



# Times-News

MagickValley.com

## GRASS-FED BEEF

Americans prize good meat

## FAMILY REUNION

I brought sukiyaki

# GOP Congress makes way

## 109th session finishes with flurry of bill passing

See page A13



### MINING AND WILDERNESS



This undated handout aerial photo shows Rock Lake in Montana's Cabinet Mountains. The Sandpoint, Idaho-based Rock Creek Alliance and some officials fear a proposed mine beneath the wilderness area may open up faults that would cause lakes in the area to drain.

## Mountain lakes may go down mine drain

By Christopher Smith  
Associated Press writer

SANDPOINT — A century ago, the mountains in northern Idaho's Panhandle and neighboring northwestern Montana were sprinkled with glory holes, mines that cleaved millions of tons of ore laden with precious metals from the ground. Congress OKs ban on Rocky Mountain Front drilling. See West, B4

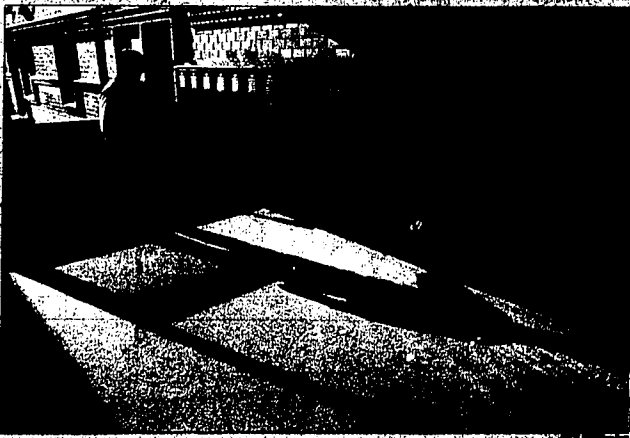
But a new \$200 million copper and silver mine awaiting federal and state regulators' approval under Montana's Cabinet Mountains Wilderness near the Idaho border could pull the plug on some of the region's mountain lakes, turning them into dry holes, officials fear.

Their biggest challenge is on top of the Cabinet Mountains there are several naturally occurring lakes and there are faults

Please see MINE, Page A6

Idaho is restructuring how it educates children who are deaf or blind, meaning Gooding is facing an

# Unwelcome change



Bob Howells with the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind walks through the school's hallway Wednesday in Gooding.

## Regional centers taking precedence over Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind

### Enrollment in outreach programs for 2006-07



By Julian Palmer  
Times-News writer

GOODING — They couldn't see or hear many of the changes going on around them, but it was obvious to the students that the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind would never be the same again.

At first it just seemed like there were fewer students, but then there were fewer teachers. Life grew quiet on the Gooding campus as dormitories closed and the swimming pool shut down.

What the students didn't know is that six other deaf and blind programs hundreds of miles away were growing as fast as the Gooding campus was declining.

This is a story about Idaho's most resilient youth and a community that has supported them for almost 100 years. It's also a story about change and how these groups will sacrifice for the benefit of future deaf and blind students.

In the past four months, several employees have been laid off from the ISDB campus in Gooding, and enrollment

capacity for students who live on campus has been reduced from 48 to 32 students. Meanwhile, new programs have been transferred to six regional facilities throughout the state.

It's the beginning of what will be the most ambitious redesign of how Idaho teaches deaf and blind students. It will bring programs closer to those who need them, and it will reduce the state's dependency on the main campus in Gooding.

### Changing the landscape

Many people expected that changes would be made to the school after the Idaho Legislature and State Board of Education approved recommendations to expand services. But few people outside of the Gooding campus, which is isolated from most of Idaho by desert and farmland, knew that the changes were already under way.

Robert Kress, a parent at the ISDB, said most students feel like the school is declining.

Please see EDUCATION, Page A3

## Dairyman VS. lobbyists

How the milk lobby crushed one man who bested the price-control system

By Dan Morgan, Sarah Cohen and Gilbert M. Gaul  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the summer of 2003, shoppers in Southern California began getting a break on the price of milk.

A maverick dairyman named Herb Hettig started bottling his own milk and selling it for as much as 20 cents a gallon less than the competition, exercising his right to work outside the rigid system that has controlled U.S. milk production for almost 70 years. Soon the effects were rippling through the state, helping to hold down retail prices at supermarkets and warehouse stores.

That was when a coalition of giant milk companies and dairies, along with their congressional allies, decided to crush Hettig's initiative. For three years, the milk lobby spent millions of dollars on lobbying and campaign contributions and made deals with lawmakers, including incoming Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. Last March, Congress passed a law reshaping the Western milk market and essentially ending Hettig's experiment — all without a single congressional hearing.

Hettig, who ran a big business and was no politician, worked "back" with his own lobbyists and alliances with lawmakers. But he found he was no match for the dairy lobby. "I had an awakening," the 61-year-old Dutch-born dairyman said. "It's not totally free enterprise in the United States."

Most U.S. dairy farmers work within a government system set up in the 1930s to give thousands of small dairies a guaranteed market for their milk and to even out prices for consumers.

Please see DAIRY, Page A7

## Fewest people are sharing biggest slice of global wealth pie

By Shankar Vedantam  
The Washington Post

Imagine a pie being shared by 100 people. One person eats 40 percent. Nine others eat 45 percent, leaving the remaining 90 peo-

ple to squabble over 15 percent. Sound unfair? That is the way global wealth is today, according to the most comprehensive reckoning of the subject ever conducted. The results were

released this week by British, Canadian, Finnish and U.S. economists through the World Institute for Development Economics Research, a group established by the United Nations. The report examined differ-

ences in household wealth — factoring in income, assets and debt — and found that the average wealth across the planet is \$26,000 per person. The number takes into account differences in costs of living.

But the real story is the tremendous inequality in the distribution of wealth, both within and between countries. The richest 10 percent of

Please see WEALTH, Page A6

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**TODAY'S FORECAST**

TWIN FALLS		
Today	Tonight	Monday
Cloudy with rain and snow showers	Chance of snow showers	Partly cloudy
High 41	Low 31	43 / 25

**MINI-CASSIA**

Today: Cloudy with a chance for mixed rain and snow showers. Highs near 40.  
 Tonight: Slight chance for a snow shower, mainly early. Lows mid 20s.  
 Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and mainly dry. Highs lower 40s.

**Complete weather report: See page C8**

**TODAY'S HAPPENINGS**

**ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT**

**"The Story of Christmas in Sacred Word and Song,"** Magic Valley Chorale Concert, 4 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, \$5, 732-6769.  
**"Rejoice in His Coming,"** Christmas Cantata, performed by the Gooding Community Chorale, 1 p.m., Festival of Trees, College of Southern Idaho North Side Center, 202 14th Avenue E., Gooding, free admission (free-will offering), 934-8227.

**BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS**

**Gooding Memorial Hospital Foundation's Festival of Trees,** with live entertainment and public viewing of trees, noon to 4 p.m., Round Building of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, 14th Avenue W., Gooding, \$2, 934-8678.

**CHURCH EVENTS**

**Christmas through the Ages'** Dessert Theatre, experience the Christmas season from beginning until the present, 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., Messersmith Building, Jerome County Fairgrounds, limited free tickets, (donations accepted for Community Action and Interfaith Volunteer Caregiver, sponsored by the Life Church of the Magic Valley), 324-5876.

**HOBBIES AND CRAFTS**

**The Idaho Oldtime Fiddlers Association, (IOFA) District 6B** meeting, eating and jamming for the customers, 1 p.m., Golden Cornal in Twin Falls, cost of a meal, 733-1580.

To have an event listed, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to Suzanne Browne by email at sbrowne@magicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

**COMING THIS WEEK**

**MONDAY IN IMAGE**

**DOWN 240**

A Twin Falls woman's incredible weight loss.

**TUESDAY IN COUNTRY ROADS**

**COWBOY STYLE**

Your growing options for a perfect hat.

**WEDNESDAY IN FOOD & HOME**

**POPULAR PIES**

One cook shares her secrets.

**THURSDAY IN TNT**

**GAMES WE PLAY**

What's hot for PlayStation 3 and Wii this season?

**FRIDAY IN OUTDOORS**

**FISHING TIPS**

Anglers should know secrets for more bites.

**SATURDAY IN RELIGION**

**GODMEN**

Thousands of Christian men reach for faith.

**SUNDAY IN FAMILY LIFE**

**HOLIDAY HOMES**

Our photographer tours local light displays.

**YOUR MORNING BRIEFING**

**MAGIC VALLEY**



**Full nest: Reunions bring that feeling back**

**BUILT** — Family reunions are hard to pull off. Months of planning, lodging, entertainment, travel and food details ironed out in advance. But reunions are worth the effort because, if only for a fleeting moment, the nest is full again. And that's a feeling so many parents crave this time of year.

SEE PAGE E1

**Gooding school campus braces for change**

**GOODING** — They couldn't see or hear many of the changes going on around them, but it was obvious to the students that the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind would never be the same again.

SEE PAGE A1

**Holiday tour inspires Christmas spirit**

**TWIN FALLS** — Sounds of music, smells of cinnamon and cheerful faces greeted many local residents who traipsed through six homes in Twin Falls to get holiday décor ideas, to look at some of the many fabulous homes in the area and just to get into the Christmas spirit.

SEE PAGE B1

**One Friday wreck leads to another**

**HANSEN** — A silver Buick Lesabre failed to yield at the intersection of 3600 E and State Highway 50 on Friday night and was hit by a commercial vehicle pulling triple trailers, according to a press release from the Idaho State Police.

SEE PAGE B1

**Blaine County sets Feb. 6 for bond election**

**HAILEY** — Blaine County commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution for a Feb. 6 bond issue election to pay for a public safety facility for the county.

SEE PAGE B1

**Bruneau feedlot faces federal fines**

**BRUNEAU** — Federal regulators have filed a wastewater complaint against a south-western Idaho cattle feedlot, alleging the operation illegally discharged manure and didn't have a containment system to prevent runoff from cattle pens.

SEE PAGE B1

**OBITUARIES**

Jane L. Hafer Canfield  
 Bernine, 65  
 Ralph H. "Kelly" Pouton, a 93  
 Ethel Allen Combe  
 Lovebody, 84  
 Frances Gae "Fran" Gooch, 65  
 Bernice Reynolds, 91  
 Ruth L. Chetfield, 86  
 Eula Anita Brady, 89

SEE PAGES B2-3

**IDAHO LOTTERY**

Saturday, Dec. 9  
 19 22 30 34 52 P&G: 40

Power Play #: 4  
 Saturday, Dec. 9  
 7 8 13 25 26

WILD CARDS: Jack of Hearts  
 Dec. 9 7 0 2  
 Dec. 8 7 7 4  
 Dec. 7 3 0 5

Power Play: 4  
 Dec. 9 7 0 2  
 Dec. 8 7 7 4  
 Dec. 7 3 0 5

Power Play: 4  
 Dec. 9 7 0 2  
 Dec. 8 7 7 4  
 Dec. 7 3 0 5

**IDAHO/WEST**



**Bikers use tough image to help abused children**

**SALT LAKE CITY** — On first impression, he wouldn't strike you as anything other than a biker. His long mustache and graying shoulder-length hair tell no tales of a hero, but the back of his leather jacket speaks of something different, something that sets him apart. The red, black and white emblem on the back of Horace Montoya's jacket is simple, a fist, interspersed with chains, and reads "Bikers Against Child Abuse."

SEE PAGE B5

**Congress OKs drilling ban for Montana Front**

**WASHINGTON** — A permanent ban on oil, gas and mineral exploration along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front was included in a last-minute package of tax breaks and other legislation that cleared Congress early Saturday.

SEE PAGE B4

**Some New Mexicans embrace Jewish roots**

**RUIDOSO, N.M.** — Within weeks of becoming New Mexico state historian, Stanley Hordes started receiving some odd visitors. They would enter his Santa Fe office, close the door — and gossip about their neighbors.

