "to end conflict with the Palestinians."

SAREE MAKDISI

But even if end-of-career assessments often stretch the truth, and even if far too many people fall for the old saw about the gruff old warrior miraculously turning into a man of peace, the reality is that Sharon cut off his own, and only rarely have words and realities been separated by such a yawning abyss.

Beginning to the end of his career, Sharon has been a man of ruthless and often gratuitous violence. The waypoints of his career are all directed toward his own, and his, massacre he directed at the village of Qibya in 1953, in which his men destroyed whole houses with their occupants — men, women and children — still inside, to the ruinous invasion of Lebanon in 1982, in which his army laid siege to Beirut, cut off its food, and only rarely have words and realities been separated by such a yawning abyss.

As a purely gratuitous bonus, Sharon and his army later facilitated the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians at the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila, and in all of about 20,000 people — almost all innocent civilians — were killed during his Lebanon adventure.

Sharon's approach to peacemaking in recent years wasn't very different from his approach to war. He favored the prosaic, the gradual, the incremental, the demolition, the construction of hideous barriers and walls, population transfers and illegal settlements — the very things his stock in trade as "a man of courage and peace."

Some may take comfort in the myth that Sharon was a peacemaker, but in fact he never deviated from his own 1998 call to "run and grab as many hilltops" in the occupied territories as possible. His plan for peace with the Palestinians involved grabbing large portions of the West Bank, ultimately annexing them, and treating them as the shattered, encircled, isolated, disconnected and barren fragments of territory left behind to what only a fool would call "the Palestinians."

Sharon's "painful sacrifices" for peace may have involved Israel keeping less, rather than more, of the territory that it captured violently and was clinging to illegally for four decades, but few seem to have noticed that it's not really with more, or to return something that wasn't yours to begin with.

His much-ballyhooed withdrawal from Gaza left 1.4 million Palestinians in what is essentially the world's largest prison, cut off from the rest of the world and as subject to Israeli power as before. It also mirrored the reality of a two-state solution to the conflict by condemning Palestinians to whiling away their lives in a series of disconnected ghettos, ghettos, reservations and strategic hamlets, entirely at the mercy of Israel.

That's not peace. As Crazy Horse or Sitting Bull would have recognized at a glance, it's an attempt to pacify an entire people by bludgeoning them into submission and servitude. Nothing short of actual genocide — for which Sharon's formula was merely a kind of substitute — would persuade the Palestinians to people to quietly accept such an arrangement, or negate themselves in some other way. And no matter how many times the Palestinian people to quietly accept such an arrangement, or negate themselves in some other way. And no matter how many times the Palestinian people to quietly accept such an arrangement, or negate themselves in some other way.

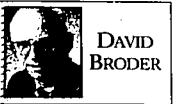
Saree Makdisi is a professor of English and comparative literature at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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Tom DeLay and the tradition of Texas deal-making

It is hard to develop much sympathy for Tom DeLay who resigned last week as Republican majority leader of the House, after his indictment in Texas on campaign finance charges was followed by guilty pleas from Jack Abramoff and Michael Scanlon, two of his lobbyist buddies who now threaten to blow the whistle on congressional corruption.



DAVID BRODER

DeLay's saga appears to be a classic case of pride going before a fall, with a hard-edged, arrogant political operative tripped up by his own tactics. The one-time pest exterminator is not someone for whom one sheds tears.



Party plumbed all possible permutations of that intimate connection. To take but one example, consider the phone conversation between Lyndon B. Johnson and George Brown, chairman of the board of Brown & Root, the construction giant, on Jan. 2, 1964. As Michael Beschloss, the editor of the volume, summarized the conversation, "Brown, one of Johnson's earliest financial backers, ... has asked him on behalf of another old supporter, Gus Wortham, a Houston insurance tycoon, and the John Jones, president of the Houston

Chronicle, to ask Robert Kennedy's antitrust officials to suspend antitrust restrictions against a merger they are seeking between two Houston banks. As a master horse-trader, Johnson ... wants a written promise from Jones that the Chronicle will support him as long as he is in the West." Brown tells Johnson that Albert Thomas, the Houston congressman who is also working on the merger, thinks that the deal the president wants is "too much of a cash-and-carry thing, ... too much of a trade, ... I'd hurt you as well as them."

But Johnson would not be deterred. "If they don't want to tell me that they're my friends, in writing ... I'm not going to do it as long as their attitudes

that way." "You get me that letter," Johnson orders, "and I'll have them sit down with the Controller of the Currency and we'll override the whole goddamned outfit. And they'll do it, to hold their own jobs."

That is how business was done in the campaign finance deal the mid-1960s, because, as Michael Ennis writes in the current issue of the Texas Monthly, "the government — that is, Johnson — had a long history of intervention by generations of enterprising Texans (businessmen) — has had an essential role in literally raising modern Texas up from the dirt. ... When saved us from a permanent depression was a powerful presence in Washington," embodied in such figures as Lyndon Johnson, Speaker Sam Rayburn, and Jesse Jones, the Houston banker who headed the New Deal Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

trade association and lobbying jobs, and built a network of Washington lawyers who moved back and forth from government service to handling mergers and contracts on corporate retainers.

DeLay's "K Street Project" of moving Republican staffers into similar positions with law firms and lobbyists was no innovation; it was simply an adaptation of the old plan. And his fondness for carmakers and special-interest bills, as a way of securing the loyalty and votes of his members, was, again, simply more of the model that previous generations of Texas politicians had followed. The federal treasury was their favorite tool for building grass-roots political support.

The courts will ultimately decide whether DeLay has broken the law in any of his dealings. Times change, and standards change with them. But Washington has lived with an incestuous relationship between business and government for many decades, and the Texas model is simply an extreme example of its familiar pattern.

It will take much more than hounding Tom DeLay out of office to change the culture of this city.

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

OPINION

School problems go well beyond funding

Though some vigorously argue otherwise, the last 30 years were not a miserly time for public schools in the United States. From 1970 until now, spending for public schools increased. In today's dollars, from \$3,500 a year per pupil to more than \$8,000. We spend more on our public schools than on the entire gross domestic product of all but 25 nations worldwide.

Among other things, these increases led to better education for disabled students, higher teacher salaries and new technologies in classrooms. Unfortunately, this influx of resources also led a belief that public schools in general were better than it comes to education spending. Not only is this assumption wrong, it hampers efforts to improve public schools.

Education matters more than ever to individual opportunity and America's place in the global economy, but the performance of American public schools remains widely uneven. Many schools do an outstanding job, but overall, poor and minority students are not well served.

On average, minority students trail white students by four grade levels in achievement by the time they finish high school, and the on-time high school graduation rate for minority students hovers near 50 percent. Socioeconomic disadvantage are also striking. While 60 percent of affluent students achieve a bachelor's degree by age 26, only 7 percent of low-income students do. Education special interest groups say addressing these

ANDREW J. ROTHERHAM

School problems hinge almost exclusively on more money. But even if money alone would solve the problems, America does not have the luxury of spending our way to better schools. Instead, three factors — demographic changes, policy decisions and political shifts — make leaner times and hard choices more likely than continuing the fiscal trajectory of the past three decades.

First, our country is not getting any younger. While just 13 percent of the population was over 65 in 1995, the Census Bureau estimates that almost 20 percent will be by 2030. That is not a trivial change for school funding. Most states ease property taxes for seniors, provisions that are hard to change. People also spend less as they age. Further, pressuring states reliant on sales taxes. And fewer people will have a direct stake in public schools, creating a tougher climate for property tax referenda and school bonds — the lifeblood of local school funding.

Aging also increases pressure on state budgets. Even now, Medicaid's estimate about 17 percent of state budgets, and various health care costs for an aging population will further strain state budgets. Washington cannot help much, either. At the federal level, various entitlement programs will similarly constrain public resources for the population ages.

Second, more tax cuts and lower taxes are popular even as this fiscal crunch approaches. The nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities cites state tax cuts, federal tax cuts that also impact state finances and outdated state tax policies that reduce progressivism as a primary cause of the structural deficits that many states face. The cuts are likewise curtailing the federal government's ability to make large investments in education.

Finally, glaring achievement gaps carry a political price. There are indications of political changes as minority parents look outside the traditional Democratic Party-teachers union coalition for political options. Meanwhile, without real improvement, our urban schools are struggling to attract providers of last resort in our cities. These issues threaten to shatter the political coalition that has supported greater funding for public schools.

While states and the federal government obviously must put their fiscal houses in order, educators must recognize and respond to the shifting demographic burden. More money is necessary to solve some problems, but the lack of funding is not all that ails our schools. Although education is more labor intensive than many other fields, schools are remarkably resilient against efforts to improve productivity and performance.

There are good ideas to stretch current dollars further. Policymakers can ensure that technology is used not only in the classroom but also to increase the efficiency of school

district operations by using data to inform decision-making or through performance audits, as Gov. Mark Warner did in Virginia. A focus on attracting and rewarding quality teachers, not simply hiring more, would help improve school performance within current resource constraints. Yet there is enormous opposition to these and any other ideas that threaten to displace vested interests with a stake in the system.

This resistance is debilitating. Debating ideas based on the policymaking environment advocates might want rather than actual conditions at hand is a time-wasting distraction from real reform. And without some reforms and improvements, there will be even less of a constituency to demand resources for public schools in a few years when the money really does become scarcer.

Andrew Rotherham is co-director of Education Sector, a senior fellow at the Progressive Policy Institute and a member of the Virginia Board of Education.

LETTER

Suspect has no reason to smile
I guarantee ya, Jim Nice won't be smiling in the pit of hell.
DOUG PETERSON
Twin Falls

Write to us
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LETTERS

Holidays had warm tidings in Twin Falls

I feel to express my warm appreciation to all whom I observed during the time spent in Twin Falls on Friday, Dec. 23. Some after leaving town, the thought came of having seen not one expression of weariness or disgust as we mingled, walking in the mall or waiting in line at the checkout. The order, and mostly calm, flow of traffic was also impressive. Thank you all for such a pleasant shopping experience. Perhaps many of us were remembering the saying of the angels as they announced the birth of Jesus "... on earth, peace, goodwill toward men." ("Wisemen and women still seek him.")
DELANO KOEHN
Buhl

Eradication of wolves chases tourists away

Change of plans. After hearing today (Jan. 4) on two radio stations the state for the wolves in your state, we have no choice but to change our plans to a state that is not going to "eradicate the wolves by any means necessary," as your state

Legislature has stated.

Word of this arrogance and insistence on killing these animals has outraged us. Coming to see the wolves was the main reason we were planning to come to Idaho after South Dakota in April. Word will spread fast on this.

We just cannot support a place that rejects the U.S. Fish and Wildlife report that the program has been a success and there are no more cattle killings than normal.

What is next, aerial hunting like that allowed in Alaska?
TED CANTY
Jacksonville, Fla.

Robertson remarks a black eye for humanity

Pat Robertson claims that "God says, 'No, this is mine.'" In regard to Ariel Sharon's efforts to bring peace to the Israelis and Palestinians. May a loving and forgiving creator, the great spirit, forgive his worship of a vengeful and revengeful false god who, through the prophet Joel, "enables it very clear that God has enmity against those who 'divide my land.'"

That idea portrays the ultimate of evil — greed. There cannot be peace on this earth

so long as leaders, such as Robertson, and their followers cling to the greedy and deadly belief that only their select group is blessed. Such attitude is the seed for the culture of war which has ruled planet earth since creation.

In New York harbor stands the Statue of Liberty, lighting the way to liberty and justice for all. That all homo sapiens are equal and are free to worship their creator as they see fit. But its beacon is repeatedly dimmed by phony messiahs who teach, preach and appeal to gods of enmity, kindling hostility among human beings.

Robertson's statement, "woe unto any prime minister of Israel who takes a similar course to appease the EU (European Union), the United Nations or the United States of America" is an insult to human intelligence. It is a declaration of war against the forgiveness and love of a benevolent creator.

Oh, great spirit, I pray not selfishly for what you can do for me. I ask: What can I do to help us homo sapiens be honest and just, so that we can live life, not enslaved, but a life peaceful and free.
ROY SLOTTEN
Twin Falls

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January 10th thru Tuesday, January 17th. If you'll make an appointment anytime during that open house, I'll give you a FREE hearing test and a FREE video exam of your ears (worth \$249.00), so you can see for yourself what your own hearing situation is. Just call any of our stores to set up an appointment. While you're there, my hearing specialists and audiologists will answer any questions you have about any of the issues mentioned above and anything else regarding your hearing, or hearing aids. When you come in, I'll give you a special report from a national consumer organization comparing the top 28 hearing aid brands. You'll see that our ActiveEAR Hearing Aids score very well among the top instruments available. We are directly connected with the most advanced circuit and component maker in the world to bring you the best quality & technology available for the best prices.

Naturally, once your exam is complete we will recommend a course of action. If you don't need hearing help, we'll let you know. (After all, with the extraordinary guarantee and the exceptional pricing I'm offering, I can't afford to sell you something that doesn't fill your needs.) If we believe we can help, we'll tell you that too. We will also give you a price quote up to 50% less than any local competitor on comparable equipment and a delivery timeline dramatically faster than most competitors. With over 48 years of experience under our belts and having served tens of thousands of customers, nothing gives us greater satisfaction than improving your hearing to give you the best possible quality of life. Remember, you can save up to 50% compared to the competition on the best quality hearing instruments you can buy. But you must act before Tuesday, January 17th to take advantage of this special offer, so call now to make your appointment for a FREE hearing exam. I look forward to serving you soon.

Sincerely,

Weston Harris, BC-HIS
Innovator & CEO of
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Robert Harris, BC-HIS
Founder & President
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Pocatello

Coming Soon

AROUND THE VALLEY

Video store clerk robbed at gunpoint

TWIN FALLS — Police are investigating an armed robbery Monday morning at Video Mexico.

Twin Falls Police Capt. Matt Hicks said two men came off with an unincised amount of cash after robbing a store clerk at gunpoint around 10:30 a.m. Video Mexico is located at 1960 Kimberly Road.

Police said the men made their getaway eastbound on foot. No one was injured.

Detonatives investigated the scene of the robbery Monday afternoon and questioned workers at nearby businesses.

Hicks said the nationality of the holdup men is unknown because they wore ski masks. However, at least one of them spoke Spanish during the robbery.

Police said both robbers wore black ski masks. One wore sunglasses with red lenses, a gray sweater and brown pants. The other wore black clothing and black gloves.

Last sentence issued in Casita meth case

POCAHELLO — The last of five people convicted in a Casita County methamphetamine drug trafficking case has been sentenced to prison.

Emmanuel Guzman-Valencia, 26, was sentenced to 121 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Sentencing was pronounced last week by Chief U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill at the federal courthouse in Pocatello.

Guzman-Valencia joins four others previously sentenced to prison in the case. Jesus Antonio Sotillo was sentenced to 25 years, Guadalupe Reyes to 15 years and 10 months, Della Martinez to 92 months and Martin Bautista to 96 months.

Investigation leading to the arrests was conducted by the Casita County Sheriff's Office, Pocatello Police, the Pocatello-Casita Drug Task Force, the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

T.F. council approves firefighter contract

TWIN FALLS — City Council approved a collective bargaining agreement Monday night with the city's firemen.

The annual agreement is little changed from previous years with the exception that a new contract allows Twin Falls firemen who are on the Idaho Hazardous Materials Response Team to be paid industry standard rates called out on a state emergency.

Under the new contract, when Twin Falls firefighters are called to a state team, they can earn \$100 an hour as a hazmat team leader, \$50 per hour as a hazmat technician or \$40 per hour as an operations team member.

In other business, the council passed an ordinance to vacate Canyon Rim Road in the northwest part of the city. The issue was previously contested by several residents who wanted the road preserved because it offers a good view of the Snake River Canyon. Instead, the road will now become part of a Canyon View Properties development.

Public hearings on the issue were previously held before City Council and before the City Planning and Zoning Commission.

Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% of Peak
Salmon	117%	63%
Big Wood	142%	88%
Little Lost	147%	87%
Big Lost	142%	82%
Little Lost	106%	69%
Heppes Fork/Twin 129%	67%	60%
Upper Snake Basin 123%	68%	60%
Lower Snake 144%	86%	68%
Salmon Falls	135%	81%

A representative of Basin Associates, Inc. said that, with the help of a snow gauge network, the Department of Hydro and Meteorology is providing the most accurate snowpack data available.

Attorneys fine-tune hospital deal

M.V. Regional aims for health care network

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The plan to bring two hospitals together to create a regional health care system has moved another step forward.

Twin Falls County has sent a rough draft of a legal contract to the attorney working for the Boise-based nonprofit St. Luke's

Regional Medical Center.

"The good news is the definitive agreements are moving ahead," said John Kee, Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's chief executive officer, at Monday night's board meeting.

The county-owned Magic Valley Regional wants to team up with St. Luke's to create a regional health care network that also would include St. Luke's facilities in Meridian and the Wood River Valley as well as its Mountain States Tumor Institute. Under the agreement, St. Luke's would build a \$120 million hospital and assume \$22.7 million in existing hospital debt. The question will be put to voters in May.

Also Monday, County Com-

missioner Tom Milesell swore in Frank Wright, a local dentist to a two-year term on the Hospital Board.

"We're going to baptize him by fire during the next few months," Milesell said, noting that it's a very interesting time in the hospital's history.

Wright will take the seat previously held by Dave Johnson.

"I think that's where the action is," Wright said when asked why he wanted to serve on the board, adding that as a dentist, he has an interest in health care in the community, Wright and his wife, Riki, have two young daughters.

Stepping down from the Hospital Board is Lee Odenwald, who served two years of a three-

year term.

"I think the entire hospital situation right now is moving along and I want to spend my time on other things like the Lunch Buddy program," Odenwald said in a phone interview later in the evening.

Odenwald said he's very much in support of the agreement to bring Magic Valley Regional and St. Luke's together.

"I think the merger with St. Luke's is the best option for Magic Valley and I speak for the taxpayers, not the hospital," Odenwald said.

In other action Monday, the board approved new notification guidelines for diagnostic test results. One of the most im-

portant things the guidelines do is specifically outline how to communicate test results, said Dr. John Gray, the hospital's chief of staff.

"When someone calls a (test) result, they have the person read it back to them," Gray said.

Gray said hospital policy changes center on required quality improvement measures from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

"Patient safety is an area of huge emphasis now," Gray said.

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3234 or by e-mail at smiller@magicvalley.com.

ELECTIONS GURU



Sharon Bryan, deputy city clerk for Twin Falls, balances more than 200 city checks in her office Thursday at City Hall. Bryan has worked in the city's finance department for more than 20 years.

When it comes to voting laws, Sharon is the one to see

By Terry Smith
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — If you need to know about voting procedures in Twin Falls, city employees usually say: "You'll have to talk to Sharon about that."

They're referring to Deputy City Clerk Sharon Bryan, generally recognized as the election guru at City Hall.

The recognition is well deserved. Bryan has been running the city's elections for 28 years. That adds up to 14 City Council elections and a handful of bond issues.

Bryan has other responsibilities at City Hall. She keeps track of records, pays the city's bills and swears in new employees and elected officials. But it's the election process where she's recognized as the expert.

"Oh yes, when you are in this position you have to know the election laws very well, or at least know where you're going to be able to find the answers," Bryan said.

Come election time, Bryan gets calls



from city clerks throughout Idaho seeking her expertise. Typically, the questions have to do with points of law.

"They call in a panic," she said, "usually because they've missed a deadline or something. As long as we keep on top of the election laws, then your election is going to run pretty smoothly."

So what does it take to run an election? "I have to keep on top of the deadline dates as mandated by code," Bryan said. She has to make sure the city's 20 voting precincts are up and running. "I hire judges and clerks and registrars for all those precincts."

Bryan makes sure the ballots are designed and printed, takes care of legal

notices, sets up absentee voting procedures, oversees voter registration, makes sure any loose ends are wrapped up, and works with Twin Falls County officials to get the ballots counted.

"On election day, I run from poll to poll to make sure everything's going smoothly," she said. "It's a busy time."

Bryan said her most memorable election was a swimming pool bond issue several years ago. "It didn't go through the first time and we had to have a couple of elections to get that through," she said.

One year the city used hand ballots for the pool vote.

"That was a mess," she said. "We decided we never do that again."

Bryan was busy last week, and will likely stay busy for the next month, getting everything in place for a Feb. 7 library bond vote.

She seems to enjoy the work.

"Yeah, it's an interesting job," she said. "There aren't any dull moments, that's for sure. If I didn't enjoy it, I wouldn't be here."

'Eternal patrol:' Local sailor lived, and died, with honor

By Jami Whitford
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Gall Diamond lived his life serving his country with dignity, honor and pride. He died Dec. 29, at 90 years old.

His lifetime the values he lived were Manifesto, Kun, Farm when he was 11 years old and he had to work odd jobs from the time he was about 12 to help the family, which moved to Fort Angeles, Wash.

"He told me about his first radio," said his wife, Dorothy. "And about the first airplane he saw in Mankato. He was just amazed at the sight. All of our modern conveniences weren't so common then."

He joined the Navy in 1939 and began a 26-year career, serving on many submarines.

"There's a lot of camaraderie on a submarine," Dorothy said. "You have to be a certain type of person to be able to do that."

The 132-degree heat, lack of

Gall L. Diamond TMC (SS)

Born: Feb. 18, 1915
Died: Dec. 29, 2005

Born in Mankato, Minn.; daughter, Gayle (Cory) Johnson; son, Steve Johnson; daughter, Susan Johnson; and Michael (Pamela) Hayes; sister-in-law, Elaine Orchard; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

a Life remembered

food, few toilets, no air-conditioning and extended voyages could take its toll on the sailors, but Diamond's attitude seemed to help other men who served with him.

Jim Johnson served with him when Diamond was his chief of the USS Tulee and his guidance had a deep effect on the younger sailor.

"He was very kind and knowledgeable," Johnson said in a

surface when shrapnel hit him in the leg. During the battle, his executive officer was killed and he had to have time to get him below.

"He wrote a story about that and it was published in *Pfizer's*," Dorothy said, referring to a Navy magazine for World War II veterans.

While serving on the USS Scorpion, Diamond had a feeling he needed to transfer, he did and on the diesel boat's next run, it sank with all hands lost. Next, he was on the USS Tulee, had the same feeling and was frustrated again. Again, the submarine was lost.

"He always felt something had saved his life," Dorothy said. He was very proud of his service, she continued, adding that she is amazed at how many people remember his stories.

When she met Diamond at the Turf Club in 1970, she said it was love at first sight. They were married in 1971 and took a trip



Gall Diamond, in the black uniform, hugs his brother, who was wearing Diamond's other uniform, in this 1940s photo.

Please see DIAMOND, Page B3

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 733-3268 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Patricia Ann Birrell

INCOM — Patricia Ann Birrell, 62, was greeted with open arms at the gates of heaven on Monday, Jan. 2, 2006, by her Heavenly Father; son, Timothy; brother, David; and parents, Tracy and Roy Birrell, who all left this earthly world before her.

She was born April 22, 1943, in Provo, Utah, to Roy M. and Melina B. (Pfeiffer) Birrell. She was raised and educated in Twin Falls, Idaho. Patricia furthered her education and achieved an A.A. in criminal justice from the College of Southern Idaho. She later moved to Boise, Idaho, and finished her schooling by receiving a B.A. in education from Boise State University. Patricia was married and divorced twice. First to Rick Robinson, and they were the proud parents of a son, Cory. She then married Robert Woodbury, and they were blessed with four more children, Melinda, Timothy, and twin girls, Marcie and Nicole. Patricia dedicated herself to working hard. She was comfortable in any employment class she held, from McDonald's to security officer to teaching 21 in Jackpot, Nev. However her most rewarding achievement was being a teacher. She was very involved with youth through education. She will be remembered by her family and friends for her quick sense of humor, superb intelligence, vivid and somewhat comical memory, loving heart, compassionate and vibrant spirit, and her winsome yet beautiful smile. She loved her five children and took great pride in being a mother, no matter what the circum-



stances. She has survived many a heartache and still she prevailed, never to lose the lesson of unconditional love.

Patricia is survived by her children, Cory, Melinda, Marcie and Nicole; grandchildren, Shelby, Taylor, DeAnna, Jennifer and Mariah; and brother, Clifford Birrell.

With many memories and our deepest love thoughts we say, "Goodbye," to our beautiful mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Knowing now she is happy and where she has always wanted to be, with God and son, Timothy. Mom you will always be in our hearts and our thoughts. We love you and look forward to the day when we will see you again.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006, at St. Edwards Catholic Church, 152 Seventh Ave. E. in Twin Falls, Idaho. Visitation will be at Sunset Memorial Park following the services at the church. There will be a luncheon at St. Edwards following the interment. Arrangements are under the direction of Colonial Funeral Home, 2005 S. Fourth Ave., Pocatello, Idaho.

Floyd D. Schwab



Now, to be near his daughter, Peggy; daughter, Deanna

TWIN FALLS — Floyd Donald Schwab, 78, passed away Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nev.

Floyd was born Dec. 7, 1927, in Eden, Idaho, to Henry and Mrs. Davis Schwab. He was the youngest of seven children. Floyd graduated from Eden High in 1946. He began farming in Eden and married Peggy Salter. After farming 21 years, they opened the Eden Theater. Then in 1966, they purchased a service station in Elko, Nev. Then in 1970, they purchased a motel and apartments in Burley, Idaho. After retiring in 1994, they moved to Filer, Idaho, for a short time. Due to Floyd's failing health, they later moved to Las Vegas.

Opal P. Kirtland



Stanley was an avid horseshoe pitcher, and together they attended tournaments around the state where they made many longtime friends.

Opal especially enjoyed her children, grandchildren, camping in the Idaho mountains and playing cards. She will always be remembered as a loving, caring person and for her famous cinnamon rolls. In her famous cinnamon rolls. In 1989 after Stanley's passing, Opal moved to Garden Valley to be near her daughter, Jean. A few years later, she moved to Gooding to be near her son, Jim. Three years later, she moved back to the Garden Valley area, where she resided before going into the Capital Care Center in Boise eight months ago.

Opal was preceded in death by her son, her sister, two brothers; her loving husband, Stanley; and her daughter, Betty. Survivors include her daughter, Jean (Don) Brown; eight grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, 2006, at the Hagerman Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Demaray's Funeral Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Opal's memory to the Hagerman Alumni Association or to a charity of your choice.

Fumiko K. Tanaka



She is survived by a daughter, Lorraine Tanaka, whom she lived with for the past 11 years in Moscow, Idaho. She is also survived by four sons, Ken

HAGERMAN — Opal Pearl Kirtland, 90, beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, with her immediate family by her side.

Pearl was born March 21, 1915, in Catosa, Okla., the daughter of Jesse and Sadie Ruddle. In addition to Opal, there was a sister, Ruby; and brothers, Jesse James and Robert Idaho Ruddle. The family moved to Hagerman, Idaho when Opal was 5 years old. She was raised on the Buckeye Ranch and had many fond memories of growing up around her home.

Opal attended Hagerman schools, where she played baseball and excelled in basketball.

On Oct. 6, 1933, Opal married Stanley L. Kirtland in Hagerman. To this union, three children were born, (deceased), Jean and Jim. Opal and Stanley raised their family in the Hagerman Valley, living in town, on a farm and then at the National Fish Hatchery. Opal worked at the Hagerman School for several years. After Stanley retired from the hatchery, they traveled to their grandchildren's sporting and school events.

SPOKANE, Wash. — Fumiko Kusaba Tanaka, 87, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, Wash., from complications following a successful heart surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm.

Fumiko was born July 15, 1918, in Sage, Wyo., the eldest of four children born to Hanshiro and Naka Kinoshita Kusaba. Fumiko attended school in Wyoming and was graduated as valedictorian of her Cokeville High School class in 1936. She furthered her education by attending Kingman Business School in Spokane, Wash., and a sewing school in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Fumiko married Masao Tanaka on Jan. 17, 1941, in Idaho Falls, Idaho. She supported her husband in farming all through their married lives. From 1949, they raised their five children in Shelley, Idaho. To help supplement their farm income, she worked for White Star Laundry as a seamstress and

DEATH NOTICES

Michael P. Glover

MAITA — Michael Phillip Glover, 47, of Malta, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at his home of cancer.