"So-and-so doesn't eat pork," they would say. The young historian was intrigued. Through the pool, Hordes spoke with were clearly Catholic, they reported following an array of Jewish customs.

SEE PAGE D1

**State: Elk with hybrid genes must be killed**

**IDAHO FALLS** — A domesticated cow elk from an eastern Idaho ranch that is suspected of having red deer hybrid genes must be killed, the state has ordered. The Idaho Department of Agriculture told Fremont County rancher Rex Rummel Thursday that he would have to destroy the animal.

SEE PAGE B4

**NATION/WORLD**



**Space shuttle Discovery lifts off in bright blaze**

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** — Discovery lit up the sky late Saturday, blazing off for the first nighttime space shuttle launch in four years — the latest step in NASA's ambitious schedule to complete the international space station.

SEE PAGE B7

**Saddam Hussein's nephew escapes prison**

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — A nephew of Saddam Hussein, serving a life sentence for financing insurgents and possessing bombs escaped from prison Saturday in northern Iraq with the help of a police officer, authorities said.

SEE PAGE B7

**Report: DNA proves Diana's driver drunk**

**NEW DNA** evidence proves the driver of Princess Diana's car was drunk on the night of her fatal crash in a Paris underpass in 1997, British Broadcasting Corp. said Saturday.

SEE PAGE B7

**Hungry moth vs. cactus in national fight**

A tale of nature's revenge, stretching back more than two centuries and halfway around the world, has come full-circle in a battle of cactus, moth and man. At stake is the survival of a Mexican national symbol. The dull-colored cactus moth that reached Mexican territory this summer threatens to devastate the country's nopals, the prickly pear plant that graces the country's flag and is deeply interwoven in its history, culture and diet.

SEE PAGE B6

**Annual upsurge in child smuggling now on**

**Immigration officials** in Washington say the annual holiday surge in children crossing the border illegally is on. Illegal immigrants working in the United States sometimes arrange for friends, relatives or professional smugglers to sneak their youngsters into this country.

SEE PAGE D1

**SPORTS**



**Jerome's Parrish to play for CSI**

The 2006 Times-News All-Area Volleyball Player of the Year Megan Parrish won't stray too far from Jerome when she begins her collegiate career. On Monday, College of Southern Idaho volleyball head coach Heidi Cartisser will announce that the star will join the Golden Eagles for the 2007 season.

SEE PAGE C1

**Cardinals clip No. 13 CSI women**

**COEUR D'ALENE** — A Saturday win will remain a hiccup and a skip away for the College of Southern Idaho women's basketball team.

Down 74-73 with 11.6 seconds left in the game, CSI worked the ball inside to Ashley Thompson, but instead of finding the game-winning shot the Golden Eagles needed, Thompson was called for traveling with 0.9 seconds remaining as the North Idaho College Cardinals upset the No. 13 team in the nation, 74-73.

SEE PAGE C1

**Ul's Erickson takes job at Arizona State**

**PHOENIX** — Dennis Erickson has accepted the head coaching job at Arizona State, Idaho athletic director Rob Spear said Saturday night. The 59-year-old Erickson spent one season at Idaho in his second stint at the school, going 4-8. He led Miami to two national titles, also has been a head coach at Wyoming, Washington State and Oregon State and coached Seattle and San Francisco in the NFL.

SEE PAGE C1

**Smith wins Heisman in a landslide**

**NEW YORK** — Winning the Heisman Trophy was easy. The hard part for Troy Smith was staying composed. To the surprise of no one, the Ohio State quarterback was a runaway winner Saturday night of the award that honors college football's best player.

SEE PAGE C5

**Idaho's good reputation attracts scams**

**BOISE (AP)** — Con artists are taking advantage of Idaho's good reputation by using the state as the return address in their mailing scams. Better Business Bureau officials said Idaho addresses have become increasingly popular in mail scams because Americans are familiar enough with the state to think of it as a safe, stable place, but not familiar enough to spot the bogus addresses. "It just very simply creates a false sense of believability," said Nora Carponter, executive director of the Better Business Bureau of Southwest Idaho and Eastern Oregon.

One of the latest Idaho-based state to think of it as a safe, stable place, but not familiar enough to spot the bogus addresses. "It just very simply creates a false sense of believability," said Nora Carponter, executive director of the Better Business Bureau of Southwest Idaho and Eastern Oregon.

scams involves a mailer claiming to be from the Reader's Digest Sweepstakes Center that tells recipients that they've won, accompanied by a fake check for \$78,000. Anyone who's received a scam letter should contact the Better Business Bureau at 208-342-4649 or 1-800-212-1001.

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# Gooding

Continued from page A1

"I actually noticed that things are getting worse," Kness said with the help of an interpreter. "We feel like they were slowly killing the place—I mean, not just letting it deteriorate, but actually killing it."

Kness had attended deaf schools in Montana and North Dakota before enrolling at the Gooding campus. Although his home is in Pocatello, he lives in a dormitory on campus during the school week. He returns home each weekend to be with his family, which does not use sign language.

"For most of us the school is our home away from home because a lot of students come from families that don't sign, so this is a place where we are like a family," he said. "I think that there needs to be a central place where students can all come together."

But officials have already decided to expand deaf and blind programs by spreading them throughout the state, and reducing the need for a central location.

"What we have done is looked at each position here as it opens up due to retirement or employees leaving the ISDB, and then we evaluate that position to see if it is absolutely necessary here," said Harvey Lyter, interim superintendent for the ISDB. "If it's something we can do without, then we close the position here and move it to one of our outreach programs."

## Quality and quantity

Outreach programs are day classes for deaf and blind students that teach curricula similar to those taught in public schools. The state hopes to expand outreach programs and reduce residential programs.

Currently, the Gooding campus is the only residential facility in the state.

For more than 30 years, the ISDB has operated outreach programs in Lewiston, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Middleton and Boise.

But it wasn't until this year—after the Legislature's Joint Finance Appropriations Committee and the State Board of Education approved recommendations to expand these programs—that the ISDB began augmenting those programs with more teachers and resources.

Lyster said the ISDB is being careful not to reduce the quality of service on the Gooding campus by retaining employees where they are needed.

"We actually have room to grow here because there has been a decline in students in the past," he said. "So, really, our teachers could have more kids in their classrooms."

But Kness said there might be fewer students in the classrooms, but there are also fewer teachers.

"It seems like they have lost some of the best teachers, and that's hard for the students," he said.



Rose Crews, right, teaches a general science lesson Wednesday to Frankie Uhl, foreground, Mercedes Arroyo, Josh Woods, not pictured, Miguel Mendez and Micah Cram at the school in Gooding.

Donna Pence, D-Gooding, who sits on the House Education Committee, said she is aware of the expansion of the outreach programs, but she said they should not be expanded at the expense of the Gooding campus.

"If the students are suffering there because of the changes, then I think we would have to go back and look at what we're doing," she said.

Enrollment at Boise and Middleton outreach programs now surpasses the program in Gooding, according to an ISDB annual report released two weeks ago.

And that worries most residents in Gooding, where more than 15 percent of the 4,000 people who live there know some form of rudimentary sign language.

## A community commitment

Lucy Chidiane, the manager of Ridley's Food and Drug across the street from the Gooding campus, said the students are as much a part of the community as the school itself.

"We actually have students who work in the store and they are also our customers, so they are also a big part of our business," she said.

Last year, Ridley's was one of several businesses that set out petitions to keep the school in Gooding. So many residents signed the petitions that some people wrote their signatures on business receipts when there was no space left on the petition.

One of the community's biggest fears would be the economic impact to Gooding if the school moved away, but legislators already are exploring other uses for the campus. This year, the state surveyed the campus for use as a substance-abuse rehabilitation center.

But residents like Margaret Loyd say the state doesn't have the right to take away the school. And some see it as their civic duty to help the students.

"The locals here care about those kids because they've grown up around them," she said. "They (locals) know that the kids don't have some of the abilities we are blessed with, so they watch out for them and try to help them. How would anyone in Boise know how to do that?"

That is the same question lawmakers are asking the ISDB—and the State Board of Education.

Besides expanding outreach programs in Idaho, the ISDB is exploring the idea of a residential campus in Treasure Valley.

Kness said more opportunities would be available to students at a residential campus in a larger city.

Pence said the proposal is unofficial, but something that is being seriously considered by lawmakers.

"We need to have residential campuses for students because it is too difficult for some to be mainstreamed," she said. "It's not just what the kids learn in the classroom but also what they learn afterward in the social setting. But most of the time in the public schools, that interpreter goes home at the end of the day and those students don't have that opportunity."

## Location, location, location

Lyster said it's a difficult decision for parents to send their children away for weeks at a time, and he said in most cases it would be more effective to offer programs closer to students' homes.

"Usually, by the time a student is 13 or 14 years old, the realization sets in that the student's disability issue is holding them back in class and in their social lives," Lyster said. "Even when parents make the decision at that time to send them here (Gooding), those students are already about six years behind."

Under the plan to expand outreach programs, students would be able to commute daily to ISDB classes near their

homes. But the new plan is already facing serious challenges.

The Gooding campus already struggles to retain qualified teachers because local school districts frequently lure them away with the promise of higher salaries. ISDB salaries are more than 2.5 percent less than what local school districts pay.

"The ISDB would need more than \$100,000 to pay wages equal to the state's minimum for teachers."

"Just finding qualified staff is a big issue here, so building the outreach programs is like multiplying that supply-and-demand problem by six," Lyster said. "I'm not saying it's not a positive plan, I'm saying that we need to be aware of the problems we will have when we implement the plan."

Regardless of the challenges, the ISDB has already begun making steps toward expanding the regional centers and reducing its dependence on the Gooding campus. But even though the plan is under way, the students and the community remain opposed to it.

"We noticed how we, as students, have kind of stood by while this has happened," Kness said. "But we feel like this school is our second family and we're losing it. I don't think people understand that so maybe this is something we need to stand up for."

Times-News writer Joshua Palmer can be reached at jpalmer@magicalvalley.com or at (208) 420-0526.

"The locals here care about those kids because they've grown up around them."

—Margaret Loyd, Gooding resident

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\*Financing on approved credit. See store for details.



### Merry Christmas from Swensen's!

Amid the unavoidable noise and frenzy of this holiday season, we hope you'll find joy in the innocent eyes of your children, peace in the warm embrace of friends and loved ones, and hope in the life and message of Jesus Christ.

Cooks  
**SPIRAL CUT  
HAM**

Farmland  
**WHOLE BONELESS  
HAM**

California Navel  
**ORANGES**  
\$5.99

Western Family  
Brown & Powdered  
**SUGAR**  
88¢

**\$1.49**  
Limit 2!

2-Liters  
**SPRITE & FRESCA**  
Limit 3!

Meadow Gold  
**EGG NOG**  
88¢

#### Swensen's Quality MEATS...

Bone-In Beef  
**PRIME RIB ROAST**  
\$4.79  
Lb.

Jennie-O  
**TURKEY BREASTS**  
\$1.29  
Lb.

Western Family  
**SAUSAGE ROLLS**  
\$1.19  
1-Lb. Pkg.

Boneless Beef  
**RIB EYE STEAK**  
\$5.99  
Lb.

Boneless Beef  
**RUMP ROAST**  
\$2.39  
Lb.

Boneless Beef Petite  
**SIRLOIN STEAK**  
\$2.99  
Lb.

Beef  
**CUBE STEAK**  
\$3.49  
Lb.

Mild Cheddar  
**CHEESE**  
\$1.99  
Lb.

Falls Brand  
Whole Bone-In Smoked  
**HAM**  
\$1.69  
Lb.

Falls Brand  
Whole & Half  
Boneless Buffet  
**HAM**  
\$1.79  
Lb.

Falls Brand  
Whole & Half  
Boneless PITT  
**HAM**  
\$2.19  
Lb.

Falls Brand  
Whole & Half  
Boneless Tavern  
**HAM**  
\$2.79  
Lb.

Thick Sliced  
**BACON**  
\$6.49  
Ea.

Boneless Pork  
**SIRLOIN  
ROAST**  
\$1.99

Extra Lean  
Country Style Pork  
**SPARE RIBS**  
\$1.99

Pork  
**CUBE  
STEAK**  
\$2.49

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**2/\$3**

Clementine  
**TANGERINES**  
5 Lb. Box  
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Fancy Fuji & Granny Smith  
**APPLES**  
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\$10.99

Large Navel  
**ORANGES**  
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Dole Tossed  
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1 Lb. Bag  
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AVOCADOS  
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99¢

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FROM PAGE ONE

Mine

Continued from page A1

run through that mountain range," Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "Unless they can demonstrate that they are going to be able to contain that mountain and not allow that fault to drain those lakes, they are not going to get those permits."

**Spoilage**  
Wash-based Crescent Minerals bills the Rock Creek Mine as a new generation of environmentally benign and aesthetically pleasing mineral extraction plants. The company's advertising slogan for the mine is, "You won't even know we're there."

The project has been mined in lawsuits almost since its inception 20 years ago as the first mine beneath a federally protected wilderness area. Environmental groups have successfully overturned two of the three biological opinions in favor of the mine by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are challenging the U.S. Forest Service's initial approval for the mine to move forward. In 2004, Tiffany and Co. took out a full-page Washington Post newspaper ad opposing the mine, declaring the area more valuable for wildlife than for jewelry.

However, the Fish and Wildlife Service said in October that building the mine would be better for the bears than leaving intact the 114 million ounces of silver and 933 million ounces of copper lying underground. Hewitt CEO William Orchow said he was surprised that Schweitzer, who has previously expressed support for the mine proposal, would raise the lake-draining issue after the Forest Service had determined it was not a threat.

"This has been exhaustively studied," said Orchow, whose company expects to begin exploratory digging at the site as the snow melts next spring. "We are going to stay a minimum of a thousand feet away from the edge and the bottom of the lake and it's been determined that will be a sufficient safeguard to prevent any draining."

A 2001 Montana Department of Environmental Quality study of Cliff and Rock lakes — two of the six Cabinet Mountain lakes above the ore body — found that tunneling into the complex fracture system of rock might create artificial hydraulic forces that could suck water from the aquifer that feeds the lakes.

The Kootenai National Forest's environmental impact study on the proposal calls for using mined-out tunnels under the Cabinet Mountains wilderness as a 207-million-gallon reservoir necessary to contain all the water that will flow into the underground passages during the mine's 25-year operating life. That would be the same as a 64-acre lake 10 feet deep.

Opponents of the mine fear this new underground reservoir will come at the expense of the scenic bodies of water above.

"This mine cavity they create is going to fill with water and that water is coming from somewhere, either the lakes above or the conduit that supplies the entire region," said Jim Costello of the Rock Creek Alliance, a Sandpoint-based group that's fighting the mine plan. "They have no idea when they start fracturing 1,000 feet below the surface what is going to happen."

But Carson Rife, Hewitt's vice president of operations, said

mining won't take place in buffer zones around known fault lines, reducing the chance of intersecting with major underground water conduits and emptying the lakes above.

Local support for the mine splits at the state line, with elected officials of Montana's Lincoln County — where the jobs would be located — in favor. Neighboring Bonner County in Idaho — home of the state's largest lake, 40-mile-long Pend Oreille — is opposed to it.

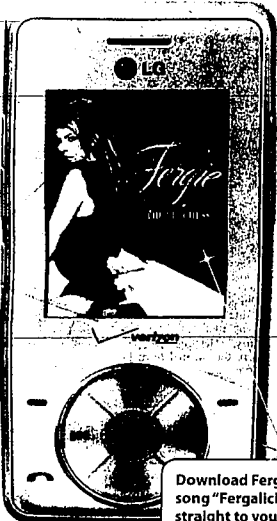
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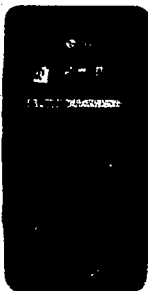


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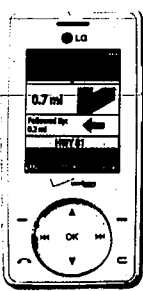


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Wealth

Continued from page A1

adults — those with assets exceeding \$61,000 — own 65 percent of the world's total wealth.

The richest 1 percent — a group 37 million strong in which every person is worth more than \$50,000 — own 40 percent of all the wealth in the world.

Half the world, with less than \$2,200 apiece to their names, must make do sharing barely 1 percent of the total wealth. Per capita wealth comes out to \$144,000 in the United States. It is \$181,000 in Japan, \$127,000 in the United Kingdom, \$1,490 in Indonesia and \$1,100 in India. In every one of those countries, the vast majority of people have far less than the average — and a few have astronomically more.

"Within countries, certainly the United States, inequality has increased over the last 20 years," said Anthony Shorrocks, director of the Institute. "These are outcomes of globalization, but not necessarily tied to situations where the winner takes all and big fortunes to be made, but a smaller number of them, so they go to a smaller number of people."

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# Dairy

Continued from page A1

Farmers who participate in regional pools operated by the federal government or the states deliver raw milk to cooperatives or food processors. They get a guaranteed price, whether the milk ends up in a gallon jug, cheese, butter or ice cream. In Arizona and other federally regulated regions, the Agriculture Department uses a formula to set the price, that processors pay for raw milk, which the USDA sets with "milk marketing orders."

Developed for a bygone era of small dairies and decentralized milk plants, the system lives on at a time when 3,000-cow dairies are not uncommon and huge cooperatives and food companies dominate the business.

Business groups, fiscal conservatives and some dairy organizations have called for Congress to overhaul the complex system of protections and subsidies, which they say is costly to taxpayers and consumers. A recent USDA study acknowledged "dairy programs raise the retail price" of milk. The watchdog group, Citizens Against Government Waste, estimates the programs cost U.S. consumers at least \$1.5 billion a year.

The 1937 law allowed "producer handlers" — dairy farmers who bottle milk for their own cows — to operate outside the pools. But it was risky for a farm to do this because it might end up with more milk than it could sell. Most of these outsiders were small.

In the early 1990s, Hettinga was working with partners and relatives and had half a dozen dairies in Arizona and California. Then he decided to build his own bottling plant in Yuma, Ariz. In 2002, he began building a second Yuma plant to supply Costco stores in Southern California.

According to food benelieu, Costco Wholesale Corp.'s senior vice president, the arrangement lowered the average price of milk "by 20 cents a gallon overnight and it stayed that way for three years." Benelieu wrote in the e-mail, made available to The Washington Post, "Milk suppliers in southern California were gouging the public on price (20 cents a gallon higher than N. California) for years and were unresponsive to our call for lower prices."

In Arizona, Hettinga was competing for retail sales against the state's biggest milk company, Shamrock Foods Co. of Phoenix. And in California the Hettingas were taking on the two biggest players in the U.S. milk industry in California: Dean Foods Co., the largest processor of dairy products, with \$10 billion in annual sales and five California plants, and Dairy Farmers of America, a co-op that controls nearly a third of the nation's liquid milk.

As Hettinga's milk began reaching Costco stores, there was a snowball effect as other milk suppliers were forced to lower prices, Costco's Benelieu said.

Hettinga's operation was "damaging to the marketplace," said Elvin Holton, director of economic analysis for Dairy Farmers of America. "Nobody ever envisioned there would be such large handlers" outside the pool. "So," Holton said, "the regulations had to change."

The first challenge to Hettinga came in late 2001, when Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., proposed a measure that would have forced Hettinga to pay in to the pool that Shamrock was

governed by. Shamrock's chairman, Norman McClelland, had contributed thousands of dollars to

"I still think this is a great country. In Mexico, they would have just shot me."

— Hein Hettinga

Kyl, beginning with Kyl's first

Hettinga fought back by printing labels saying Kyl wanted to "limit competition and raise the cost of milk to the Arizona consumer" and putting them on gallons of milk shipped around Arizona.

In the House, Devin Nunes, a new Republican from California's Central Valley, introduced a bill to close what he called the "regulatory loophole" that let Hettinga ship unregulated milk into California. Nunes' bill and Kyl's amendment initially went nowhere. So Kyl, a conservative Republican, found an unlikely ally in Reid, then the Senate's fiercely partisan Democratic whip.

Kyl agreed to back removing all of Nevada from federal milk regulation, and Reid agreed to support legislation cracking down on Hettinga and protecting Arizona dairies from competition from low-priced Nevada milk. In 2003, the senators co-sponsored an amendment with both provisions. In effect, Nevada bottlers would get some of the same rights being taken away from Hettinga. Under this arrangement, the money Hettinga would save by operating outside the federal system would have to be paid in to the pool.

In 2003, Hettinga's 16 dairies stretched from Texas to California, and his company, Sarah Farms, supplied nearly a fifth of Arizona's liquid milk.

As Kyl and Reid were putting together their deal, a milk-industry friend put Hettinga in touch with a Washington lobbyist, former representative Raymond McGrath, R-N.Y. McGrath, who was president of the National Republican Club of Capitol Hill, had maintained good connections in GOP circles.

During a swing through Capitol Hill with McGrath, Hettinga pitched his cause to House Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerry Lewis, R-Calif.

Lewis' district was home to some large dairies, including a Hettinga dairy in San Jacinto. The two men had never before met or talked, according to Lewis' spokesman, but Lewis was sympathetic. "This is not right, taking a rifle shot at one

individual," Hettinga recalls Lewis saying.

A few months later, Lewis used his power to kill the Kyl-Reid measure. But the big milk producers and dairy trade groups were already at work in Washington, through their employees and political action committee, Dean Foods, with nearly 100 plants around the country, spent more than \$600,000 on political contributions in 2005 and 2006, including \$5,000 to Kyl and \$3,000 to Nunes. Reid got \$5,000 in 2001.

Eight groups with an interest in the legislation reported overall lobbying spending of more than \$5 million in 2005 and the first half of 2006. Dean Foods reported spending almost \$2.5 million, including \$500,000 for outside lobbyists. One was Charles "Chip" English of Thielen Reid & Priest, English also represented Shamrock Foods, United Dairy Institute of Arizona and the Dairy Institute of California.

At every turn, Lewis' office was "harassed by calls and faxes from dairy owners," recalled Specht, Lewis' aide. "It seemed clear that all the skids had been greased for this legislation."

Dec. 16, with the Senate chamber nearly empty, Reid brought up the milk bill, which passed a few minutes later by "unanimous consent," a procedure that requires no debate or roll-call vote of both political parties agree. Reid and Kyl's recent statements "that their goal was to level the playing field among producers of milk."

That set the stage for a bitter battle in the House, pitting Nunes, the new California dairy-district congressman, against Lewis, then a 14-term veteran with friends on both sides of the aisle.

Lewis used the muscle of his 66-member Appropriations Committee, the dispenser of billions of dollars a year in spending. But he faced the newly unified front of the dairy lobby and its friends. Virginia dairy farmers had helped win the key support of Robert Goodlatte, R-Va., chairman of the Agriculture Committee, convincing him that if Hettinga were brought into line, the threat "would be less likely to show up back here," said lobby-

ist Charles Garrison. Nunes was a protégé of House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas, R-Calif. And he had recently backed John Boehner, R-Ohio, in his successful campaign for majority leader.

In late March, Boehner placed the bill on a special docket usually reserved for uncontroversial measures such as naming post offices. Under that docket, bills require a two-thirds majority for passage. But the parliamentary procedure meant no one could offer an amendment to slow the bill down.

McGrath, Hettinga's lobbyist, watched the vote from the Capitol Hill Club. After Lewis came up 13 votes short and the bill passed, McGrath recalled, a large contingent of dairy lobbyists arrived, some trading high-fives.