A viewing for friends and family will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006, at the Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel. Arrangements for Cremation will follow. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the American Cancer Society.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel.

Alvin J. Hepworth

JEROME — Alvin J. Hepworth, 80, of Jerome, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at the Veterans Hospital in Boise.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, 2006, at

the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel.

A full obituary will follow later.

Betty Vert

GOODING — Betty Vert, 63, of Gooding, died Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006, at her home in Gooding following a long, courageous battle with cancer.

A memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006, at Furner Funeral Chapel in Buhl. A full obituary will appear in Wednesday's newspaper. Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Furner Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

Lucile Olsen

RUPERT — Lucile Olsen, 91, of Rupert and formerly of Jerome, died Sunday, Jan. 8, 2006, at Countryside Care and

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

George A. Oberg

TWIN FALLS — George Arthur Oberg, 64, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006, at the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary and Crematory.

Kerna Young

BURLEY — Kerna Young, 89, of Burley, died Monday, Jan. 9, 2006, at Parko View Care & Rehabilitation Center.

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

SERVICES

Gladys E. Nylander of Buhl, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Magic Valley Baptist Church in Buhl (Furner Funeral Chapel).

Matthew Sean Rasmussen of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Burley First Baptist Church, 2262 Hilland Ave.; interment will be held before the funeral today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home).

Selma Shaw Morrell of Twin Falls, formerly of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Burley LDS West Stake Center, 2420 Parke Ave.; burial at 2:30 Saturday at the Valley View Cemetery in Malta. Friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Payne Mortuary).

Levi N. Vaughn of Shoshone, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Demaray's Shoshone Chapel.

Vernice DeNaughel of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Burley LDS West Stake Center, 2420 Parke Ave.; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350

E. 16th St. in Burley and from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Ruth L. Finch of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Burley LDS 2nd, 4th and 10th Ward Chapel, 515 E. 16th St.; friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church (Payne Mortuary).

Iva L. Burgess McCoy of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. Thursday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Elda Bigelow Bruvold of Burley, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Burley LDS Stake Center, 2050 Normal Ave. (Rasmussen Funeral Home).

Lauretta E. Christian of Twin Falls, memorial service at 3 p.m. Saturday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

The Family of Raymond Hafn appreciates the caring expressed to us when Ray passed away. It means so much to have extended-family and friends send cards, flowers, make phone calls, provide food, visit with us, and especially, the prayers given for our comfort. We also want to express our gratitude for the memorial gifts given in Ray's name. Thank you, for being there for us.

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Twin Falls, Burley, Hailey

Nearly 340 workers let go from INL waste cleanup

IDAHO FALLS — Nearly 340 workers are being laid off from the nuclear waste cleanup effort at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Officials with CWI, the project's contractor, said the company's new contract with the U.S. Department of Energy requires a smaller work force than the 2,360 people now employed.

The workers were offered a buyout of \$25,000 plus a week's salary for every year worked. Most of the departing workers will leave by Jan. 30, officials said.

CWI officials declined to say if more positions would be eliminated, but said any additional layoffs won't occur until 2007, after the company reevaluates its needs.

Some of the younger employees plan to use the package to go back to school, said Bill Dalton, CWI human resources director. But the average age of those who opted for the buyout is 55.

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"As far as I'm concerned, it's helped in a lot of different ways. I've met new people and made a couple of new friends."

Betty Bosh, Hansen, Idaho

"It's a get-together that's enjoyable. I learn about living on my own from the different speakers every month."

Rosalie Graves, Twin Falls, Idaho

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Please join us on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls.

Everyone is welcome free of charge. No attempts will be made to solicit funeral services.

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Justices hear argument against secret meetings

Lawmakers say they need closed committee deliberations

By Christopher Smith Associated Press writer

BOISE — If the Idaho Supreme Court agrees with a district judge that the state constitution does not require public access to legislative committee meetings, citizens will be shut out of the fundamental business of democracy, an attorney for the Statehouse press corps argued Monday before the state high court.

court ruling that found the Idaho Constitution requires only the floor sessions of the state Senate and House need be open to the public while committee meetings — where lawmakers hear from witnesses and discuss pending legislation in detail — can be closed at any time for any reason.

"The only place in the current legislative process where the public has the ability to instruct their legislators in their business is in committee," said Kristensen, representing the Idaho Press Club in the group's appeal.

But the attorney representing lawmakers maintained that similar to a judge closing sensitive court proceedings, the Idaho Legislature has a right and need to close committee meetings when it chooses.

"We don't have abuse of this authority whatsoever," said Carlson, noting that the appeal focused on just seven committee meetings that were closed compared to thousands that were conducted openly.

Lawmakers had good reason to go behind closed doors in such instances when they were discussing potential terrorist attacks on Idaho water supplies or settlement of a long-standing water rights dispute with the Nez Perce Tribe,

he said. "The Legislature understands and respects public involvement," Carlson said. "I would submit those (closures) are a prudent use of executive committee to discuss sensitive subjects."

The Press Club sued the Legislature in 2003 for closing meetings of official committees, arguing that the state constitution requires the "business of each house" of the lawmaking body must be conducted "openly and not in secret session." But in successive rulings, 4th District Judge Kathryn Sticker of Boise determined the framers of the Idaho Constitution intended only the general sessions of the House and Senate always to be open, not the committee hearings.

Her rulings rely on another constitutional provision that says a quorum must be present before the Legislature can conduct business.

Kristensen pointed to the transcripts of the Idaho Constitutional Convention debates of 1889 and 1890 where delegates proclaimed their intent to have all business of the Legislature open to the public, adding "it doesn't say when only a quorum is present."

Republican legislative leaders have argued that closed-door committee meetings are sometimes critical to the legislative process so that lawmakers may openly discuss ideas or proposals, or consider issues of security, litigation and state employee discipline. Minority Democrats have sided with the Idaho Press Club

in the case and criticized GOP leadership for the secrecy ploy.

But they have balked at signing onto a Republican proposal for a "limited closure" rule that would keep meetings open except in extraordinary circumstances, with Democratic leaders saying they prefer to wait for the Supreme Court to rule in the appeal before deciding whether to support any limited closure rule.

Chief Justice Gerald Schroeder gave no indication whether the high court would rule before the current session of the Legislature — which opened Monday — adjourns in late March or early April. He ended Monday's hearing by saying the justices would issue a decision "in due course."

SOAKING SEATTLE

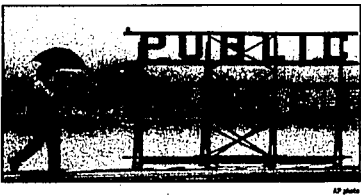
Notoriously wet city closes in on rainy record

SEATTLE (AP) — After 22 consecutive days of measurable rain, Seattle is closing in on a record so dismal, even forecasters in this city famous for its gray skies are complaining — albeit politely.

With more wet weather predicted over the next several days, many soon break a record set in 1953, when there 33 consecutive days of measurable precipitation — the most since the local National Weather Service branch started tracking rainfall in 1931.

"Usually we have a few days of rain and one or two days of cloudy and dreary days and then it rains again and that's the way it goes," National Weather Service meteorologist Johnny Burg said Monday. "We're not getting our dry days in between — just having one system follow another."

A trace of rain fell on Dec. 18, but the real stuff started the following day.



A pedestrian walks in the rain past a sign for the Pike Place Market in downtown Seattle on Monday.

Since the weather service's "weather year" began in October, Seattle has had nearly 18 inches of rain — about 2 inches above normal and well above this time last year, when the city had received 11 inches of rain.

Mudslides blocked railroad tracks north of Seattle for most of the weekend and a highway near Port Orchard on the Kitsap Peninsula. State Route 166 was closed indefinitely in both directions early Sunday because of roadway damage caused by the mudslide. It was miserable in the moun-

tains Monday, too. Forecasters said heavy snow falling amid gusty winds in the Cascades will continue through Tuesday, with about 1 foot falling every 12 hours.

The Olympic Mountains were getting slammed, with six to 11 inches predicted every 12 hours through Tuesday afternoon.

In the lowlands, the weather service said flooding was possible, but not imminent, for rivers in parts of Western Washington, including Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Pacific and Grays Harbor counties.

Medicare's new prescription drug program starts in Boise

Officials unable to process flurry of applications

BOISE (AP) — So many people signed up for prescription drug coverage under Medicare's new program that officials were unable to process all the forms in time, leaving some Idaho applicants paying more for their medications.

"The insurance companies and Medicare have been so swamped that I'm not at all surprised there was a glitch," said Elsie Belisle, a senior on Medicare who volunteers to help people enroll in the program at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in Boise. "People are just going to have to be patient."

Michael Marchand, a regional spokesman for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, told The Idaho Statesman that the enrollment forms are being processed as quickly as possible.

More than 21 million seniors and people with disabilities nationwide signed up in time to start receiving prescription drug coverage under Medicare's new Part D program, according to CMS, which has not released state-by-state numbers. People who signed up were to begin receiving the coverage Jan. 1.

Under the program, those on Medicaid or who live below a certain income level can have their copayments for prescription drugs subsidized. Those who are not on Medicaid or Medicare can mean no copayments, or copayments of \$1 for generic drugs to \$3 for brand name medications.

But because not all the forms were processed in time, some people had to pay about 25 percent of the medication's total price.

State Rep. Kathie Garrett, R-Boise, heads Idaho's coalition of agencies and organizations working to enroll seniors in the program. She said Idahoans who paid more than they should have for medication can get money back.

"If they save the receipt, they can be reimbursed once the computer system for the insurance company is updated," she said.

Gonli Hamilton, supervisor at the state Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors, said low-income Medicare beneficiaries who did not receive the discounted rate should contact SHBA or the Department of Health and Welfare to get reimbursed.

In the meantime, Hamilton says the state Senior Health Insurance drug copayment should take their letter from the Social Security Administration or Medicaid card to the pharmacy to show that they qualify for low-income assistance.

She said many, but not all, pharmacies will honor those documents.

People can sign up for the Part D program without penalty until May 15. "But now's the time to do the research and look into it," Hamilton said.

Rep. Butch Otter plans housing development

EAGLE (AP) — Land owned by Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter, R-Idaho, could be turned into a high-density housing development in this fast-growing southwestern Idaho city.

The 41-acre parcel is owned by G.O. Ranches Inc., a company owned by Otter. It represents Idaho's 1st Congressional District and is running for governor this year.

The Eagle Planning and Zoning Commission in the city is recommending approval of the project, which would have up to 17 houses on each acre of land.

Hawkins Companies, the developer, was scheduled to go before the Eagle City Council on Tuesday. Hawkins is asking the city for annexation, zoning to multi-use and a development agreement. No specific

plans have yet been filed with the city.

In Eagle, new developments must have a minimum lot of half-acre or larger, making the latest proposal, called Lone-esome Dove, a significant change.

"I don't think our intention was to depart from what is successful in Eagle," Bart Longson, director of land development for Hawkins Homes and Communities, told The Idaho Statesman.

"Part of it is just the location of the land. We feel like the multifamily component of the community is lacking and it would be a good product to serve some of these folks who don't necessarily want a yard to take care of. They just want to come home and live in a nice space."

Diamond

Continued from B1. continued from B1. They stopped in Port Angeles to visit family and on their way home, he mentioned how they wanted to go back to Port Angeles.

Dorothy liked the area too, so within a month, they were back in Washington.

While there, Diamond went to college at age 57 and worked at Seattle First National Bank until retiring in 1975. The couple started traveling again and lived in a fifth-wheel trailer for about 12 years.

"We were full timers," Dorothy chuckled. Eventually, they settled back in Twin Falls. It was there in 1995 he received the Bronze Star Purple Heart, Defense of the Philippines and more medals he earned while in the Navy. He had been discharged before he could receive them.

At 80 years old, a friend showed him a carving made of uterine wood. He was fascinated with the craft and began a woodworking hobby.

In those 10 years, he's probably made at least 150 pieces. Everybody in our family has one," Dorothy said. "Buffalo, wolf, lynx, cardinals, squirrels and more were creat-

ed by Diamond's hands. A horse and hummingbird even received blue ribbons at the Twin Falls County Fair.

"He was a jack-of-all-trades," Dorothy said. "He could do just about anything he set his mind to."

He enjoyed dancing, trading up automobiles and being part of submarine organizations, but most of all, he loved his friends and especially his family.

"And they loved him," Dorothy said. "He had a strength of character, a sort of family quality, and was an all-around good man."

His life as a sailor was never forgotten. He didn't mind sharing his stories and remembering those that died, or what Dorothy said submarine sailors refer to as being on "Eternal Patrol."

"It's not an easy life," Diamond once said. "My daughter, Gayle, was 18 months old before I saw her. But I was proud to serve - proud to serve my country and proud to serve with a lot of fine men."

Veteran journalist to speak

TWIN FALLS — Veteran journalist Charyfene Hunter-Gault will be the keynote speaker at the first Human Rights Celebration Breakfast on Jan. 21 at the College of Southern Idaho.

Hunter-Gault is the former Johannesburg bureau chief for CNN from 1991 to 1993, she was the chief correspondent in Africa for National Public Radio and from 1983 to 1997, the chief national correspondent for "The Newshour with Jim Lehrer."

Her topic will be, "Making a Global Dream: From Jim Crow America to Apartheid South Africa and get in free."

Breakfast begins at 9 a.m. in the CSI Student Union Building. Hunter-Gault's talk will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the CSI Fine Arts Auditorium.

Tickets will be available at the door and will cost \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Children age 5 and under get in free.

Special activities during the program will be available for younger children under the supervision of the Boys and Girls Club and the CSI Early Childhood Education program.