In an interview later, Nunes called the milk legislation a victory for "every dairy farmer in America except those who were gaining the system." He added, "People out there were making millions of dollars a year off the backs of America's dairy farmers... That was a wrong that was finally righted."

The next morning, lawmakers in dairy districts who voted against the dairy groups got an e-mail from a lobbyist expressing "disappointment on behalf of the members of the International Dairy Foods Association for your vote." It added: "We will be letting our member companies and their employees know of the outcome."

Hettinga vowed to keep supplying customers in Arizona and California even though the new law required him to pay the Arizona pool what he said was a "crippling" sum of up to \$600,000 a month.

Hettinga and his relatives gave nearly \$20,000 to Kyl's Democratic challenger this year. Kyl won handily. A few weeks before Senate action on the milk bill, 11 officials of Shamrock contributed \$14,800 to Kyl. In October, Hettinga filed a lawsuit charging the milk bill was unconstitutional because it was aimed at penalizing a single individual.


"I still think this is a great country," Hettinga said, "in Mexico, they would have just shot me."

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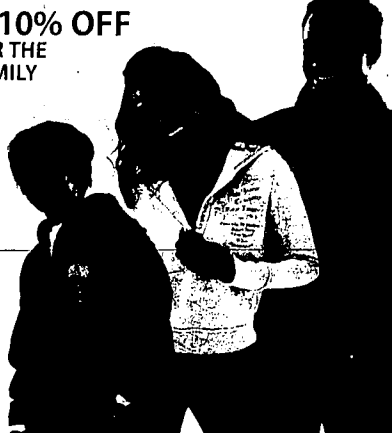
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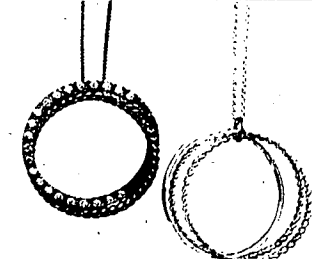
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OPINION What do these ... um ... ladies have to do with Iraq? A14



INSIDE: Mutual Funds, A10 | Opinion, A14-15 | Your Business, A11 | Weekly market report, A10

## Grass-fed beef's popularity on the rise

Americans prize 'value-added' meat

By Kathy Stephenson  
The Salt Lake Tribune

SALT LAKE CITY — For fresh eggs, Stewart and Shelley Bowring raise chickens in the back of their Weber County home.

For fresh potatoes and onions, they buy 50-pound bags from a farmer in Layton. And for seasonal fruit they head to Fruitway in Willard and Brigham City.

So it's no surprise that a few years ago, when a friend told them about Tami's Grassfed Beef, they immediately headed to the West Haven ranch and placed an order.

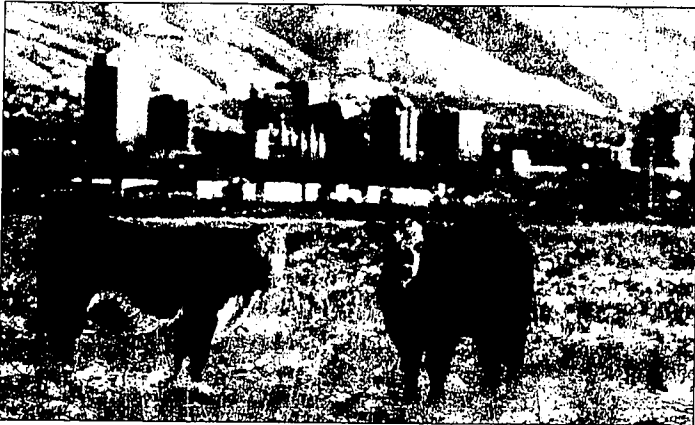
"I wouldn't go back to store-bought beef for anything," says Shelley Bowring, one of a growing number of Utahns — and Americans — seeking out beef raised on small, mostly single-family ranches near their homes.

Cattle on these farms forage and graze on natural grasses, not on corn or grain like their cousins on large industrialized feed lots. They also are free of synthetic growth hormones and antibiotics.

Today, it is called "value-added" meat, but it is really just a return to the old-fashioned way of raising cattle — the way cattle were raised before industrialized farming began more than 50 years ago.

These alternatives to mass-produced beef can have a number of different labels, including organic, natural, grass-fed and grass finished. They also have significantly higher price tags.

Only a handful of these



Cattle from the G Bar Ranch spend their winter close to Salt Lake City, as seen Nov. 29. Jennifer Gilmore Larson, whose family operates G Bar Ranch Natural Beef, is one of a growing number of Utahns — and Americans — seeking out beef raised on small, mostly single-family ranches near their homes.

small health-conscious meat producers operate in Utah, starting up within the last five to six years. They actually represent a minuscule portion of all livestock operations in the state. According to the Utah Department of Agriculture, the raising of cattle and calves for consumption make up the majority of Utah's \$800 million livestock industry.

Producing beef that is more healthful for consumers is the main reason for the trend. Grass-fed beef is lower in fat and calories and has higher levels of beta carotene, omega-3 fatty acids and vita-

### On the Net

- www.tamisgrassfedbeef.com
- www.taylormadebeef.com
- www.americangrassfed.org
- www.eatwild.com

min E than meat from animals with a high-grain diet. But the amount of omega-3s in grass-fed beef is still relatively small when compared to salmon.

And, according to research conducted by Utah State University professor Tilak Dhiman and several of his colleagues, beef fed a vegetarian

dier also contains more of a potent cancer-fighting compound known as conjugated linoleic acid. Dhiman presented his findings earlier this year at a conference for the American Grassfed Association.

Tami's Grassfed Beef in West Haven has grown from two to 200 head of cattle in about six years.

"It's good quality meat that you can give your family and feel good about," said Tami Bowen who, along with her husband Scott, runs the operation.

The couple had been raising

beef for their own family for nearly a decade when a friend asked to buy some.

"It just blossomed from there," said Bowen, who only sells her beef by telephone orders or online.

Tami's animals graze on natural grasses all their lives, rotating between ranches in West Haven and Idaho, about 80 miles to the north. This time of year, when the ground is frozen and covered with snow, alfalfa is brought in to feed the cattle.

Besides the health aspects of grass-fed beef, consumers like knowing where their food

is produced, explains Jennifer Gilmore Larson, whose family operates G Bar Ranch Natural Beef.

"People want to reconnect with the source of their food," she said, noting that customers can drive to the pastures just north of Salt Lake City International Airport or in Chalk Creek Canyon in Summit County and see the steers they may one day eat.

"They can see it with their own eyes and really know where it came from: not a feed lot in the Midwest," she said.

Organic beef can sometimes double the price of ordinary supermarket beef and grass-fed can be several dollars more per pound.

Animals raised entirely on grass mature more slowly, which means it may take 22 to 24 months before they are ready to be butchered. Grain-fed animals take about 18 months to reach processing weight.

Many people are willing to pay the higher costs, such as \$4.50 a pound for organic ground beef compared to \$2.69 for grain-fed ground beef. The price can scare away

many people, especially those with large families or on limited budgets, says Russell Taylor, of Taylor Made Beef in Emery county. Taylor Made Beef was the first certified organic beef producer in the state.

Grass-fed beef is not quite as expensive at about \$3.50 a pound.

Consumers like the Bowring believe the deeper beef flavor — some say slightly gamier — is worth the price.

"It has so much more flavor," said Bowring. "It tastes like the beef you had when you were young."

## Unstable ground: Insurers base rates on disaster futures

By Peter G. Cosselin  
Los Angeles Times

NEWARK, Calif. — Hemant Shah is in the business of creating catastrophes.

The computers at Shah's Silicon Valley company, Risk Management Solutions Inc., contain mathematical models of every U.S. disaster from the 1812 earthquake in St. Louis to the Sept. 11 attack in New York, as well as 100,000 synthesized "extreme events."

RMS runs its disasters through your community — and sometimes through your home — to see how you'd fare in a hurricane, hailstorm, earthquake, epidemic or terrorist attack. The firm sells its knowledge to insurance companies to help them decide whom to cover and how much to charge.

Since Hurricane Katrina, those decisions have been running in one direction.

Based in part on RMS' predictions, Allstate Corp., the



Terry and Julie Tunnell, with son Brian, were among those who lost their homes in the Scripps Ranch area of San Diego. The couple said they purchased a guaranteed replacement-cost policy from State Farm when they bought the single-story, 1,738-square-foot house, their first, in 1992. But at some point — without their knowledge, according to the Tunnells — their coverage was switched to an extended replacement-cost policy, with the same premiums as their previous policy.

nation's second-largest property insurer, has abandoned some lines of coverage. Allstate and other companies also have spent the year dropping

or paring policies from Oregon to New York. Figures from state regulators show that more than 1 million homeowners nationwide have

had to scramble to find new insurers or live with weakened policies. Tens of millions may face rate increases between 20 percent and more than 100 percent, according to regulators.

This is only the beginning. "Between hurricanes along the East and Gulf coasts and earthquakes along the West Coast, it is an open question whether the private insurance industry will continue to insure the coastline at all," said University of Pennsylvania economist Howard Kunreuther, an authority on disasters.

RMS is part of a technological revolution that is reshaping America's property casualty insurance industry. The \$626 billion industry is embracing computer techniques to learn everything it can about you — health, habits, houses and cars. It is using this data to replace traditional uniform

See page INSURANCE, Page A12

## Insurers retreat from the risk

Los Angeles Times

NEWARK, Calif. — Residential insurers are reducing their exposure along America's three coasts — East, West and Gulf. For example:

### Massachusetts

During the past two years, six insurers have stopped selling or renewing policies along the coast, especially Cape Cod, leaving 45,000 homeowners to look for coverage elsewhere. Most have turned to the state-created insurer of last resort, The Mass FAIR Plan, now the state's largest homeowners insurer, recently won a 12.4 percent rate hike.

### Connecticut

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has subpoenaed nine insurance companies to

explain why they are requiring thousands of policyholders whose houses are near any water — coast, river or lake — to install storm shutters within

See page STATES, Page A9

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## Water Rights Myths... You Deserve The Facts

Municipalities are threatened by the assertion of senior water rights and application of the priority doctrine.

All water users dependent on the interconnected Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and the Snake River should encourage development of ways to stabilize and recover this over-appropriated water resource. Failure to recover this resource to a sustainable level causes local and regional economic decline and forces cities and individual domestic users to drill deeper and deeper wells at tax payer or individual expense. Many cities in Idaho have both senior and junior water rights. They're not going to dry-up by a court ruling affirming what they already have a legal right to. Further, municipalities needing to secure more water can buy water rights from willing sellers or through their right to exercise eminent

domain. Application of the priority system provides for the orderly management of our water resources. Our founding fathers provided constitutional and legal mechanisms to ensure the public had appropriate recourse to ensure their water prosperity.



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## MILESTONES

### Restaurant now serving lunch to go

Teriyaki Chicken Express is now serving lunch to go from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 604 Main Ave. E. in Twin Falls. Just west of

Kregel's.

They have been serving the Magic Valley for 14 years. They will also be serving food in downtown Albion on weekends from December through February. For large orders, or for more information, call 316-0957.

### 2006 REALTORS CONFERENCE



Willa and Jill Stone of Irwin Realty were among 2,000 Realtors who took part in a wide range of volunteer activities during the 2006 Realtors Conference & Expo in New Orleans, La., last month. Realtors took time out from the conference to aid in the continuing recovery and rebuilding of New Orleans with a variety of activities. The Stones took part in building a Habitat for Humanity home in a portion of the city's Upper Ninth Ward called Musician Village, one of the hardest-hit areas. Jill Stone says she helped frame a house while her husband, Willa Stone, worked on the roofing, and that the experience was so rewarding that it didn't even feel like work. The 2006 Realtor Conference & Expo was the largest gathering held in New Orleans in 2006, and brought approximately \$34 million in revenue to the city. In addition to the November activities, the National Association of Realtors has joined state and territorial associations of Realtors in sponsoring the construction of 54 Habitat homes in the Gulf Coast area.