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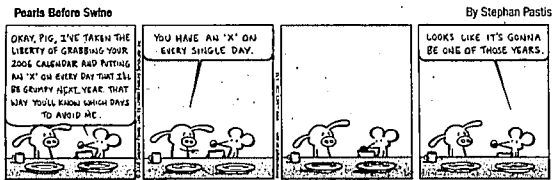
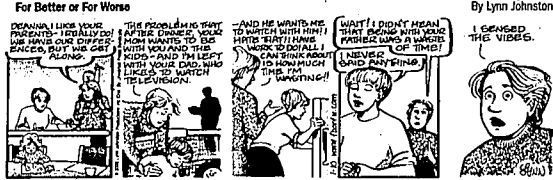
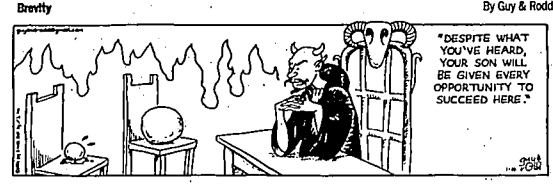
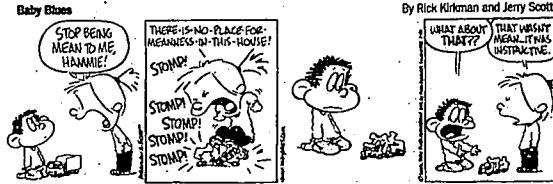
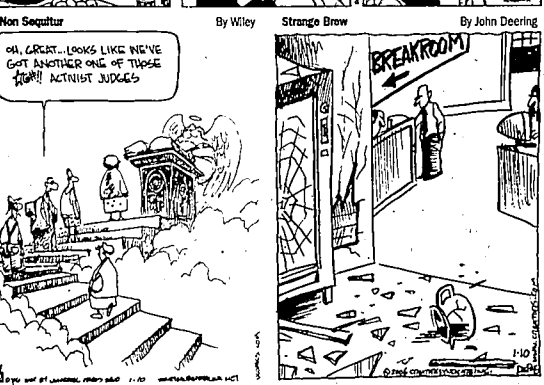
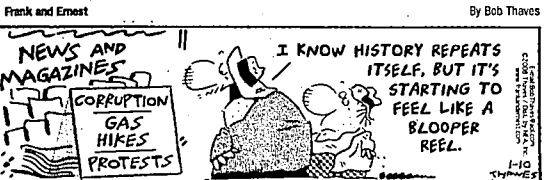
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COMICS



Aries: Wait before speaking your mind

IF JAN. 10 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: As 2006 unfolds you will find that very little guidance or control is needed to maintain the high standards of performance already established. Even if some of your preconceived notions are challenged in May, you will still have time during the months ahead to come to rest on your laurels and savor the fruits of your labors. Late July is the best time to start new projects, display your leadership abilities or ask others to help you in some important way. Maintain a low profile in late September when others may be more critical of your actions and your judgment could be asked.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lightning-fast reflexes and executive decisions may rub others the wrong way or cause gossip. Count to 10 before you voice an opinion and don't let little irritations ruffle any feathers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Count to 10. Minor annoyances can trigger hot tempers or pats for a few hours today. Be as tactful and diplomatic as possible and avoid entering into agreements or signing contracts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An inadvertent verbal blunder can cause a shakedown and, as

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

you know, one domino that falls can eventually knock all the others down. Steer away from important business negotiations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sometimes sticking to safe old ruts is the most comfortable way to get ahead. A little agitation, a surprise or an unexpected obstacle can make you yearn briefly for an escape route.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make a decision in haste and repent in leisure. Controversies can stir up emotions for a few hours. Avoid participating in sensitive negotiations and don't get involved in minor feuds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Watch your step. Verbal confrontations that are apparently minor can ignite a heap of trouble. Use your excess energy to canter or take care of tasks that require manual dexterity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Come back down to earth. Someone may launch a barbed remark and pop the balloon of enjoyment that you are engrossed in. It isn't wise to dwell

in dreams and forget to face reality.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spin stories to gold. Making money may be a worthy passion. Don't get caught up in time-wasting games of one-upmanship with friends or compete in unfairity with your co-workers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Tread lightly. Forceful people can challenge you to display your best behavior. An offhand remark can put you in hot water or others may take a light-hearted suggestion at face value.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Disciplined effort is one of your best traits. Don't get sidetracked by petty squabbles or sudden whims. An impressive technological advance may cause you more work than it is worth.

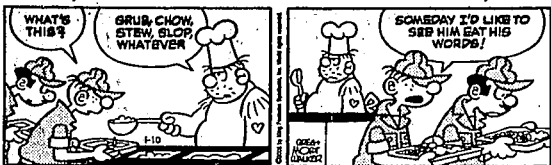
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Tosses in to help you get a messy sloop over and make a mess. Some people champion change and stir things up out of sheer boredom. Try to maintain dignity in emotional situations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. Discontent there isn't anything wrong with the world — but maybe there is, anyway. This is not a good time to discuss important plans.

COMICS

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Bom Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brent Parker and Johnny Hart



Decide the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



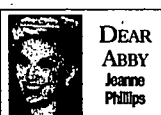
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



Woman content to be childless resents questions about kids

DEAR ABBY: I am a female who is almost 38 years old. Most of my adult life has been spent in school, working or traveling. It is only in the last two years that I have met someone and although we are not married, we are both artists, so much of our time is filled doing the things that we love and believe in. Neither of us feels a giant void in our relationship or our lives that needs to be filled by a baby.



also tried talking about things with my dad, but I don't want to make him start to lose it every time he hears up, so now I avoid the subject.

I don't know who to talk to. Sometimes I feel it's pointless to try because talking won't change the situation. But my feelings are becoming overwhelming, and I need to let them out. Can you help me?

—OVERWHELMED IN ARIZONA

DEAR OVERWHELMED: I'm sorry your mother isn't helping with this. I'm sure your presence is a great comfort to both of your parents.

It is very important that both you and your father find an outlet where it's safe to talk about your feelings; because they are normal. Although it may be painful, and probably terrifying, you can be helped. The American Cancer Society has programs for people with cancer and their families, including excellent support groups. You do not have to go through this difficult time alone, so please don't wait to make contact. Find a program in your area by visiting www.cancer.org and typing in your ZIP code. (Or you can call: 800-ACS-2345.) There is also an online community where people can chat anytime they feel the need to talk. Although it's a cancer survivors' network, families are welcome, too. You're in my prayers.

In the past year or so, several of my co-workers and other people I barely know keep asking, "When are you going to have a baby?" or "You only have a couple more years, aren't you going to have a baby?" or "Don't you want kids?"

Abby, my family doesn't even ask me these questions! I think they are extremely rude and intrusive, and I resent the simple-minded assumption that just because a person has a uterus and ovaries she must make a baby. How should I respond to these questions?

—CHILDLESS AND HAPPY IN TEXAS

DEAR CHILDLESS AND HAPPY: There are several ways to handle questions that are nobody's business. One is to deflect the question by asking another, "Why do you ask?" Or, "Why do you think that's any of your business?" Alternatively, if you really want the person to

back down, you can reply, "If it were any of your business, you already know the answer to that question. Please don't ask me again!"

DEAR ABBY: My mother was diagnosed with colorectal cancer that spread to her liver. Over the last five years, she has put up a brave fight, smiling through her surgeries, years of chemo and constant pain. The doctors now say there's nothing more she can do. Basically, Mom is at home waiting to die.

I recently moved back with my parents so I can help Dad with Mother's care. I'm glad I can take time off and spend quality time with them. I am 23 and love them both.

My concern is, my father rarely speaks about Mother's illness. We joke about it, mostly to avoid a sad, uncomfortable situation. I'm dealing with this like my dad does. I rarely talk about it, and when I do, I make a joke. I have tried discussing how I feel with friends, but most of the time they stop me because it's hard for them to hear. I have

When penguins flew: They traded air for water millions of years ago

Millions of years ago, flocks of penguins flew high overhead. They eventually gave up flying as sophisticated since they had few natural enemies and since swimming was more important for their survival.

Penguins learned to drink through water, using the same motions as other birds fly through air. Underwater, they average about 8 mph with bursts of speed to 25 mph. "Dolphin" up into the air every minute or two to breathe.

This day in history, Jan. 10, 1970, was a big day for oil. On this date, 1970, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil, setting the stage for a monopoly that would control more than 50 percent of the country's oil and make Rockefeller the richest man in the world. On the same day in 1901, drillers in Beaumont, Texas, hit the first oil gusher, revealing a huge store of petroleum under the state.



Think the red M&Ms taste better than the brown? It's in your mind. The formula for all colors of M&Ms is exactly alike.

If you're standing on ground, you probably won't see a rainbow at noon. The sun has to be low in the sky at your back and shining through rain.

We love having readers with their noses to the air. Two of our most recent forum posts from the University of North Carolina and Mike Horowitz from Oregon — point out that the odor from flatulence comes not from nitrogen, methane or even oxygen, but from sulphur compounds.

The Earth's tilt changes over time relative to the sun. About 14,000 years ago, the North Star wasn't Polaris, it was a completely different star called Vega.

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

Fan auctions a hunk o' Elvis stuff

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Hundreds of pieces of Elvis Presley memorabilia were auctioned off over the weekend by a longtime collector trying to win back his girlfriend after she warned: "You leave the Elvis clothes or I'll leave you."

The items auctioned included three Elvis concert suits, two of which sold for \$125,000 and \$50,000, said Alan Lipkin, senior vice president of Regency-Superior, which organized the memorabilia auction. The bid was still on the auction block.

Also sold were necklaces Elvis gave to girlfriends and friends, cufflinks he received from President Kennedy and belt buckles he wore, Lipkin said.

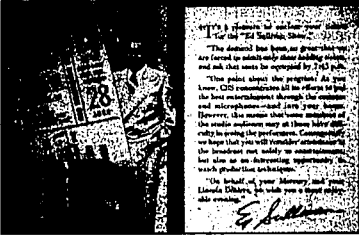
The seller, Jim Curtin, collected 600 cartons of Elvis memorabilia for more than 30 years and met the stars several times. His unrelenting adoration eventually got the attention of Elvis, who personally presided over Curtin's 1974 event. Curtin was in a Houston jail when he wore in a Houston concert in 1974, according to the Regency Web site.

Total auction sales wouldn't be tabulated until today, but organizers estimate the take could reach \$2 million.

Runaway cow may be spared the killing floor

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — A spotted cow that jumped a slaughterhouse fence and evaded capture for six hours has drawn clemency pleas and may not be doomed after all.

Appeals to spare the life of the 1,200-pound feeder calf spread across the nation after she fled Mickey's Packing Plant on Thursday, and had several near-death experiences before walking to a roadside pen and then a stock trailer.



Displayed on Sunday in Beverly Hills, Calif., are two original ticket stubs to the Ed Sullivan show when Elvis Presley appeared in 1956. The stubs, which come with the original ticket folder, were expected to auction for \$28,000.

Odds & Ends

she refused to be stilled by three tranquilizer darts.

The manager of Mickey's Packing Plant said the animal he dubbed Molly B. probably will be spared from the killing floor. Employees at Mickey's voted to keep her alive.

"At this point, I have no desire to slaughter her," manager Del Morris said. "If the owner insists, I'll have to tell him to take her somewhere else."

Morris said the owner is willing to sell Molly B., who remained at the packing plant, for \$100,000. But she is worth more than the estimated \$1,140 she is worth slaughtered.

'Bigfoot' fever grips Malaysia after sighting

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Reported sightings of a "Bigfoot" in southern Malaysian jungles could be used as a

tourist draw, officials said, as they planned another expedition to track the mythical beast.

Malaysian media have been gripped by "Bigfoot" fever ever since some fish farm workers reported seeing a large, hairy, human-like hairy beast in November at the edge of the Endau Rompin National Park forest.

The workers also claim to have seen a giant footprint, which they photographed and gave to local newspapers.

No plans have been made yet to use the story to attract tourists to track the mythical beast. Malaysian media have been gripped by "Bigfoot" fever ever since some fish farm workers reported seeing a large, hairy, human-like hairy beast in November at the edge of the Endau Rompin National Park forest.

NATION
Doctors
no longer
pushing
cough
syrup

Over-the-counter variety does little if anything, they say

CHICAGO (AP) — Despite the billions of dollars spent every year in this country on over-the-counter cough syrups, most such medicines do little if anything to relieve coughs, the nation's chest physicians say.

Over-the-counter cough syrups generally contain drugs in too low a dose to be effective, or contain combinations of drugs that have never been proven to treat coughs, said Dr. Richard Irwin, chairman of a cough guidelines committee for the American College of Chest Physicians.

Drugs on shelves are crowded with cough syrups promising speedy, often non-drowsy relief without a prescription.

But the best studies that we have to date would suggest, there's not a lot of justification for using these medications because they haven't been shown to work," said Irwin, a professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Mass.

The groups miss cough treatment guidelines that encourage use of over-the-counter cough medicines. Irwin said that not only are such medicines ineffective at treating coughs due to colds — the most common cause of coughs — they can also lead patients to delay seeking treatment for more serious coughs, including whooping cough.

The guidelines strongly recommend that adults receive a new adult vaccine for whooping cough, approved last year.

The Consumer Healthcare Products Association, a trade group for makers of over-the-counter medications, disputed the guidelines and said over-the-counter cough medicines provide relief to millions of people each year.

The guidelines were published in the January issue of Chest, the American College of Chest Physicians' journal, released Monday. The recommendations have been endorsed by the college, the American Thoracic Society and the Canadian Thoracic Society.

Many popular over-the-counter cough medicines proudly advertise that they don't cause drowsiness, but Irwin said that is because they do not contain older sedative drugs that do help relieve coughs that are due to colds.

These antihistamines, including diphenhydramine — an active ingredient in Benadryl — are also available over the counter but are not marketed as cough medicines, he said.

Some over-the-counter cough syrups contain two drugs that have been shown to help relieve coughs caused by colds — codeine and dextromethorphan — but generally the doses are not so high to be effective, Irwin said.

Dextromethorphan is Robitussin, a top-selling over-the-counter cough syrup. It is among Robitussin ingredients that the Food and Drug Administration has found to be safe and effective, said Francis Sullivan, a spokesman for Wyeth Consumer Healthcare, which makes Robitussin.

Sullivan said Robitussin "wouldn't be a top brand if people didn't feel it was efficacious."

Coughs can have numerous underlying causes, including asthma, allergies, severe heartburn, postnasal drip and bronchitis.

Dr. Edward Schulman, an American Thoracic Society representative on the guidelines panel, said patients should see their doctors for coughs that linger longer than three weeks or are accompanied by shortness of breath, which could indicate pneumonia or other serious conditions.

Coughs due to colds usually last less than three weeks. Drinking lots of fluids can help relieve these coughs, and so can chicken soup, Schulman said.

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P175/70R15	24.99	P175/70R15	26.99
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You see, your brake system can only be as reliable as its weakest component, and there's a lot more to brakes than just the shoes or pads. Sure, it's easy to see when shoes and pads are ready for replacements, but what about the rest of the system?

During normal, everyday driving, the brakes generate extreme heat and pressure, which takes a toll on hydraulic parts, seals, springs, and drums and rotors. Even the brake fluid breaks down over time, due to moisture and other internal contaminants. All of these things affect the dependable operation of your brake system.

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WORLD

Bombers infiltrate security complex

29 are killed in suicide blasts; authorities search for kidnapped American

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Two suicide bombers disguised as police infiltrated the heavily fortified Interior Ministry compound in Baghdad and blew themselves up Monday during celebrations of National Police Day, killing 29 Iraqis.

The attackers died before getting near the U.S. ambassador and senior Iraqi officials at the festivities, but the blasts capped a particularly deadly week for American and Iraqi forces.

Iraqi police also were searching for an American journalist who was kidnapped Saturday by gunmen who ambushed her car and killed her translator in Baghdad.

Carroll

Fill Carroll, a 28-year-old freelancer for The Christian Science Monitor, was seized in Baghdad's predominantly Sunni Arab al-Adel neighborhood. Police said she went there to see a Sunni Arab politician.

The escalating violence after the Dec. 15 parliamentary elections — at least 498 Iraqis and 54 U.S. forces have been killed — came as Iraq's electoral commission again delayed releasing the results of the vote.

An internet site known for publishing extremist material from al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi carried a claim of responsibility for Monday's suicide attack, saying it was in revenge for the torture of Sunni Arab prisoners at two detention facilities run by the Shiite-led Interior Ministry.

"The lions of al-Qaida in Iraq wanted to conduct a new raid on the Interior Ministry, taking revenge for Allah's religion and the Sunnis, who are being tortured in the ministry's cells," the statement said.

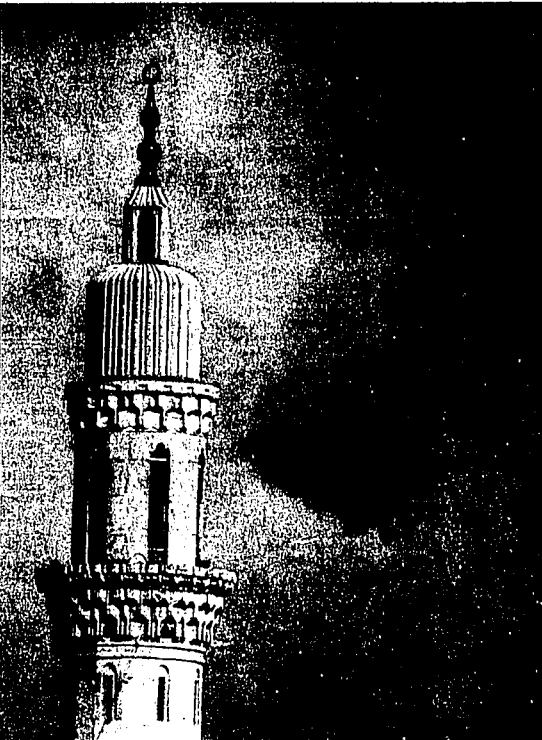
The claim, which could not be independently verified, referred to reports that more than 100 abused prisoners were recently found in the jails — bolstering complaints by Sunni Arabs about the treatment of detainees by Interior Ministry forces.

Another purported al-Zarqawi statement rebuked Sunni Arabs for participating in the parliamentary elections, saying they had "thrown a rope" to save U.S. policy.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military said eight U.S. troops — including four Alaska Army National Guard members — were rescued from American civilians died aboard a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter that crashed Saturday in northern Iraq. The military initially said only that eight passengers and four crew were aboard.

Sunni Arabs also expressed anger over a raid Sunday by U.S. troops on the Umm al-Qura mosque, Baghdad headquarters of the Association of Muslim Scholars, a Sunni clerical group that is believed to have ties to some insurgent groups.

The mosque is in the al-Adel neighborhood, one of Baghdad's



A U.S. military helicopter passes a spire as it gives air surveillance support to Iraqi police securing the main entrance of the Interior complex on Monday in Baghdad. Insurgents exploded a suicide car bomb and launched two mortar shells there, killing at least 29 people and injuring 18.

roughest and the same area where the American journalist was kidnapped.

A U.S. military official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, said the raid was a necessary immediate response to the kidnapping based on a tip provided by an Iraqi citizen. The military said Sunday that six people were detained. No other details were released.

"The violations of the occupation forces are continuing and they are endless. The raid on the Umm al-Qura mosque is the most recent example," said Muhanza Harith al-Dilari, a spokesman for the clerical group.

"The suicide attack on the sprawling Interior Ministry compound came after a particularly deadly four-day period for Americans, with 28 killed since Thursday, including 24 troops.

At least 498 Iraqis have been killed, including 355 civilians

and 143 security forces, and 54 U.S. troops have died since the Dec. 15 elections. With the latest military deaths, at least 2,207 U.S. service members have died since the war started in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The bombs exploded in quick succession about 1,500 feet from the parade being watched by U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, Interior Minister Bayan Jabr, Defense Minister Saddam al-Dulaimi and hundreds of others.

None of the officials was hurt and the ceremony was not interrupted, said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a U.S. military spokesman. He said the explosions "had no impact on the ceremony and did not require anybody to take cover."

The first bomber was shot by the police, but his explosives detonated. A second bomber detonated his explosives. One

bomber was wearing the uniform of an Iraqi police major and the other was dressed as a lieutenant colonel. Both had passes that enabled them to get through checkpoints and into the compound.

At least 29 people were killed and 18 wounded, mostly policemen, said Ala al-Abid Ali, an official at al-Kindil hospital.

In political developments, officials canceled a news conference during which they had hoped to give out more preliminary election results, saying they were still auditing returns from about 50 ballot boxes and wanted to announce everything at once.

An election results will be released after Eid al-Adha, said Hussein Hindawi, of Iraq's electoral commission. It was the second time they had postponed releasing information on the election — which Sunni Arab groups said was tainted by fraud.

Sharon finally breathes on his own after surgery

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ariel Sharon started breathing on his own Monday and moved his right arm and leg in response to pain stimulators, but what his surgeon called an important development. But it will be days before doctors can determine whether the task or will be able to return to the job.

"The prime minister is breathing spontaneously," said Dr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, the director of Hadassah Hospital, adding that the movements of Sharon's arm and leg marked "a slight but significant improvement."

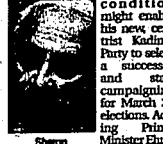
Sharon's response is a "very important" sign and indicated his brain stem is working, said his chief surgeon, Dr. Felix Umansky, briefing reporters for the first time.

It is still too early, however, to assess what impact the massive bleeding he suffered in his right brain would have on his abilities to think and reason or on the left side of his body, Umansky said.

"We are just at the beginning of a very long way," the surgeon said. "It's too early to talk about the cognitive issues."

A final medical analysis on Sharon's long-term prognosis would end days of uncertainty over the fate of the 77-year-old prime minister, heralded by many as the best hope for Mideast peace. Doctors said his chances of survival are better, but he is far from out of danger. He remains hooked up to a respirator and unconscious in a guarded room where classical music is being played.

More clarity as to Sharon's



condition might enable his new center. Kadima's Ehud Olmert is set to select a successor and start campaigning for March 28 elections. Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert — Sharon's ally and a proponent of unilateral withdrawals from more Palestinian-claimed lands — is seen as the most likely heir.

The Palestinian's political future, which would be decided in Jan. 25 parliament elections, also appeared in limbo.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas reiterated Monday that the vote would take place on time, but Palestinian Interior Minister Nasser Youssef said he would not be able to protect polling stations against gunmen. Some have worried that gangs from Abbas's Fatah Party may attack polling stations if Fatah appears to be losing to the Islamic militant Hamas Party.

Sharon has been in a medically induced coma since his massive stroke Jan. 4. Doctors plan to continue lowering the level of sedatives in his body over the next several days, Mor-Yosef said.

Sharon has not yet opened his eyes. His doctors hope he will when the sedatives are lowered further, though outside experts cautioned there was no assurance he would wake up at all.

Kim leaves North Korea, intelligence agency says

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has traveled to China on a rare trip outside his country, a South Korean military intelligence official said Tuesday.

The official told The Associated Press he received the information from intelligence inside North Korea. The official said on condition his name not be used because of the sensitivity of the information.

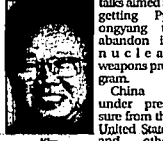
"We confirmed he went to China," the official said. "We don't know why."

Kim, who seldom travels abroad, last visited China in April 2004 for a summit with Chinese leaders. North Korea and China, both communist countries, have traditionally had close ties.

Chinese President Hu Jintao visited North Korea in October.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported earlier in a dispatch out of Beijing that the elusive North Korean leader's train had crossed the border into northeastern China amid tight security. The agency did not say whether it got its information.

The visit comes at a sensitive time for North Korea, which is facing odds with the United States over stalled international



talks aimed at getting Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

China is under pressure from the United States and other governments to use its leverage as North Korea's main ally and aid donor to push Pyongyang for concessions.

North Korea on Monday sent its highest-level signal yet that the nation talks with Seoul to resume soon, repeating its demand that the U.S. drop sanctions to end the impasse.

"Under the present situation it is illogical to discuss with U.S. an assualant, the issue of dismantling the nuclear deterrent built up by the DPRK for self-defense," an unnamed Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official Korea Central News Agency.

DPRK refers to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the communist state's official name.

EMANUELA ORLANDI

Anni 15 - alta mt. 1.60

E SCOMPARSA

Al momento della scomparsa aveva capelli lunghi, neri e lisci, indossava pantaloni jeans, camicia bianca e scarpe di ginnista.

Non ci hanno più notizie della erre 19 di mercoledì 22 giugno, chi avesse utili informazioni è pregato di telefonare al numero

69.84.982

This file photo shows a poster on the streets of Rome asking for information on Italian teenager Emanuela Orlandi, the daughter of a Vatican employee, believed to have been kidnapped after a music lesson in Rome on June 22, 1983, when she was 15 years old. Her self-proclaimed kidnapper at the time of her disappearance demanded the release of the pope's would-be assassin.

Release of pope's would-be assassin may shed light on Vatican mystery

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The release of the Turk who shot Pope John Paul II may shed light on a quarter-century-old mystery: the disappearance of a Vatican employee who was abducted by kidnapers claiming they were seeking to win the gunman's freedom.

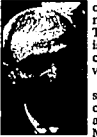
Emanuela Orlandi's family has asked prosecutors to reopen the case because "new elements" have emerged that warrant investigation, the family lawyer, Massimo Krogh, told The Associated Press on Monday.

He declined to speculate on whether the release of Mehmet Ali Agca, who turned 48 on Monday, from a Turkish prison would affect the case. But he cautioned that Agca has been a highly inconsistent witness over the years to reopen the case.

"He has said so many things. One cannot trust him," Krogh said.

Another investigator, however, said Agca's release can only help the investigation into Orlandi's disappearance, although prosecutors haven't decided whether to reopen the case.

Agca is to be freed on parole Thursday because he has completed his prison term for



Agca

crimes committed in Turkey, a Turkish military court ruled last week.

An official, speaking on condition of anonymity Monday because he was not authorized to speak to the press, said Monday that Agca may still face trial in Turkey for allegedly dodging the draft and escaping military custody. The inmate's lawyer said that was unlikely, suggesting that Agca's time in prison would cover the time he would have served for those crimes as well.

The lawyer, Mustafa Demirbag, said Agca would likely be taken to a military station following his release and later to a military hospital in Istanbul for medical checks, a routine procedure.

He has no plans for the future for now, but he is looking forward to his freedom, Demirbag told The Associated Press by telephone.

Agca was extradited to Turkey in 2000 after serving almost 20 years in prison in Italy for shooting and wounding the pope on

May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square. The daughter of a Vatican messenger, disappeared after a music lesson in Rome on June 22, 1983. She was 15 at the time.

Her self-proclaimed kidnappers demanded Agca's release for her freedom, although they never offered any proof they had the girl or that Agca was her kidnaper.

Krogh said the Orlandi family believes that Emanuela's disappearance and the attempt on John Paul's life were connected and that the kidnappers wanted to exchange her for Agca. But asked whether Agca's release might also mean freedom for Orlandi, Krogh responded: "I frankly cannot say."

However, Judge Ferdinando Imposimato, who once headed the investigation into the attempt on John Paul's life, said Agca's freedom could only help the investigation.

Imposimato has maintained Agca was directed by Italian agents and had been approached by a Soviet general in the KGB before the shooting. A Bulgarian-Soviet connection has long been suspected because of Soviet alarms over the pope's support for the Solidarity trade union in Poland.

But Italian investigators never found any hard evidence and John Paul himself ruled out any Bulgarian role during a 2002 trip to that country, declaring he had "never believed in the so-called Agca, even if Agca's connection because of my great esteem and respect for the people."

Imposimato told the Apcom news agency that Agca's freedom would not mean any new testimony, "could help solve the mystery of the disappearance of Emanuela Orlandi."

He acknowledged in an interview that Agca's release, if any, would be a matter of agency, however, that it was unlikely Italian investigators would ever get a chance to question Agca, even if Agca promised to cooperate after his release.

Agca spoke about Orlandi during a 1985 prison interview with Italy's Rai state television, saying the girl was alive and not in danger. He denied any direct knowledge of her fate, though, saying he had made "some logical deductions."

He said when that he wished she would be freed "without any precondition."

The Vatican, meanwhile, has limited its reaction to Agca's pending release, stressing that it defers to the Turkish judicial system.

SPORTS

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Section D

Coming Wednesday

Varsity hoops from around the area.

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

Q: The end of the NFL regular season means the beginning of what?
A: The New York Jets' annual eight-month vacation.
-From David Letterman's 'Know Your Current Events'

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, how many expansion franchises have been added to the NFL?
...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- High School BOYS BASKETBALL
Twin Falls at Minico, 7:30 p.m.
Carey at Bliss, 7:30 p.m.
Declo at Kimberly, 7:30 p.m.
Community School at Shoshone, 7:30 p.m.
Glenn Ferry at Valley, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Castleford at Raft River, 7:30 p.m.
Comas County at Richfield, 7:30 p.m.
Wood River at Buhl, 7:30 p.m.
Declo at Jerome, 7:30 p.m.
Kimberly at Filer, 7:30 p.m.
Carey at Bliss, 7:30 p.m.
Hagerman at Oakley, 7:30 p.m.
Hansen at Murtaugh, 7:30 p.m.
Lighthouse Christian at 'Valley' Christian, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING
Kimberly at Twin Falls, 6 p.m.
Buhl/Gooding at Valley, 6:30 p.m.
Oakley/Raft River at Declo, 6 p.m.