### NEW DANCE ACADEMY



Dragonfly Dance Academy is a new business located at 505 F St. in Rupert. The business is owned and operated by Anie Pitchford, who is also a dance instructor. Classes are offered for children 3-17 years old in ballet, lyrical, jazz, hip hop and tap. Registration for January classes is now open. Classes begin Jan. 1, 2007. For more information or to register for classes, call 438-0911. Pictured from left are Shar Dixon, instructor, and Anie Pitchford.

### GIFT BARN OPENS



Lywood Gift Barn held a ribbon cutting with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors. They are located in the Lywood Shopping Center at 1347 Filer Ave., Twin Falls. They offer a unique selection of gifts. For more information, call 734-0066. Pictured from left are Gayle Johnson and Ery Rollins.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### PMT FOOD DRIVE



PMT employee Karissa Klausner (right) and South Central Community Action Partnership employee Corrie Catton (left) work together to unload canned goods gathered from PMT's "You CAN make a difference food drive."

### PMT donates more than 2000 canned goods

Project Mutual Telephone donated more than 2,000 canned food items to the South Central Community Action Agency from their two-month-long promotion. Since Oct. 2, PMT offered customers "discounts" on select new services in exchange for canned food items.

"Many times people just donated cases of food," said Beth Coler, marketing coordinator at PMT. "They didn't want anything in return, they just wanted to help make a difference."

"This donation from PMT and their customers is great. Along with contributions this year from other individuals and organizations, we are going to be able to feed so many people in our community," said Lynn Cole, coordinator of the South Central Community Action Partnership, with a smile. "Now...we could use a bigger warehouse."

PMT is a local company who together with the help of many customers were able to make this substantial donation to the local food bank.

"The support from PMT customers and employees was overwhelming. We live in a very giving community and it feels good to be a part of something that makes a difference," says Coler.

PMT is a full-service communication company providing local telephone and its associated features.

### FIRST FEDERAL CONTRIBUTES TO TRACK



Burley track team members Ed Christenson, Vanessa Ward and John Preston accept a donation toward the Burley High School track renovation. Presenting a donation of \$5,000 from First Federal Savings Bank are, from left, Dwight Jenkins, Kevin Welch and Steve Westfall.

### KEY-BANK GIVES TO TRACK



Key Bank manager Tony Reda (back row right) and the staff of Key Bank in Burley, present a \$500 donation to members of the Burley High School Track Team (front left to right) Ed Christenson, Vanessa Ward and John Preston for the Burley High School track renovation.

### WELLS FARGO HELPS TRACK



Accepting a \$2,500 donation from Wells Fargo Bank for the Burley High School Track Renovation are Burley High School track team members, Ed Christenson (left), Vanessa Ward (center right), and John Preston (right). Representing Wells Fargo Bank is Alma Magallon (left center).

## CAREER MOVES

### Belinda Johnson

**BURLEY** — Century 21 Riverside Realty announced that Belinda Johnson has joined the office as sales associate.

Johnson is a long-time resident of Mini-Cassia and she and her husband reside east of Rupert. She says she is looking forward to helping with people's real estate needs.

### Courtney Harrison

**TWIN FALLS** — Home loan professional Courtney Harrison has recently joined national lender First Horizon. She will be based at the Twin Falls branch located at 1411 Falls Avenue, Suite 115. She brings her experience in bank-

ing to her new position. In addition to home loans, she will offer customers financial products and services including checking and savings accounts, home equity loans and lines of credit, financial planning and credit card services.

Harrison is a native of Jerome, and has over four years of lending experience, and spent three years in the banking industry previous to that.

### Kristin Kyle-McQuesten

**TWIN FALLS** — Banner Bank announced the addition of Kristin Kyle-McQuesten as cash management associate. She will support the cash management sales officers throughout Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Kyle-McQuesten has over 10 years of banking experience. Prior to joining Banner

Bank, she was vice president/regional manager of International Banking for Washington Mutual Bank. She is a graduate of the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in international economics. She is also a certified documentary credit specialist.

### David Christiansen

**GOODING** — Gooding County Memorial welcomed David Christiansen, physical therapist, as the new rehabilitation services director.

Christiansen is originally from Morgan, Utah, a small

town much like Gooding. He moved to the Magic Valley in 2002 with his wife Kelly and their five children. He received his Master of Science in physical therapy at the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has extensive experience in acute care, outpatient rehabilitation, long term care, home health and pediatrics.

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MONEY

Insurance

Continued from page A9

coverage at uniform rates with an array of policies at varying prices.

Industry executives want to create a finely tuned system to manage the risks they bear while allowing consumers to pick the protection they need and pay the right amount for it.

"As insurers become adept at the techniques, American consumers can be more assured that their companies will be there when they need them to pay their claims," said Robert P. Hartwig, of the industry-funded Insurance Information Institute in New York.

New techniques

The new techniques already are paying off for insurers.

Despite Katrina and other big storms in 2005, industry profits hit a record \$40 billion-plus. Combined with the luck of no major storms this year, profits may reach \$60 billion.

But some regulators, economists and consumer advocates contend that the industry's use of sophisticated computer methods is producing side effects that could undermine insurance.

Traditionally, insurance companies group people facing similar dangers into pools. Actuaries determine how often illnesses or accidents have befallen pool members and how costly those occurrences have been. Insurers set rates based on the frequency and loss histories assembled by actuaries. The bigger the pools, the more actuaries have to work with. The more they have to work with, the more accurate their frequency and loss numbers.

But the question hangs in the air: What if insurers could predict who's likely to be hit with setbacks in the future? What if they could charge such customers higher rates, or

avoid them altogether? Wouldn't that boost profits, making shareholders and executives happy, and ensure that insurers had plenty of cash to pay the smaller claims of safer customers?

That is the tantalizing promise of catastrophe models like RMS. But it could also encourage insurers to raise rates of refuse coverage for the very people who need it most — low- and moderate-income families, or those who've suffered setbacks like unemployment.

As the industry expands its ability to "slice and dice" customers and applicants, Texas Insurance Commissioner Mike Geeslin worries that "the risk-transfer mechanism at the heart of insurance could break down."

If that happens, Geeslin warned, "insurance will stop functioning as insurance."

'Data-mining companies'

Give RMS a street address in the U.S., and it can pull up what's at the location, tell you when it was built and out of what. Then it can run hundreds, sometimes thousands, of simulated disasters across the structure. Those that bear up well are good bets for insurers, those that don't are bad ones.

At the same time, "data-mining companies" use years of insurance-company data to generate a computerized library of correlations between claims and personal attributes such as income, education, ZIP code and credit score. That library can be used to predict whether that person will file a claim in the future. Those who the program predicts won't file are good bets for insurers; those who it predicts will file are bad.

RMS' techniques and those of other data-miners share three crucial similarities: They're too profitable because of com-

puting power. They generate predictions about individuals and properties. And they have set off a scramble among insurers to slice once-bundled pools of policyholders into finer and finer risk categories.

Northbrook, Ill.-based Allstate now sorts its home and auto policyholders into 384 categories, up from the three it once used. At Bloomington, Ill.-based State Farm, the nation's largest auto and home insurer, the number of categories has increased 100-fold. At Cleveland-area-based auto insurer Progressive, the number runs into the millions.

Insurance executives say that the rush to refine is producing uniformly positive results. It gives companies more detailed information about the risks they bear, allows them to offer lower rates to homeowners who live in safe places, and lets them individualize policies to fit each policyholder's needs.

No credit scores here

States like California and Maryland have banned insurers from using credit scores, ZIP codes and other factors in deciding whether to cover someone, arguing that they discriminate against poor people and minorities. In Washington, state officials complain that the proliferation of categories-and-risk-factors has so confused policyholders that the state now requires a company to provide customers written explanations whenever it gives them anything but its best rate.

In the case of health-care insurance, the trend might mean that a substantial fraction of the nation could no longer afford coverage. In the case of homeowners insurance, it might mean that the nation's coasts become unaffordable for all but the wealthiest Americans.

The rate hikes and coverage

cutbacks are not RMS' handiwork alone, nor the first by residential insurers.

Many of the changes are extensions begun after the last major natural disasters, including the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Area, the 1991 Oakland firestorm, 1992's Hurricane Andrew in Florida and the Northridge earthquake in 1994.

The story of a single policy change illustrates the gulf that has opened between what insurers say they are selling and what most homeowners think they are buying.

Once, the gold standard for homeowners was the "guaranteed replacement cost" policy. Industry executives assert that such policies are not as common or as generous as is often thought. Virtually all include dollar limits.

But regulators interpreted "guaranteed replacement cost" to mean that insurers had to replace a destroyed home no matter the limit or expense. Most policyholders assume that this is the kind of coverage they purchase.

When wildfires swept southern California in 2003, Terry and Julie Tunnell lost their home near San Diego.

The couple had purchased a "guaranteed replacement cost" policy from State Farm when they bought the single-story, 1,736-square-foot house, their first, in 1992.

Terry, 46, is chief financial officer with a San Diego company and, Julie, 41, is an accounting professor at a city college, so they are trained to keep tabs on insurance. But at some point — without their knowledge, they said — their coverage was switched to an "extended replacement cost" policy, with the same premiums. As a result, when the fire struck, they found themselves \$300,000 short of what was needed to rebuild and replace belongings.

A State Farm spokesman said the company converted all its guaranteed replacement cost policies in 1997, and notified all its customers.

"The Tunnells' financial aims" had been to pay off their mort-

gage and save for their son Brian's college education. But now, to make up their loss, they've taken out a new mortgage that's more than double their previous one and built a house twice the size of what they lost in hopes that its value will appreciate faster than their expenses.

"Before the fire, we figured we were pretty much set," Julie said. "We were well on our way to paying off our mortgage. We had some savings and thought retirement was well in sight. We thought we had good insurance with America's most trusted insurance company," she said.

"Our lives were ever wrong. Our loved were completely changed."

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 56562 Blossom Road  
 Rogerson, ID 83302  
 208-857-2284 / 208-857-2236 (fax)  
 mudruts@rcid.net

**JUB**

States

Continued from page A9

New York

Allstate has refused to renew 30,000 policies in New York and Long Island, and may make further cuts in the future. Other insurers, including Nationwide and MetLife, have raised to as much as 5 percent of a home's value what policyholders must pay before their insurance kicks in, or have said they will write no new policies in coastal areas.

Florida

Allstate has offloaded 120,000 homeowners to a start-up insurer and has said it will drop another 120,000 as policies come up for renewal. State-created Citizens State property, now the state's largest homeowners' insurer with 1.2 million policies, was forced to turn to the state and issue bonds to plug a billion-dollar financial hole due to hurricane claims. The second largest, Pru Financial Group, went bankrupt this summer, leaving 300,000 homeowners to find coverage elsewhere. The state also has separate funds to sell insurers below-market re-insurance and cover businesses. Controversy over insurance has become a major issue in this fall's election campaign and is causing fissures in the dominant

Republican party.

Louisiana

The state's largest residential insurer, State Farm, will no longer include wind and hail coverage as part of homeowners' policies in southern Louisiana. In those areas where it still covers these dangers it will require homeowners to pay up to 5 percent of losses before their insurance kicks in. In a move state regulators say is illegal and are fighting, Allstate is seeking to transfer wind and hail coverage for 30,000 existing customers to the state-created Citizens Insurance.

Texas

Allstate and five smaller insurers have canceled hurricane coverage for about 100,000 homeowners and said they will write new policies in coastal areas. Texas' largest insurer, State Farm, is seeking to raise its rates by more than 50 percent along the coast and 20 percent statewide.