IN BRIEF

U of I scholarship fundraiser planned
TWIN FALLS — The 2006 Winter Fest celebration is set for Feb. 3 at the Turf Club in Twin Falls with cocktails are at 6 p.m. and dinner starts at 7 p.m.
The event is a fundraiser for the Vandal Scholarship Fund.
The dinner is steak, Idaho trout, Idaho baked potatoes, mixed veggies and salad. Dessert will be auctioned off after dinner.
The following guests are expected: President Bob White, Athletic Director Rob Spear, Vandal Scholarship Fund Director Rich Darnell, and Coordinator Mahmood Ahmad.
The cost is \$25 per person and tickets can be purchased by contacting Jeff Blicak at 208-280-2800.

Dodgeball tournaments slated

TWIN FALLS — On Saturday, Jan. 14, the first of two dodgeball tournaments will be held at the Boys and Girls Club, 592 Frontier Road in Twin Falls. The second tournament is slated for Saturday, Jan. 28 at Filer High School.
The cost is \$50 per team of six or more players for all boys, girls or co-ed. Liability waivers must be signed by all players. For those players under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must sign prior to individuals being allowed to play.
The tournament schedule is as follows: Grades 5-6, 9-11 a.m.; Grades 7-8, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; High School, 2-4 p.m. Adult, 4:30 p.m. until finished.
For more information, contact Joe Maloney, (208) 751-4932.

TRIVIA ANSWER:

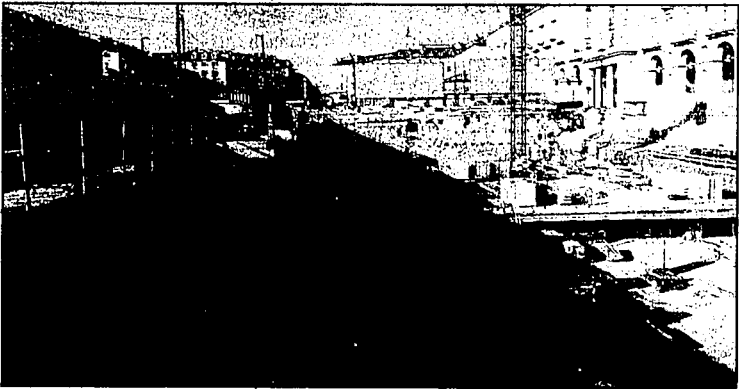
Six The Seattle Seahawks and Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1978; Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995; Cleveland Browns in 1999; and the Houston Texans in 2002. (The other new franchises resulted from team relocations.)

Turin still a work in progress

Today marks one month until start of Olympics

The Associated Press

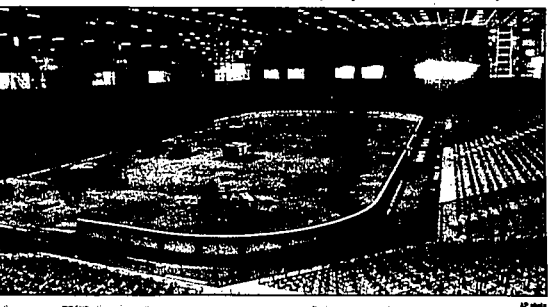
TURIN, Italy — Stride across Piazza San Giovanni's large cobblestones toward Turin's main cathedral, home to the Holy Shroud, and chances are you'll be greeted by Cino, who runs a souvenir stand he wheels around on his 1978 scooter, who wouldn't give his last name. "But there's still time. I'll have something in February."
Aside from plenty of steel scaffolding, colorful cranes and piles of dirt, it's tough to tell that in a matter of weeks the Winter Games will be coming to this historic, broad boulevard, Baroque architecture and the majestic backdrop of the Alps.
Signs or flags trumpeting the games aren't up yet, ticket sales are lagging, snow is scarce, and Italian athletes are complaining openly about a lack of interest.
"There's a month to go, and where are the Olympics?" asked Peppe Fassal, editor of Torino Cronaca, a local newspaper. "The Olympic spirit is missing."
A city known mainly as a center of industry is undergoing major changes ahead of the Feb. 10-26 Games in what locals see as a chance to become a tourist destination.
"Right now," however, "the Olympics are one of the best-kept secrets in sports — even in Italy. As of last week, \$85,000 tickets had been sold of about 1 million available; only 40 percent went to fans, with 60 percent to sponsors, national Olympic committees, sports federations and other groups. About 215,000 were seen in Italy, nearly half of those in Turin and surrounding areas.
But, says Cesare Vaclago, CEO



A general view of Piazza Vittorio square where a new parking area is under construction for the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, Thursday. Already past due, it won't be finished before the Olympics, so ditches will be covered temporarily and bulldozers hidden away.

of organizing committee TOROC. "The sale of tickets is proceeding according to plan."
As of last Wednesday, 19 percent of tickets had been sold for skeleton and luge, 46 percent for ice hockey (although that translates to more than 170,000 tickets, and the men's gold medal game is sold out, other than 200 tickets released the day before), and 71 percent for Alpine skiing. The top sellers, percentage-wise, are figure skating (86 percent) and speedskating (82).
"There are some tickets for pretty much everything," said Giorgio Lauretta, TOROC's head of ticketing. "I'm not worried about the fact that we still have to reach our goal (about 850,000 tickets). Up until the last day of the games, people will buy tickets."

The good news? Fewer spectators could mean shorter security lines outside and good spots available inside sparkling, state-of-the-art arenas that, once loose wires are tucked away, are certain to draw raves. It could make it easier to get a table at restaurants offering Piedmont specialties such as truffles or boiled meats and bold red wines like Barolo. And less hassle for shuttle buses



A general view of the Ice stadium in Turin, Italy, Wednesday. Aside from plenty of steel scaffolding, colorful cranes and piles of dirt, it's tough to tell that in a matter of weeks the Winter Games will be coming to this home of broad boulevards, Baroque architecture and the majestic backdrop of the Alps.

Rocea, the hosts' top hope for an Alpine skiing medal. "This event wasn't promoted in the best way," he told radio station RTL.
Still, retired skiing star Alberto Tomba, expected to be the final torchbearer, and some current athletes are worried.
"It's a real shame that people aren't talking about the Olympics enough," said Giorgio

coordinator, Alberto Acclari — hasn't exactly resulted in chatter about the Olympics in cafes.
Organizers thought the torch relay would get Italians excited. When the relay began in Rome, national soccer team star Francesco Totti didn't bother to

Please see TURIN, Page D2

AP announces All-Pro team

The Associated Press

San Diego's Antonio Gates was named the AP's All-Pro tight end for the third straight year. Peyton Manning was named the AP's Pro quarterback for the third straight year, getting 37 votes. He was joined by Colts center El Saturday, defensive end Dwight Freeney and safety Bob Sanders.
The other Seahawks were tackle Walter Jones, guard Steve Hutchinson and fullback Mack Strong.
No other team had more than two AP-Pro's. Denver's Plous-Burgis, Cincinnati's San Diego, Tampa Bay, Chicago and the New York Giants each had two. Carolina, Arizona, Buffalo, New England, Kansas City and Houston each had one. The Arizona kick returner, Jerome Mathis, was the only rookie selected.

Alexander made the team for the first time, while Ugrashek was chosen for the third.
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Richard Seymour, was chosen for the third successive year.
Ufalachew Ifejiere Bears line-backer Lance Briggs made it for the first time, while the Buccaneers' Derrick Brooks was selected for the fifth time, the most of any of this year's All-Pro's. Denver's Al Wilson was the second inside linebacker and also made his first All-Pro squad.
Joining Sanders in the secondary were Steelers safety Troy Polamalu, Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey and Bills punter Ronnie Barber, Tiki Barber of the Giants, the runner-up to Alexander for the league rushing title, was the other running back.
Barber's teammate, defensive end Osi Umenyiora, made his debut as an All-Pro. So did San Diego defensive tackle Jamal Williams, but the other tackle,

Even after 14 seasons, Cowher's expressions are so entertaining, it's a wonder his jaw doesn't have its own TV show.

Cowher's NFL job security

No other NFL coach looks or acts like Bill Cowher on the sideline. That's why the camera spends so much time framing his mug.
Even after 14 seasons, Cowher's expressions are so entertaining, it's a wonder his jaw doesn't have its own TV show.



JIM LITKE

Chiefs hire Edwards

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Hermie Edwards was hired as coach of the Kansas City Chiefs on Monday, replacing the retiring Dick Vermeil and inheriting a team that barely missed the playoffs.
The Chiefs will give Edwards former team, the New York Jets, a fourth-round draft pick as compensation. Edwards still had two years left on his contract with New York.
At a news conference, Edwards insisted his players would embrace teamwork, saying "talent alone doesn't win games. Teams win games."



New York Jets head coach Hermie Edwards about instructions to his team against the Denver Broncos in Denver, on this Nov. 20 photo.
...that family... It stays in that house, and I threw the key away."
Vermeil retired after going 44-39 in five years but reached the playoffs only once and did not

got past the first game.
Edwards, 51, was 39-41 in five years with the Jets, but made the playoffs three times, more than any previous Jets coach. He began his NFL career in Kansas City as a personnel executive and then an assistant coach under Marty Schottenheimer.
On Dec. 31, when 69-year-old Vermeil tearfully told the team he was stepping down, Edwards was still staying, he intended to remain in New York.
Days later, Peterson was dropping hints that he intended to be reunited with his friend, and protégé of more than 30 years, and the relationship between Edwards and the Jets quickly turned sour.
"From a personal standpoint, I have wanted to do this for many years," Peterson said in a statement released before the news conference.

Not that any coach gets too comfortable these days. A week ago, on a dry knuck in league circles as "Black Monday," four coaches were fired, bringing to eight the number of men who began this regular season in charge somewhere, but won't be.
Please see LITKE, Page D2

SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WHAT'S ON T.V.

BASKETBALL
Wisconsin at Minnesota, ESPN 8 p.m.
North Carolina at Virginia Tech, ESPNU 8:30 p.m.
Vanderbilt at Kentucky, ESPN 7 p.m.
NHL
Detroit at Carolina, OLN, 9 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Table with columns for Team, L, P, OT, GB, and various statistics for Eastern Conference and Western Conference.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for Team, L, P, OT, GB, and various statistics for American League and National League.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for Team, L, P, OT, GB, and various statistics for American League and National League.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for Team, L, P, OT, GB, and various statistics for American League and National League.

Area ski report

By Brad Johnson, The Idaho Statesman
Big conditions for the weekend with snow and wind.

WYOMING

Grand Junction - Men 8-14 13
New powder snow ground 110 - 114 base

UTAH

Alta - Men 2-10 8 100
111 - 114 base 116 of 118, snow 100

UTAH

Deer Valley - Men 5-11 14
3-Port Canyon - Men 5-11 14

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UTAH

Deer Valley - Men 5-11 14
3-Port Canyon - Men 5-11 14

Notre Dame's Fasano to enter NFL draft

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame's Anthony Fasano, one of the nation's outstanding tight ends, will enter the NFL draft and forgo his senior season at Seaside.

Fasano said he made up his mind after Ohio State beat the Irish in the Fiesta Bowl. Coach Charlie Weis missed Monday's news conference because he was out of town, but he supported Fasano's decision.

Twins ask judge to void Metrodome lease

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins asked a judge to void their 2004 season lease at the Hennepin County District Judge on Monday to rule that the team isn't obliged to play in the Metrodome after this season.

NFL and marketers of Levitra part ways

NEW YORK — The National Football League and the marketers of erectile dysfunction drug Levitra have opted to bench their three-year old partnership.

Cubs give up on Patterson, trade him

CHICAGO — Outfielder Corey Patterson, once projected as the Chicago Cubs star of the future, was traded to the Baltimore Orioles on Monday for a pair of minor leaguers.

NCAA lets Bradley, N. Dakota keep nicknames

INDIANAPOLIS — Bradley and North Dakota will be able to keep their American Indian nicknames during NCAA postseason play this season, but they might lose them in the future.

Taylor fined \$17,000 for spitting at Pittman

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor was fined \$17,000 Monday by the NFL for spitting in the face of Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Michael Pittman.

Complied from wire reports

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for Team, L, P, OT, GB, and various statistics for American Football Conference and National Football Conference.

FOOTBALL

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Advertisement for Honda Ridgeline and Ford Escape XLT. Includes images of the vehicles, MSRP of \$23,233, and contact information for Middlekauff Honda.

SPORTS

Mavs nip Celtics

BOSTON (AP) — Jerry Stackhouse made a basket...

Jason Terry hit seven 3-pointers and finished with 30 points...

They improved to 13-5 on the road, best in the Western Conference.

Stackhouse got the ball in front of the Celtics bench...

76ers 107, Sonics 98 PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson scored 20 points...

Iverson scored 40-plus points for the eighth time this season...

Jazz 97, Wizards 89 WASHINGTON — Mehmet Okur had 19 points and 13 rebounds...

Washington's Mehmet Okur had 19 points and 13 rebounds...



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki dunks the ball against the Boston Celtics...

Bulls 113, Raptors 104 CHICAGO — Kirk Hinrich scored 25 points and had 11 assists...

The Bulls, who won at Detroit in overtime on Saturday...

Marcus Vick arrested

The Virginian-Pilot

SUFFOLK, Va. — Marcus Vick's quarterback who was dismissed from the Virginia Tech football team...

During an interview with police at his mother's Suffolk home Sunday night...

Larry Woodard, Vick's attorney said, "I'm not going to answer any questions about the nature of the case."

Reached by phone shortly before turning himself in, Vick's response to questions about the incident was to hang up...

The arrest is the latest incident in a tumultuous two-year stint for Vick.

On May 14, 2004, he was charged with three counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor...

On July 3, 2004, after Vick was pulled over on Interstate 64 in New Kent County for driving 68 in a 65-mph zone...

only upgrade since I visit's arrived. Known for his miserly ways, Cincinnati boss Mike Brown borrowed a page from the Rooney family playbook...

It also prompted Cincinnati receiver Chad Johnson to boast, "Times have changed, you know? Like black-and-white TV, and then along comes color. It was Pittsburgh and now it's Cincinnati."

"That's the way it's probably going to be for a while now," Johnson added, "so everybody just get used to it."

Instead, the Steelers tore off four straight wins to claim the AFC North title...

Behind a stiff defense and a punishing running game, trademarks of Cowher's run in Pittsburgh, the Steelers scored 27 unanswered points...

Murtaugh squeak by Pilots

The Times-Tribune

WENDELL — Jaci Lancaster came through big for Wendell, dropping in a last-second free-throw to vault the host Indians over Canyon Conference rival Glenns Ferry...

After being fouled on an off-balance three-point attempt with time running down, Lancaster buried one of three attempts to help move the Trojans to 6-4 on the season.

"Glenns Ferry led most of the game and pressed us hard," Trojans head coach Luke Harsley said. "The girls just fought back hard. Hallie Kelsey and Rylee Scott both made crucial three-pointers to keep us in it."

Halle Kelsey finished with a game-high 27 points and hit 71.1 percent from three-point range.

The Pilots were led by Alisha Carnes' 16-point night. Wendell hosts Valley on Thursday.

Shoshone 40, Twin Falls JV 31 SHOSHONE — Consistency at the free-throw line led the Shoshone Indians to their second nonconference victory...

The Bruins went up 25-22 heading into the final quarter after trailing by a bucket at the half.

Under a last chance, zero-tolerance agreement with Virginia Tech, Vick returned to school and his team in January 2005.

But during Jan. 25's Gator Bowl victory over Louisville, Vick stomped on an opposing player, drawing intense national scrutiny and criticism.

As school officials and coaches were trying to decide on his punishment, it was revealed Friday that Vick had been pulled over in Hampton for speeding and driving on a suspended license on Dec. 17.

That was the final straw for Virginia Tech, and President Charles Steger announced Friday afternoon that Vick had been permanently dismissed from the football team.

That night, Vick told The Virginian-Pilot that he was planning to turn pro.

and billboards touting the bid. Why isn't Turin similarly decorated now?

"This will make you smile," Acciarri said. "If you put them over early, they'll get dirty."

Turin's work almost everywhere. The main Olympic merchandise store — which had more workers than customers Saturday afternoon...

Whether it's because of the focus on soccer, the lack of a Tombrinke homegrown star, a penchant for last-minute planning, or Turin natives' reputation for being reserved...

In 2004, when Paris was merely a candidate for the 2012 Summer Games, the French capital was awash with banners

spurred up and hit the free-throw line when we needed. We won it at the free-throw line."

Tristan Woodhouse posted a game-high 17 points for the Trojans, while the Indians' Stangman put up 16.

Shoshone (41-1, 5-1) hosts the Community School on Thursday.

Boys basketball Camas County 61, Twin Falls Christian 20 FAIRFIELD — Behind Chase Lee's game-high 13 points, the Camas County Mustangs reced past the five-player Twin Falls Monday night.

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"They're much improved," Murtaugh head coach Rex Romander said. "They have height and they have shooters. It's a tough combination."

The 5-7 Red Devils were playing without standout point guard Chepe Saucedo, who is in Mexico with family after the passing of his grandmother.

Murtaugh travels to Rath River on Thursday.

Boys basketball Camas County 61, Twin Falls Christian 20 FAIRFIELD — Behind Chase Lee's game-high 13 points, the Camas County Mustangs reced past the five-player Twin Falls Monday night.

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SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WHAT'S ON T.V.

- BASKETBALL
Wisconsin at Minnesota, ESPN 9 p.m.
North Carolina at Virginia Tech, ESPN2 8:30 p.m.
Vanderbilt at Kentucky, ESPN 7 p.m.
NHL
Detroit at Carolina, QLN, 8 p.m.

BASKETBALL

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like New Jersey, Philadelphia, Boston, etc.

WRESTLING

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like California, Dallas, New Orleans, etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like New York Yankees, Los Angeles Dodgers, etc.

Hockey

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like New York Rangers, Philadelphia Flyers, etc.

Area ski report

Brundage - 2006 season...
Powder Mountain - 2006 season...
Ski Utah - 2006 season...
Ski Colorado - 2006 season...
Ski Wyoming - 2006 season...

Scotts West Athletic Conference

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like Idaho State, Boise State, etc.

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like Boise State, Idaho State, etc.

2006 Ryder Cup Points

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like USA, Europe, etc.

PGA Tour Money Leaders

Table with columns for Player, W, L, Pct, and Money. Includes names like Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, etc.

PGA Tour Schedule - Winter

Table with columns for Event, Date, Location, and Time. Includes events like The Honda Classic, etc.

PGA Tour Schedule - Spring

Table with columns for Event, Date, Location, and Time. Includes events like the First Tee Classic, etc.

Football

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like Boise State, Idaho State, etc.

Baseball

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, and Games Behind. Includes teams like Boise State, Idaho State, etc.

Hockey

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Notre Dame's Fasano to enter NFL draft

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame Anthony Fasano, one of the nation's outstanding tight ends, will enter the NFL draft and forgo his senior season.

Fasano said he made up his mind after Ohio State beat the Irish in the Fiesta Bowl. Coach Charlie Weis missed Monday's news conference because he was out of town, but he supported Fasano's decision.

Despite the fact we'd love for Anthony to return, we also recognize that he has a great opportunity ahead of him," Weis said in a statement.

Fasano was one of three tight ends to be named the John Mackay Award, given to the top tight end. He is just four hours shy of receiving his marketing degree.

He was Notre Dame's third leading receiver in 2005 with 27 catches for 576 yards. The school record for tight ends is 54 catches for 797 yards set by Ken MacLeod in 1977.

In three seasons with the Irish, Fasano had 92 catches for 1,112 yards. MacLeod holds the career record at Notre Dame with 128 for 1,759 yards.

"This thing is stone-cold dead," Twins lawyer Roger Magnuson told Judge Charles E. Smith, referring to the 2003 agreement for the team to play in the dome.

However, the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, which said the Twins have a legal agreement to remain in the Metrodome until a new ballpark is built.

"Ivins contacted us because he has no long-term agreement to play in the 21-year-old Metrodome and have operated there on a year-to-year basis since the 2004 season."

Compiled from wire reports

Advertisement for '06 Honda Ridgeline RTS 4WD and '06 Ford Escape XLT. Includes prices like \$29,856 and \$25,233, and contact information for Middlekauff Honda and Middlekauff Ford.

Market Watch

Jan. 9, 2006

Dow Jones Industrials	▲ 11,011.90
Nasdaq Composite	▲ 2,318.69
Standard & Poor's 500	▲ 1,290.16
Russell 2000	▲ 708.24

Stocks of local interest

Idacorp	▲ 30.63	▲ .44
Con Agri	▲ 20.56	▲ .13
Dell Inc.	▲ 31.32	▲ .68
Micron	▲ 14.70	▲ .23

Page D5

Commodities

Oil, by barrel	▲ \$63.50	▼ .71
(light sweet crude)		
Live cattle	▲ \$96.47	▲ .42
Cheese		
barrel	▲ \$1,340.00	no change
blocks	▲ \$1,367.50	no change
Gold (April)	▲ \$552.7	▲ 9.4

Page D6

BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Micron's venture with Intel sealed

BOISE—The deal is done to create IM Flash Technologies, a joint venture by Boise-based Micron Technology Inc. and Intel Corporation. Micron officials on Monday announced the closing of the deal. The new company will manufacture NAND flash memory for use in consumer electronics, removable storage and handheld communications devices exclusively for Micron and Intel.

Micron stock closed up 23 cents on the New York Stock Exchange Monday, finishing at \$14.70.

Intel stock closed up 16 cents on the New York Stock Exchange Monday, finishing at \$26.47.

Home Depot buys Utah business

ATLANTA—The Home Depot Inc., the nation's largest home improvement store chain, said Monday it has bought the Chem-Dry carpet and upholstery cleaning provider to add to its home installation business. Terms of the deal between Atlanta-based Home Depot and Logan, Utah-based Chem-Dry were not disclosed.

Chem-Dry will become part of Home Depot's at-home services division, which provides installations of flooring, roofing and cabinetry. Chem-Dry's leadership team will remain in place, Home Depot said.

NFL and marketers of Levitra part ways

NEW YORK—The National Football League and the marketer of erectile dysfunction drug Levitra have opted to bench their three-year old sponsorship deal when it expires in March. Brian McCarthy, an NFL spokesman, said the league chose to end the relationship because "the ads shift from men's health to a performance, lifestyle issue." The change in advertising strategy made the NFL uncomfortable, McCarthy said.

Trade between Cuba and China soars

MIAMI—A deluge of Chinese products are flooding the Cuban economy. From the export of household appliances to promised investments in Cuban nickel and oil industries, China is rapidly becoming a big player in the island—its second-largest trade partner as of September, up from fourth place in 2004, according to Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry figures. Venezuela remains Cuba's most generous economic partner—selling it up to 80,000 barrels of oil a day on easy financial terms. In November, Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Rafael Dausa put the total bilateral trade with China for 2005 at \$1 billion.

— compiled from wire reports

Stocks hit pre-9/11 mark

Dow Jones industrials close above 11,000

By Christopher Wang
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK—The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 11,000 Monday for the first time since before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, boosted by a five-day rally that has sent stocks soaring so far in 2006. The average of 30 blue-chip stocks ended the day up \$2.59, or 0.48 percent, at 11,011.90. The last time the Dow finished above 11,000 was June 7, 2001, when it closed at 11,090.74. Monday's advance followed a 241-point surge last week as investors grew increasingly

optimistic that the Federal Reserve will soon end its string of interest rate hikes. Investment firms' upgrades of Dow components General Motors Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. helped carry the index past 11,000 Monday.

It sends a signal that the U.S. economy has weathered some pretty harsh storms over the past few years and in recent months," Art Hogan, chief investment strategist at Jefferies & Co., said of the Dow's achievement. Hogan said heightened clarity about the Fed's rate tightening, stabilizing oil prices and new investment money from 401(k) and pension funds have contributed to the market's gains in the new year. "We probably can hold onto it," he said of the 2006 rally. "If companies can continue to weather this energy surge, oper-

ate in a higher interest rate environment and create jobs, the market should be able to continue this rise." The market faces key economic data on retail sales and wholesale prices later this week, as well as the upcoming fourth-quarter earnings season. Investors got their first whiff of earnings from a profit shortfall at aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. after the close.

Broader stock indicators were also at multiyear highs. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 4.70, or 0.37 percent, to 1,290.16, a 4 1/2-year high; the Nasdaq composite index added 13.07, or 0.57 percent, to 2,318.69, its best close since Feb. 20, 2001. Bonds fell slightly with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rising to 4.38 percent from 4.37 percent Friday. The dollar was higher against most major

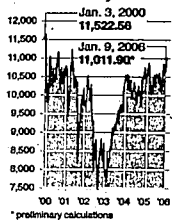
currencies, and gold prices edged upward.

Crude oil and natural gas futures retreated as mild winter weather pervaded the country. A barrel of light crude lost 71 cents to \$63.50 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, where natural gas slipped 27.2 cents to \$9.350 per 1,000 cubic feet. The Dow came within 16 points of 11,000 last March 7, but fell back amid worries about inflation and higher oil prices, concerns that dogged the market for much of 2005.

"I think technically (Monday's increase) could be sound, as long as we don't get any economic surprises," said Bill Groenewald, head trader at VFI Investments. "The data should support this level." The blue chips are still more than 6 percent below their all-time high of 11,722.98, reached Jan. 14, 2000, as the high-tech

The Dow Jones industrial average crossed 11,000 Monday for the first time since before the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Dow Jones weekly



SOURCE: Teleview AP

boom approached its peak, but they have recovered well from their low of 7,286.27, reached on Oct. 9, 2002, while the nation wrestled with an economic slowdown spurred by the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon the year before.

STYLIN' TIME



The Mazda Kabura, on display at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, is a concept vehicle trying to attract the attention of baby boomers who are fueling the resurgence of muscle cars like the Ford Mustang. Also at the show, DaimlerChrysler introduced its Dodge Challenger concept based on a 1970 model, and General Motors unveiled its Chevrolet Camaro concept.

Muscle cars to subcompacts generating buzz at auto show

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press writer

DETROIT—Lexus and Chrysler are debuting luxurious sedans at this year's North American International Auto Show. Ford is offering a chiseled new crossover. Honda is hyping a subcompact. As the age of the SUV comes to an end in the United States, the world's automakers are engaged in a race to figure out the next hot trends.

"The theme of this year's show is customer choice," Bob Cosoni, head of Hyundai Motor Co.'s North American division, said in an interview with The Associated Press Monday. Crossover vehicles—which ride lower to the ground than sport utility vehicles but offer similar interior comfort—are expected to outsell SUVs in the United States this year, Ford

Motor Co. wants to lead that segment with the Ford Edge crossover. The 2007 Ford Edge, which boasts sharp lines and the distinctive three-bar grille of the Ford Fusion sedan, is expected to hit showrooms this fall. Mark Fields, Ford's president of the Americas, said the vehicle will stand out in a crossover market that is getting more crowded. "If you look at the CUV right now, it's populated by a lot of vehicles, that, quite honestly, are somewhat nondescript," Fields said. But the truly drool-worthy vehicles at this year's show are the muscle cars. After seeing the success of the Ford Mustang and hearing the clamoring of baby boomers—U.S. automakers went back 40 years for some inspiration. DaimlerChrysler AG's

Please see AUTOS, Page D6



Dr. Michael Omal of BMW addresses the media Monday while unveiling the Mini-Concept Detroit at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. It's among the concepts designed to appeal to consumers jittery about high fuel prices.