California

The state has bucked the trend toward higher homeowners insurance rates with three major insurers, State Farm, Hartford and USAA, seeking rate reductions of between 11 percent and 22 percent. Regulators have begun to question whether

insurers are making excessive profits after finding that major companies spend only 41 cents of every premium dollar on paying claims and related expenses. About among the major firms, Allstate is seeking a 12.2 percent rate hike.

Source: Risk Management Solutions and state insurance regulators.

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# Congress limps to a finish, making way for new majority

By Jim Abrams  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The 109th session of Congress, frustrated by partisanship and criticized for its meager record of accomplishment, ended with a flurry of bill-passing and promises of change when Democrats take over the House and Senate in January.

Before the pre-dawn finish Saturday, departing House Speaker Dennis Hastert acknowledged that after eight years, the longest stretch for a Republican in the job, he will welcome a return to the rank and file. "On Jan. 4, I will be privileged to rejoin you on these benches where my heart is," he said.

The Illinois Republican will be succeeded on that day by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. She becomes the first female speaker and the first Democrat in the post since Newt Gingrich of Georgia led the Republicans to power in 1995.

Pelosi is promising that the new Democratic era will get off to a quick start with votes to raise the federal minimum wage for the first time in a decade, enact lobbying and ethics reform and lower Medicare prescription drug costs.

As often is the case in the waning hours, the congressional session ended with a mad rush to deal with unintended business.

In the long final day, ending around 4:30 a.m. EST in the Senate, the two chambers passed a massive tax and trade bill, prevented the government from shutting down and approved dozens of other bills. They included an important fisheries management measure: a bill allowing civilian nuclear technology transfers to India; and bills to fund programs to combat AIDS, pandemic diseases and premature births.

Lawmakers ready to return home also were reminded of the corruption and scandal problems that helped sweep



Speaker of the House, Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., right, accepts the Speaker's gavel from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif. in the Capitol Hill in Washington as the 109th Congress convenes in this Jan. 4, 2007, file photo. In January 2007 Hastert will be handing the gavel to Pelosi.

Democrats to power in the November elections.

The House ethics committee, in a report Friday, admonished Republicans for turning a blind eye for years to the inappropriate conduct of former Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla. He resigned in September after it was revealed he had sent salacious electronic messages to former teenage pages.

The tax measure reved some 20 tax breaks, at a cost of \$38 billion over five years, and a dozen credits promoting alternative and efficient uses of energy.

It extended through the end of 2007 a deduction for research and development initiatives, and renewed a deduction of up to \$4,000 for higher education costs. There were breaks for teachers who pay for supplies out of their own pocket and for taxpayers in nine states with no income taxes — allowing them to deduct state and local sales taxes.

The popular tax breaks became a magnet for contentious and expensive bills. The package included legislation to open up 0.3 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling and to pre-

vent a 5 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors from taking effect Jan. 1. The GOP-crafted solution to the problem was criticized as an accounting gimmick because it would double the cost of fixing the problem again next year.

The legislation also contained measures to permanently normalize trade with Vietnam and extend trade benefits for four Andean nations, sub-Saharan African countries and Haiti. The Haiti act was the toughest to swallow for some lawmakers from the South; they said it would further erode jobs in their states-textile industries.

The bill also renewed, with increased federal contributions, a program dealing with abandoned coal mines and the health issues of former miners.

As one of its final acts, Congress approved a stopgap measure keeping federal programs running at or slightly below current levels through Feb. 15. President Bush quickly signed it on Saturday.

The action was necessary because lawmakers failed to pass the annual spending bills covering the budget year that

began Oct. 1, except those dealing with defense and security.

Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., who will become House Appropriations Committee chairman when the Democrats take over, said the bill was a

blatant admission of abject failure by the most useless Congress in modern times."

The next House majority leader, Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., says there will be a return to five-day workweeks. In the Senate, incoming Majority

Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he and new Republican

leader, Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., have agreed that all 100 senators will hold a private session on Jan. 4 to kick off what they hope will be a new era of civility and less partisanship.

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**A:** Each insurance company has a pre-determined fee schedule (the amount they will reimburse a medical office) for MRI scans, open or "traditional." An open MRI costs no more than a "traditional" tube type of MRI. To be confident in what your insurance company will pay, consult them in advance of your scan for their reimbursement rate. Then the choice becomes your individual preference as the patient, open or closed MRI.

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**An important message for people with Medicare:**

# Only 21 days left!

You only have until December 31st to make your Annual Election for your 2007 Medicare health plan (some exceptions apply)

Now's the time to find out about Humana Gold Choice\*. Services include:

- No monthly plan premium
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- New Posit ScienceSM Brain Fitness Program
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Plus, Humana's been serving people with Medicare for over 20 years.  
**Come to a seminar to find out more:**

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EDITORIAL

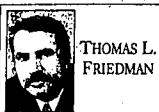
Dairies' water pact may lead path to more deals

One of the biggest water cases to be heard in Idaho's Supreme Court finally hit Boise on Friday. But rather than look for a winner in the main arena, prognosticators should keep watch over the huddle on the sidelines.

The deal between surface water users and groundwater pumpers unfolded long before justices heard arguments this week. Members of the Idaho Dairymen's Association have been finalizing a deal with a coalition of senior surface water right holders in the weeks before the Supreme Court hearing.

Our view: New water mitigation deals made by groundwater dairies hint of a new era in water management.

What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

The only hope of moving the factions inside Iraq, not to mention Syria and Iran, toward reconciliation is if we have leverage over them, which we now lack.

Yes, I know. The conventional wisdom is that if the U.S. sets a date to leave Iraq the whole Middle East will explode in a Shiite-Sunni war. Maybe, but maybe not.

Confirmation hearings open the Gates to unity

Those who could bear the exaggerated courtesies and compliments got to witness something extraordinary happen in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday.

MICHAEL GOODWIN

And not only on Iraq, but also in the larger war against Islamic terrorism.

Indeed, Gates cited unity-building as one of the reasons he agreed to return to Washington. Timing is everything with the Iraq Study Group due to release its bipartisan recommendations today.

President in 2008 and beyond, so that we can carry this struggle in a way that they don't think we're going to cut and run, that they don't think we're going to walk away from this war on terrorism and so that they don't think it's going to be easy to start attacking us here at home because we're not willing to take them on abroad.

Panel chairman John Warner, R-Va., cheered him on, saying agreement at home was essential for "a generational war on terrorism." Come me in, too, because, as I have written, we can't very well demand that the Iraqis forge a political consensus if we can't forge one ourselves.

Several senators followed John McCain, R-Ariz., in suggesting we don't have enough troops in Iraq, a subject Gates mostly ducked by saying he didn't know enough. And while Gates promised to be independent and candid, he acknowledged that President Bush would make the final decisions.

Most disappointing was Sen. Hillary Clinton, who struck a sour note with a verbal victory dance over Rumsfeld's departure. She reshuffled the past and asked a series of odd questions about whether Bush, Vice President Cheney and Rumsfeld were intelligent and patriotic and thought they were "acting in the best interest of the nation."

Like a sharp stick in the eye, the tense moment was a reminder that not everybody is ready for a bipartisan approach.

Michael Goodwin is a columnist for The New York Times.

Through years of negotiation, the groundwater community has displayed a strong sense of unity in its defense of conjunctive management. The varied interests — whether from dairies, municipalities, farmers or other commercial enterprises — have stood up to surface water users quite effectively. Their cooperative efforts were necessary in large part, because the surface users had their own pollock of canal companies, spring users, aquaculture and surface-right towns like Twin Falls, to guard their collective interests.

The pumpers continued to mount a defense against such moves, even after 5th District Judge Barry Wood ruled that the conjunctive management doctrine equating their rights to senior rights was unconstitutional. That's the issue now before the Supreme Court on appeal.

But now, with the IDA and half its members working a deal, the pumpers' unity may become fractured. Should the court uphold Wood's ruling, the dairymen have positioned themselves quite well to deal with the outcome. Other pumpers, including many in the Magic Valley food processing industry with junior water rights, may not be so well off.

The fact that dairies are able to buy into a settlement shows again how their profits are setting them apart from other farmers. Yet those farmers also provide goods to dairies that are necessary for their own success.

With water being a finite resource, the dairies' move could be just the start of additional moves to buy up remaining water rights. A victory for surface water rights and prior appropriation would set the fire-sale into motion, and it wouldn't be cheap. What may complicate the process is whether the Legislature is forced to buy water rights in order to provide more mitigation settlements similar to one worked by the IDA.

Since the state already blazed a path to buying out rights two years ago, a new round of buyouts is likely. Which guarantees one thing, even with a clear ruling from the court, Idaho's water fight is a long ways from over.

Times-News

Brad Hurd... Publisher Chris Steinbach... Editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, Chris Steinbach, Steve Crump, Traci Blise, Bill Bitzenburg and David Cooper.

Foreign policy reform only bows to dictators

Prophetically speaking of the end times, Jesus said there would be "... distress of nations, with perplexity, men's hearts failing them for fear..."

Thomas Friedman, The New York Times columnist, wrote a few weeks ago that given a choice of taking out Iran's nuclear project or learning to live with an Iran that's nuclear armed, he would opt for the latter. That is the mindset of the liberal left and is the core of the current commission report designed to "guide" President Bush's thinking.

Liberals think, "If we will just talk with them, we can reach an understanding and satisfy their baring dispositions." How can you talk to someone who maintains, repeatedly, "If you infidel don't bow down to our Allah, you're dead?"

Apparently, the "touchy-feely" posture of the Muslim terrorists is to have one hand on our throats and the other on their swords.

President Bush rightly identified this as a global war on terrorism after the 9-11 attack. Liberals like Sen. Robert Byrd like to think that getting Osama bin Laden would have eliminated the threat.

Apparently, Iran's president doesn't think so. GENE LASKY Twin Falls

LETTERS

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication.

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

Second thought on Nelson's impact

Regarding the Times-News editorial of Nov. 28: Instead of giving accolades to Craig Nielsen, let's examine what Nielsen & Co. or Aristocrat Casinos represent and ask for testimonials of the victims.

Knowing the weakness of man, greedy people will money spend millions of dollars to build casinos and stock the casinos with booze (booze lowers inhibitions) and provide entertainment not to give you money to make you rich but to take money from you.

Casinos are looking for suckers who will spend and gamble their money hoping to hit it big. Some gamblers do win, but the winnings are small by the many, many suckers that lost. So the casinos gave some money to Valley House. Big deal, giving a pittance from gambling profits to help the homeless after wreaking havoc (loss of home, family, reputation, job, business, life, etc.) in so many lives due to alcohol and gambling.

I am from the towing business. Highway 93 to Jackpot has been referred to as slaughter alley. Among numerous others, I remember five dead people in one car I was called to tow. I wonder if Craig Nielsen's wreck in 1985 that made him a quadriplegic was alcohol related. Though I never met Craig Nielsen, I know what his impact on many lives has been. As I am casting stones, I will confess that I'm a perfect person. God is not through with me yet. CARTER KILLINGER Twin Falls





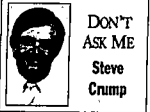
INSIDE: Biker activists use attitude to help abused kids, B5



INSIDE: Around the world, B7 | Idaho/West, B4-5 | Obituaries, B2-3 | World, B6

Why you didn't send me a card last year?

On NBC today, the Dallas Cowboys will be playing the New Orleans Saints. Over on CBS, the San Diego Chargers will be hosting the Denver Broncos, and on Fox the New York Giants will be visiting the Carolina Panthers.



DON'T ASK ME Steve Crump

They're all NFL games with playoff implications, but it doesn't matter: I can't watch any of them because I'll be doing Christmas cards.

The writing of Yuletide wishes isn't the problem; that's kinda fun. It's Christmas cards themselves that I find objectionable.

Look, Hallmark hasn't had an original idea since the Truman administration. Boxed greeting cards are dull, dull, dull. "Wishing you all the joy of the season," "Peace and joy to you and yours," "Have the merriest Christmas and the happiest New Year." Please, I've read better material on matchbook covers.

What's needed are better punch lines to entice folks to open up the 300th card they'll receive this year with evergreen boughs on the cover. My sister-in-law, a doctor who lives in California, recently sent me a few ideas circulating on the Internet that would make suitable greeting cards:

• Front of the card: "This holiday season, don't forget that you're unique." Inside the card: "Just like everyone else."

• Front of the card: "At this time of redemption, remember that good judgment comes from bad experience..." Inside the card: "...where in turn, comes from bad judgment."

• Front of the card: "At this time of year when we think of others, consider that if you give a man a fish he will eat for a day..." Inside the card: "...but if you teach him how to fish, he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day."

• Front of the card: "As 2007 draws near, reflect that a journey of a thousand miles..." Inside the card: "...begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire."

• Front of the card: "Celebrate your life..." Inside the card: "...even if its only purpose is to serve as a warning to others."

• Front of the card: "Bare your criticize someone during this season of forgiveness, walk a mile in their shoes." Inside the card: "That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes."

• Front of the card: "As we mark this season of new beginnings, remember that if at first you don't succeed..." Inside the card: "...sky-diving is not for you."

Happy holidays.

—Times-News columnist Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223 or scrump@magicvalley.com.

## HOLIDAY HOME TOUR



Musicians play Christmas music for visitors Saturday afternoon during the 17th annual Holiday Home Tour at David and Martha Kemp's home.

# Sharing a love of Christmas

By Jani Whited  
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — Sounds of music, smells of cinnamon and cheerful faces greeted many local residents who tramped through six homes in Twin Falls to get holiday décor ideas, to look at some of the many fabulous homes in the area and just to get into the Christmas spirit. This was the 17th annual Holiday Home Tour of the Junior Club of Magic Valley, this year benefiting the Ronald McDonald House, and it looked to be a huge success.

"It's the same event year after year," said Melissa Crane, event co-chairwoman. "But it's always different because of the owners. Some homes are lavish and some are simple and it adds to the event."

Junior Club members vote on which organizations benefit from which of its events. This year they decided the Ronald McDonald House would get aid from the tour. "Many people we know have been touched by having someone stay at the house," Crane said. "(This way) we can let people know that even though they're far away from home, they're still kind of at home."

The homes on this year's tour each bring a distinct touch to the Christmas season.

"Without their graciousness and opening their hearts and



Visitors enter the Kemp home, one of six Twin Falls homes featured in this year's home tour organized by the Junior Club of Magic Valley to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

homes to do this, we wouldn't be able to do it," Crane said. Violins, Christmas trees of all sizes, trains, popcorn garland, stockings, pillows, candy canes and much more all decorated the various homes.

At Kelly and Cory Pilling's home, presents lined the entrance and festive music greeted guests who stopped by to see a gingerbread display and hear a live orchestra.

On Buckingham, Janet Jackson and Carol Jackson thought Sandy Kevan's home was fantastic. With her army of themes in different rooms, variety of Christmas trees and natural talent of refurbishing and decorating, Jackson found her home incredible.

"She has really got talent," she said. For Loretta Mullins, Christmas is about family and children. This was her first year being a house on the

tour and she said she really enjoyed it. She doesn't even mind the scores of people who visited her home.

"They're all very gracious and very nice," she said. "I love Christmas."

Around her coffee table were figurines including deer that belonged to her deceased mother and near the kitchen sat a carousel and skating rink with a train running past. Two large Nativity sets graced her living room and a bedroom that caught the eye of many passers-by.

For Twin Falls resident Shawna Childs, this was her favorite home on the tour. Not too big, not too little. "I love the Nativity sets," she said.

Ray and Janet Goffin's residence served as the club's featured home, and it's easy to see why. Upon entering the large home, a 15-foot tradi-

## Junior Club

Junior Club is a women's organization that raises money through local events to benefit primarily the women and children in the community. The club also welcomes new homes to the tour for next year. If interested in becoming a show home, to become a member or if an organization is interested in being a beneficiary of an event, call Corinne at 737-0653 or 420-2052 or Melissa at 735-1559 or 308-0488.

tional tree welcomed visitors and in the dining room was a vast array of nutcrackers of all shapes and sizes. Also included were a variety of Nativity sets from Panama, Israel, France, Mayan Riviera, Germany and more.

"Janet did an incredible job of bringing in warmth and really being able to put together what the season is all about," said Jody Trumbly of Twin Falls.

This was the last stop on her tour and Tremblay said she liked all of them as well. "It's fun to get ideas," she said. "It's very nice of people to offer their homes to this. People have all different twists and it's neat to see how they really put their personalities into it."

Correspondent Jani Whited can be reached at [jwhited@cablone.net](mailto:jwhited@cablone.net)

# One wreck leads to another

Times-News

HANSEN — A silver Buick Lesabre failed to yield at the intersection of 3800 E and State Highway 50 on Friday night and was hit by a commercial vehicle pulling triple trailers, according to a press release from the Idaho State Police.

All subjects were wearing seatbelts and were transported to St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. One suffered neck and head injuries and was flown to St. Alphonsus in Boise.

Names are being withheld by ISP pending further investigation.

This wreck caused a sugar beet truck to detour through Twin Falls. It subsequently overturned at the intersection of Addison Avenue East and Eastland Drive and blocked southbound traffic on Eastland for more than two hours.

No other vehicles were involved, and the unidentified driver was taken to St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center with nonlife-threatening injuries.

# Bruneau feedlot faces federal fines

The Associated Press

BRUNEAU — Federal regulators have filed a wastewater complaint against a south-western Idaho cattle feedlot, alleging the operation illegally discharged manure and didn't have a containment system to prevent runoff from cattle pens.

The complaint against the Bruneau Cattle Co. stems from observations made by inspectors with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 8. The discharges ran into the South Side Canal, which flows to the Snake River and C.J. Strike Reservoir near Bruneau, it said.

"This is an especially important case since the discharge was immediately upstream of a public campground," said Elin Miller, EPA regional administrator in Seattle, in a statement.

"Feedlots have a responsibility to protect water quality and downstream water users. We are the state of Idaho's concern for protecting water quality and want to send a clear message that less responsible feedlots won't enjoy a competitive advantage over those who do the right thing."

Under the federal Clean Water Act, facilities face fines of up to \$11,000 per day of violation.

Bruneau Cattle, whose facilities can handle up to 7,000 head, now has 30 days to respond to the complaint. It will get a hearing if it can't reach a settlement with the EPA.

# Blaine County putting jail question to the voters

By Kelly Jackson  
For the Times-News

HAILEY — Blaine County commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution for a Feb. 6 bond issue election to pay for a public safety facility for the county.

The election will request permission for the county to borrow the principal amount of \$10.46 million to fund construction of a jail, sheriff's office and consolidated dispatch center, which is estimated to cost \$13 million.

The majority of the funding, or 71 percent, is anticipated to come from the County Justice Fund. The estimated cost for taxpayers is \$1.94 per \$100,000 of assessed property value each year.

Commissioner Tom Bowman, who is heading up

efforts to promote the bond election, said that when he asked the city of Ketchum to support the bond on Monday, the issue of a "worst-case scenario" was addressed regarding the amount of bond repayment anticipated to be derived from the County Justice Fund.

In the event of a heavy cost to court services, such as last year's Sarah Johnson murder

trial, he said the maximum cost to taxpayers is estimated at \$6.74 per \$100,000 of assessed property value each year.

Including repayment for the principal amount and interest, the county is expected to repay approximately \$16.4 million over the next 21 years.

Two-thirds of voters must approve it for the bond issue to pass.

Wilkosson chose gifts for his family at the annual Shop with a YAC (Youth Action Council) event Saturday at the Burley Wal-Mart. Kids children were taken on a shopping spree by members of the Youth Action Council to buy gifts for each member of their families, including themselves. Money for the project was donated by Cassia Regional Medical Center, Mishelka Memorial Hospital, Okanda of Burley and Raper and individual contributors.

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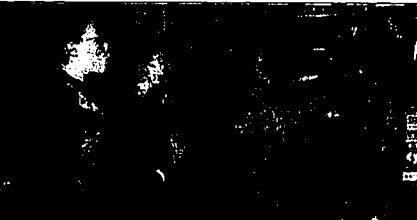
# Snowpack Levels

Watershed	% of Avg. 1981-1999	% season peak**
Salmon	72%	18%
Big Wood	69%	16%
Little Wood	64%	16%
Big Lost	65%	16%
Little Lost	68%	19%
Henrys Fork/Teton	66%	18%
Upper Snake Basin	67%	19%
Galsby	62%	21%
Salmon Falls	78%	19%

As of Dec. 9  
\* A comparison of basin snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average.  
\*\* An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire season, which peaks in spring

## SHOPPING WITH YAC

Kristen Johnson and Ashly Peterson help Kyrle Wilkosson choose gifts for his family at the annual Shop with a YAC (Youth Action Council) event Saturday at the Burley Wal-Mart. Kids children were taken on a shopping spree by members of the Youth Action Council to buy gifts for each member of their families, including themselves. Money for the project was donated by Cassia Regional Medical Center, Mishelka Memorial Hospital, Okanda of Burley and Raper and individual contributors.





**OBITUARIES**

**Jane L. Hafer Canfield Berdine**

**TWIN FALLS** — Jane L. Hafer Canfield Berdine, 93, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006, at her home following a lengthy illness.

She was born, Feb. 29, 1911, in Twin Falls, the daughter of Marion S. "Bill" Hafer and Annie "Lorena Irene" Iverson Johnson.



Jane and her twin brother, Jerry, attended Jerome schools and graduated from Twin Falls High School. She attended Hollywood Beauty College and went on later to be an instructor. She owned and operated The Hair Den for 10 years.

Jane married Dennis L. Canfield of Kimberly in 1961. They had four daughters. Dennis passed away in 1975. She married Lyman "Lynn" Berdine in June 1991. They moved to Eagle, Idaho, for seven years and returned to Twin Falls in 2003.

Jane's passion was her family. She loved and was very proud of her children and their families. She enjoyed keeping in touch and up-to-date with her siblings and 28 nieces and nephews. She adored her nine grandchildren, and she was very blessed to see her oldest

granddaughter marry this past February. She preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Bud Hafer; two sisters, Betty Reinke and Virginia Thammert; and her first husband.

She is survived by her husband, Lyman "Lynn" Berdine of Twin Falls; and her children, Debbi (Craig) Smith of Bend, Ore., Heidi (Bryan) Stoenemets of Twin Falls, Holt (Mick) Little of Woodell and Jodi (Phil) Amato of Portland, Ore.; Kevin (Joanne) Berdine of Falling Waters, W.Va.; and Kim (Dunmy) Ruggieri of Manchester, Md.

A celebration of Jane's life will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with Pastor Jim Tubbs of the First Christian Church officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Friends and family may call on Sunday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Reynolds Funeral Chapel.

A celebration of flowers, the family suggests memorials be given in Jane's name to the First Christian Church or to First Choice Hospice. Contributions may be given to funeral chapel staff or mailed to Reynolds Funeral Chapel, R.O. Box 1142, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

**OKLAHEY** — Ralph H. "Kelly" POULTON, a 93-year-old resident of Oklahey died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006, at Highland Estates in Burley.

Kelly was born Nov. 22, 1913, in Oklahey, Idaho, the oldest son of George R. and Leila Todd Poulton.



He attended school in Churchill, Warm Creek, and Oklahey, but left school at an early age to work with his father as a cowboy, sheepherder, camp tender, horse wrangler, and later as an amateur rodeo participant.

Kelly was one of the last of a generation of close-knit cattlemen who ran cattle in the style of the old days. His rail mates included Bill Trotter, Iversons, Terrills of the Cottonwood-Creek area and Bedkes, Crisfields, Nelsons, Emerys, Days, etc. of Goose Creek.