Vehicles generating buzz

Automakers are introducing 38 vehicles at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. Some of the vehicles that are getting the most buzz:

- Dodge Challenger concept** A muscle car based on a 1970 model, updated with a 6.1-liter, 425-horsepower Hemi engine.
- 2007 Lexus LS 460** A sedan that brings Lexus to a new level of luxury, with massaging rear seats and a 19-speaker sound system that stores 4,300 songs. The sedan goes on sale in the fall.
- Chrysler Imperial concept** An eye-catching sedan that looks similar to the Rolls Royce Phantom.
- Chevrolet Camaro concept** An update of the classic sports car, with a 400-horsepower, V-8 engine.
- 2007 Honda Fit** A subcompact hatchback for younger buyers that goes on sale this spring for around \$14,000.
- 2007 Ford Edge** An entry for the growing crossover market, with sharp lines and the grille of the Ford Fusion. It goes on sale this fall.
- Geely T2131 CR** This sedan is the first vehicle by a Chinese automaker to appear at the Detroit show. Geely says it plans to bring the next generation of this car to the U.S. market in 2008.—AP

"It's the sedan of the next decade," said Michael Robb, an auto analyst with CSM Worldwide. Ford Motor Co. unveiled

the 2007 Edge on Sunday, offering a vehicle it called world "shake up" the crossover market. Please see CROSSOVER, Page D6

Anti-trade sentiment holds up CAFTA agreement

By Evelyn Irtzini
Los Angeles Times

Growing anti-trade sentiment in several Central American countries has held up a trade agreement with the United States that was slated to launch Jan. 1.

The U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. agreed to open its markets further to key Central American products, such as sugar and apparel and textiles, while those countries promised to lower barriers to U.S. farm goods, high-tech products and services. Central American governments also said they would strengthen their labor and environmental laws.

Some experts said a delay could pose problems for the Central American deal, given the rising skepticism about free trade across Latin America. CAFTA has become a hot issue in next month's presidential election in Costa Rica, the only country that hasn't ratified the agreement, and anti-trade sentiment is running high in several countries that have yet to complete the legal changes necessary to put the trade pact in place.

Some countries are balking at the requirement that they give more teeth in their intellectual property laws. Health activists say these changes, pushed by U.S. high-tech and pharmaceutical companies, will make it harder to get low-cost generic medicines needed to treat AIDS.

U.S. officials downplayed the delay, saying such agreements often take longer than expected to complete. The agreement, which includes Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, is one of the most complex trade pacts the U.S. has tackled because of the number of countries and issues involved.

Given that the United States already has one of the world's most open markets, the biggest adjustments are being made

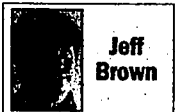
Please see TRADE, Page D5

“CAFTA is going to become a reality; it's just going to happen a little bit more incrementally than originally planned

— Daniel Griswold, Cato Institute

Will January predict market? You could!

There's an old stock-market saying: As January goes, so goes the year.



Jeff Brown

Lets hope so, as the year started strong. In the last 55 years, the "January Barometer" has significantly misgauged the Standard & Poor's full-year results only five times, according to a study by Yale Hirsch, author of the annual Stock Trader's Almanac.

minutes from the Federal Reserve's December meeting suggest the long cycle of interest-rate hikes is near an end.

There are all kinds of theories for the January effect. Perhaps it's a self-fulfilling prophecy — with investors bidding a strong start, thereby driving stock prices up further.

First, because low rates allow consumers and companies to borrow more, giving them more to spend. That boosts corporate profits, driving stock prices up.

Or maybe January is a time of fresh market analysis after the distractions of the holidays.

The second reason has to do with the endless tug of war between competing types of investments such as stocks and bonds. Many interest-bearing investments such as bonds and bank funds are more "safe."

But it's not hard to understand Tuesday's big gain. Investors were thrilled that

Stocks, therefore, have a

hander time competing for investors' dollars when safe bonds and savings accounts offer fat yields.

One of the ways of gauging stock prices is to look at the ratio of a stock's price to the company's earnings per share for the last 12 months. The higher this price-to-earnings ratio, the riskier the stock.

Paying \$30 a share for a stock with \$1 in earnings means a P/E ratio of 30. Obviously, it would be preferable to pay \$10 a share, for a P/E of 10.

The same figures can produce a stock's earnings yield — 12 months earnings divided by current price. The \$30 share has a 3.33 percent earnings yield (\$1 divided by \$30), and the \$10 share a 10 percent earnings yield (1 divided by 10).

Obviously, the 10 percent yield is better than the 3.3 percent yield.

should consider all this when choosing between stocks and interest-paying alternatives.

Today, for example, one can earn 4.5 percent to 4.8 percent in a one-year bond and certificates of deposit. And the earnings yield on the S&P 500 is about 5.5 percent (a P/E of 18).

That's not a big difference, and investors who think interest rates will continue rising would probably prefer safe bonds.

But the Fed minutes suggest there's now less risk of higher rates harming earnings. So many investors are jumping to stocks, and the greater demand is driving share prices up.

It's safe to say any news that's good for corporate earnings is good for stock prices. When the good news comes at the start of the year, it makes investors feel a cheerful mood — making it more likely the January effect will be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Jeff Brown is a business columnist for The Philadelphia Inquirer. E-mail him at brownj@phillynews.com.

Just give us your opinion of The Times-News
GO TO: www.pulseresearch.com/magvalley

Trade

Continued from D-4 south of its border.

Wages have been working with the governments to make sure that everything is lined up for the agreement to be ready to go into effect," said Nena Morfitt, a spokeswoman for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

"Other agreements have taken a long time to get to take the next steps, and what's going on with NAFTA is nothing unusual."

"Trade experts express confidence that the deal isn't in serious danger. Central Amer-

ca is America's second-largest export market in Latin America after Mexico, and government officials there are anxious for a deal to help them compete against cheap Chinese imports.

NAFTA is going to become a reality, it's just going to happen a little bit more incrementally than originally planned," said Daniel Griswold, a trade expert on the free-market-oriented Cato Institute in Washington.

CAFTA sparked a bitter partisan battle in the U.S., where the White House and the Republican leadership in Congress were forced to lobby hard for

the votes to pass the legislation last summer.

But trade opponents were sugar growers and textile producers fearful of opening up their markets to cheap imports and labor unions and Democrats fighting for tougher negotiations for workers and the environment.

Like President Bush, protectionists and some Democrats in Congress have expressed criticism from organized labor and some industries, such as farming and small business, that fear they will be crushed by powerful U.S. competition, explained

Daniel Eriksen, a Caribbean expert at Inter-American Dialogue, a Latin American think tank in Washington.

In addition, Eriksen said, Central American leaders are brought on by the NAFTA negotiations, which began in 2002 and were delayed by the U.S. presidential election. "A lot of things in Central America feel like they have spent a lot of political capital on this and now they're being asked to continue to do so," he said. "It's a certain exhaustion setting in."

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE		NYSE		AMEX		NASDAQ	
NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG
ADAC +0.25	AD	3M +0.25	AD	AAON +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD

MARKET SUMMARY		NYSE		AMEX		NASDAQ	
INDEX	CHG	INDEX	CHG	INDEX	CHG	INDEX	CHG
NYSE	+114.25	AMEX	+1.10	NASDAQ	+114.25	NYSE	+114.25
DJIA	+114.25	AMEX	+1.10	NASDAQ	+114.25	DJIA	+114.25
S&P 500	+114.25	AMEX	+1.10	NASDAQ	+114.25	S&P 500	+114.25
RUSSEL 2000	+114.25	AMEX	+1.10	NASDAQ	+114.25	RUSSEL 2000	+114.25

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET		NYSE		AMEX		NASDAQ	
NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG
ADAC +0.25	AD	3M +0.25	AD	AAON +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD

DIARY		DIARY		DIARY	
NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG
ADAC +0.25	AD	3M +0.25	AD	AAON +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST		STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST		STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST	
NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG
ADAC +0.25	AD	3M +0.25	AD	AAON +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE		AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE		AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE	
NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG
ADAC +0.25	AD	3M +0.25	AD	AAON +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT		HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT		HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT	
NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG
ADAC +0.25	AD	3M +0.25	AD	AAON +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE		AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE		AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE	
NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG	NAME	CHG
ADAC +0.25	AD	3M +0.25	AD	AAON +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD
ADP +0.25	AD	AA +0.10	AD	AAOI +0.10	AD

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close. Includes items like Soybean Oil, Soybean Meal, Corn, Wheat, and various oil products.

SOYBEAN OIL

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

BEANS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close. Includes items like Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil, and various oil products.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

GRAINS

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Open, Close. Includes items like Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil, and various oil products.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

SOYBEAN MEAL

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

SOYBEAN OIL

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

SOYBEAN MEAL

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

SOYBEAN OIL

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

SOYBEAN MEAL

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

WHEAT

Table with columns: Month, High, Low, Open, Close. Lists prices for various months from Jan to Dec.

NEW YORK (AP) - Key commodity futures trading on Monday, including Soybean Oil, Soybean Meal, and Corn.

CHICAGO (AP) - Futures trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, including Soybean Oil, Soybean Meal, and Corn.

CATTLE (AP) - Futures trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, including Cattle and Hogs.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, including Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Gold.

NEW YORK (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, including Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Gold.

METALS/MEY (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, including Copper, Aluminum, and Zinc.

CHEESE (AP) - Futures trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, including Cheddar Cheese.

POTATOES (AP) - Futures trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, including Potatoes.

SUGAR (AP) - Futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, including Sugar.

LIVESTOCK (AP) - Futures trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, including Cattle and Hogs.

POCATELLO (AP) - Idaho Farm Bureau International Livestock Report on Monday.

NEW YORK (AP) - Sugar futures trading on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

NEW YORK (AP) - Spot nonferrous metal prices from Monday.

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Autos

Continued from D4. Chrysler Group is showing the Dodge Challenger concept, which is based on a model from the 1970s.

Other automakers hope hearty sedans will catch buyers' eye. With its boxy stance and high-ride, the Chrysler Imperial concept looks a lot like a Rolls-Royce Phantom.

Lots of people are also providing around the Geely 7151 CC sedan, the first vehicle from China to be shown at the Detroit show.

Merkle said the design of the Imperial will be polarizing, and some drivers won't like its heavy look. But he gives Chrysler credit for designing a vehicle that stands out.

"Win, lose or draw, they really take design risks," he said. The 2007 Lexus LS 450, the latest incarnation of the full-size sedan, is another luxury entry that will have auto show attendees cooing.

"It's the 'Yugo' of 2006," said Eric Merkle, an auto analyst with the consulting firm IRN Inc. LaSorda wouldn't give his opinion on the car, but said Chinese automakers will be serious competition in a few years.

"It's an absolute force to be reckoned with at the end of this decade or early next decade," LaSorda said.

Reporters and photographers get a look at the Kia Soul crossover vehicle at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Monday.

Crossover vehicles are the auto industry's response to consumers demanding vehicles with plenty of space, but better gas efficiency than SUVs.

Continued from D4. The Edge boasts performance with a 250-horsepower V-6 engine and is expected to attract fuel-conscious consumers with miles per gallon in the mid-20s for highway driving.

Mark Fields, Ford's president of the Americas, said the Edge would arrive in showrooms next fall. With a panoramic glass roof and three-bar grille, the vehicle also offers an opportunity to attract consumers who may have been less-than-satisfied with the styling of past offerings.

"If you look at the SUV right now, it's populated by a lot of vehicles, that, quite honest, are somewhat nondescript," Fields said.

On Monday, the Ford division that produces the Lincoln Town Car and the Navigator unveiled its CUV crossover, developed specifically for the North American market.

Chief Executive Hirosaki Imaki said the vehicle would be launched within four months. The letters stand for

and are pronounced Mark X. The vehicle is slated to go on sale in late 2006.

Hyundai Motor Co. showcased its all-new Santa Fe, an update of the sport utility vehicle first introduced in 2000. The automaker said it took cues from luxury crossover cars such as the Lexus RX, Acura MDX and Volvo XC90.

Call it a kind of crossover. It still has that family functionality but also for people that don't have children or don't fit their active lifestyle," said Bob Fernald, Hyundai's president and chief executive officer.

Mazda Motor Corp. unveiled its CUV crossover, developed specifically for the North American market. Chief Executive Hirosaki Imaki said the vehicle would be launched within four months.

The letters stand for

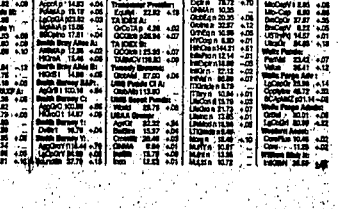
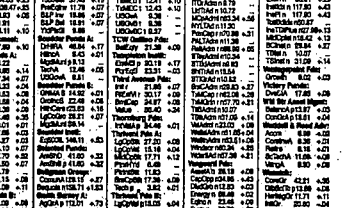
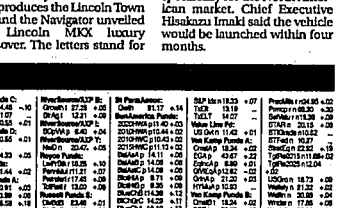
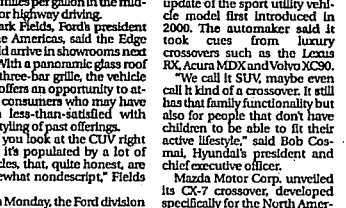
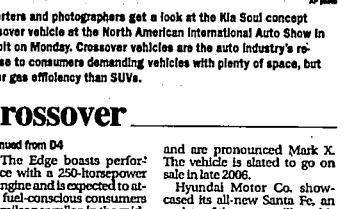
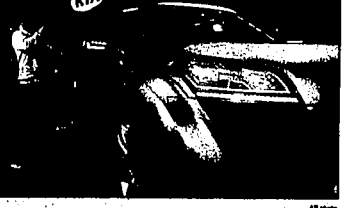
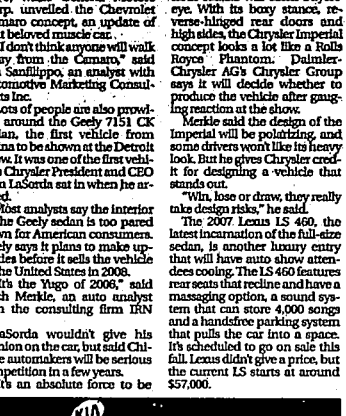
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MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Fund Name, 1-Month, 3-Month, 6-Month, 1-Year, 5-Year, YTD. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.

Table with columns: Fund Name, 1-Month, 3-Month, 6-Month, 1-Year, 5-Year, YTD. Lists various mutual funds and their performance metrics.