He married Donna Doyley on April 20, 1934. They lived in Oklahey and Murtaugh, before settling at the historic Warm Creek ranch northwest of Oklahey, where they farmed and ran cattle until 1963.

In the late 1930s, his family bought the Goose Creek ranch just above the Oklahey Dam, and he became a part of the Goose Creek Cattlemen Association (Will Ross). In 1949, they moved to the "Dam Ranch" south of Oklahey, where Kelly resided until shortly before his death.

Kelly was a well-known producer of the old-timey music and an excellent horseman with a special ability to train roving horses. He was a strong advocate of good grazing practices and worked with the Forest

Service to help promote better land use management.

He was an active member of the Oklahey Vigilantes and worked in many capacities for the July 24th celebrations. He served on the Oklahey Highway Board and as a deputy brand inspector. He was a member of the Burley Elks for many years.

However, his proudest moment was when he was inducted into the Southern Idaho Livestock Hall of Fame in 1998.

He enjoyed gardening, traveling, and visiting with friends and relatives. He was an avid reader, especially of local history, and obtained a valuable source of historical information which he enjoyed sharing with others not only because he had been part of the early history of the valley, but also because he took time to listen to the rest of the times.

He especially enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His door was always open to friends and family for no other reason than an ice cream cone or a homemade soursough biscuit.

He is survived by his daughter, Maxine (Larry B.) Adams of Burley; a daughter-in-law, Dal, Heidi, Gretchen, Derek, Kelly, Brett, Jodie, Kyle of Oklahey; a son-in-law, Rodney Dale of Draper, Utah; a shared son, Karl U. "Bud" Bedke of Oklahey; and his brother, Bill R. Poulton of Declo; nine grandchildren, Dal, Heidi, Gretchen, Derek, Kelly, Brett, Jodie, Kyle of Michael; 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter; also two close cousins, Ernest Peterson of Filer and Viva Warr of Oklahey. Camille Muehlestein also enriched his life by her love and care.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; his son,

Mike Poulton; his daughter, Thelma Hale; a great-grandson, two brothers, Farley and Boyd Poulton; and a sister, Ruth Matthews.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Oklahey LDS Stake Center, 355 N. Center Ave., with Bishop Eric C. Bedke officiating. Burial will be in the Oklahey Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 until

8 p.m. Monday at Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley, 1350 E. 16th St., and from 10 until 10:40 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

The family suggests memorials be directed to the Oklahey Valley Historical Museum, Oklahey Valley Arts Council, or the Oklahey Valley Cemetery District in care of Rasmussen Funeral Home.

Our family would like to thank Boise Cascade Management and their employees for their efforts in putting together a great dinner, auction and raffle on our behalf. We would also like to thank the community for their support. Thanks again.

**Larry, Dona Jo Osterhout and Family**

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**Ethel Aileen Combe Lovelady**

**KIMBERLY** — Ethel Aileen-Combe Lovelady, 84, of Kimberly, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006, at St. Luke's Medical Center.



Ethel was born Nov. 26, 1922, in Uintah, Utah, and the daughter of John and Henrietta Combe.

She grew up with five brothers and four sisters on a farm in Uintah.

Ethel married Albert Bounous Sr. on Aug. 2, 1941. Albert was killed on March 4, 1945, while serving in the military during World War II.

Ethel worked for the War Department from 1944 to 1947 and then for a short time in the Kimberly area and Ethel worked for the U.S. Postal Service.

On May 2, 1957, she married Edward "Ted" Lovelady in Ogden, Utah. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Logan Temple. They moved to the Kimberly area and Ethel went to work for Persons Grocery in 1962 and stayed there until 1965.

In 1966, she went to work for the Kimberly Post Office, returning to work at the Post Office in 1976, where she was the first female postal

clerk, retiring in 1984. Ethel was a hard worker and worked alongside Ted on the farm, helping him as well as taking care of her family she loved. She enjoyed her gardening, fishing, reading and cooking. Ethel was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving in several capacities.

Ethel is survived by five children, Albert (Carol) Bounous of Vernal, Utah, Ted (Danneil) Lovelady Jr. of Provo, Idaho, David (Carol) Lovelady of Lovelock, Colo., Mike (Kaylene) Lovelady of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Brad Lovelady of Kimberly, Idaho; as well as 24 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Albert and Ted; a daughter, Melanie; five brothers; and four sisters.

Funeral services will be at noon, Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Kimberly LDS Stake Center, 3857 N. 3500 E. in Kimberly, Idaho, with burial to follow in Sunset Memorial Park. A viewing for family and friends will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park" in Twin Falls with family greeting friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday also be a viewing on Tuesday one hour prior to the services at the church.

**Frances G. Gooch**

**MURTAUGH** — Frances Gooch "Fran" Gooch, 65-year-old Murtaugh resident, died Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006, at St. Luke's Medical Center in Twin Falls.



She was born June 8, 1941, in Helena, Idaho, the daughter of Robert and Fern Stimpson Fisher.

On April 2, 1965, she married Carl Gooch Jr. in Twin Falls, Idaho. Fran was an excellent wife and mother, and a wonderful homemaker. She would help her husband with road work for the Murtaugh Highway District. She loved the outdoors, spending all summer and riding four-wheelers. She also loved to fish from the boat.

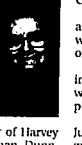
Fran was the definition of arts and crafts. She could create just about anything to do with wood, metal or fabric.

She is survived by her husband, Carl Gooch Jr. of Murtaugh; her sons, Kevin (Colleen) Gooch of Kimberly and Thomas (Rachel) Gooch of Murtaugh; two sisters, Donna (Donnie) Baldwin of St. Anthony and Anita (Daryl) Grigg of Ashton; four brothers, Wayne (Carroll) Fisher of Grand Junction, Colo., Bill Fisher, Kay (Gayle) Fisher and Ronald Fisher, all of Ashton; and three grandchildren, Shay, Makylah and Matthew.

She preceded in death by her parents. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the Oklahey Cemetery in Oklahey. Friends may call from 11 a.m. to noon prior to the service on Tuesday at the Payne Mortuary—221 W. Main St. in Burley.

**Bernice Reynolds**

**GOODING** — Bernice Reynolds of Gooding, Idaho, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006, at her daughter's residence in Rupert in the care of Minidoka Memorial Hospices.



Bernice was born Aug. 31, 1915, near Medford, Okla., the daughter of Harvey and Minnie Hickman Dunn. The family moved to Beaver County, Okla., by covered wagon, when she was 4 years old.

She finished her schooling at Knowles, Okla., and then received registered nursing training at Oklahoma University. She was employed in several different states and during the year '43 and '44, was a public health nurse and a welder in a shipyard in Hechingham, N.C., in Gooding, Idaho, she was employed for over 30 years at Gooding County Memorial Hospital.

She married Adger Boger in Portland, Ore., in 1942. They had one daughter, Judith Sue. They were later divorced. She married Clarence Reynolds in Gooding in 1958 and made their home there.

Bernice belonged to the First Baptist Church, Margarette Rebecca No. 98, and the Hospital Auxiliary in Gooding.

She still kept up her license as a professional nurse (RN) with the state of Idaho Board of Nursing.

She enjoyed fishing, camping, reading, sunsets, painting, writing poetry, her friends and playing pinocle.

Bernice leaves one daughter, Judith Porch of Rupert and a grandson, Corey Porch of Brandon; a stepdaughter, Rita (Earl) Newell and a stepson, Leslie, Chris and Bruce of San Diego, Calif.; nephews, Roger, Randy, Mike and Roddy Dunn; and nieces, Sara and Karen; and an honorary daughter, Donna Morris.

Her parents, husband, four brothers, Lauren, Jack, Pete and Dennis; a son-in-law, Steve Porch; and a niece, Diana Dunn preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Demaray's Gooding Chapel with The Ven. Jean King conducting. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Gooding, Idaho. A viewing for family and friends will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the chapel.

**Ruth L. Chatfield**

**TWIN FALLS** — Ruth L. Chatfield, 86, of Twin Falls, passed away Dec. 3, 2006, in Twin Falls.

She was born on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1920, in Grangeville, Idaho, the daughter of Will and Effie Woods.

Ruth spent her younger years in Grangeville. She was an honor student and loved to tell people she played girls basketball. She was a center, and jumped for possession after each basket.

Ruth attended Business College and worked for Farns Security. She married her boss, C.F. Chatfield. Ruth always joked that he talked so fast she couldn't understand him and she couldn't read his writing. Ruth was a city girl at heart, but she spent 30 years on the farm. She learned to cook, run a swather, bale hay and milk cows. She made wonderful rhubarb pies and cracked-wheat. Ruth always claimed the bachelor up the hill could hear the dishes rattling when she put them on the table — he actually made it in time to eat! She worked for a short time at the Lincoln County Assessor's Office, and after retiring from the farm, for H&R Block.

Ruth liked to play bridge and bowl. She took friends and the male to out-of-state tournaments. Her passion was traveling and she spent 21 years as a snow bird. She lost her heart to Yuma, Ariz., and lived there for nine more years.

Ill health forced her back to Idaho. She was a member of the United Methodist Church.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Bob of 66 years, Fay Chatfield of Twin Falls; their son, David Chatfield of Kennett, Miss.; and daughters, Sandra (Jay Ciddio) Williams of Twin Falls and Mary Baker of Buhl. She is also survived by her sister, Wilma (Uhlenkot) of Grangeville; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, one sister and one grand-daughter.

Ruth often surprised her children with unknown talents. She could ride a bicycle, kick the top of a normal door, re-upholster a car, stitch up a farm dog's torn ear, sew a new outfit and still come up with a witty comment, usually right to the point. She loved traveling, dressing up, going out, clubs, flowers and "rocks with holes."

Summer memorial services will be announced at a future date.

Cremation services are under the care of Farnsworth Mortuary and Crematory, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338. Interment will take place in the Richfield, Idaho, Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials be made in Ruth's name to: Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Ft. 17, Chicago, IL 60601-7633.

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- Calvin Coolidge

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OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

Eula Anita Brady

RUPERT — Eula Anita Brady, 89, of Rupert, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2006, at the Countryside Care and Rehabilitation in Rupert, where she had resided for the last year.

Eula was born Sept. 11, 1917, to Tressie and Lloyd May in Rupert, Idaho. She had lived in the Burley/Rupert area all of her life.

Eula attended school in the Big Ben area and graduated from the Heyburn High School.

Eula married Floyd Brady Feb. 24, 1940, in Burley, Idaho. The couple had celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary before Floyd's death in August 2000.

The couple began their married life in Rupert, Idaho. They later moved to Burley for a few years and had resided at their home in Rupert for the past 46 years.

Eula is survived by one brother, Farris May of Rupert; two sons and daughters-in-law, Melvin and Janet Brady of Caldwell, Idaho, and Butch and Melodie Brady of Rupert, Idaho; six grandchildren, Kevin Brady of Meridian, Idaho, Kelly Brady of Paulsboro, Wash., Lisa Oveson of South Jordan, Utah, Jodie Spencer of Bountiful, Utah, Alan Brady of Rupert and Allison Sabah of Parker, Colo.; 20 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd; her

parents, Tressie and Lloyd May; and two brothers, Wayne and Jack May.

Eula's passion was to feed the world. You could not go to her home without being fed something and she continued this until her death. Even as a resident of Countryside, when you visited her, she wanted to share her meal if she was eating.

She loved gardening and flowers. There were always many plants in her home. She enjoyed camping with her family.

The word "homemaker" really envelopes what Eula was. She made a home everyone remembers with many good memories.

She was an active member of the First Baptist Church in Rupert for many years. She enjoyed singing and had a beautiful alto voice. She could harmonize with anyone. Even in her last days, she was still humming and singing her favorite songs.

One of Eula's best gifts was that of being the greatest grandma ever. She will be deeply missed by all of those who called her mom, grandma, aunt, sister, and friend.

The family would like to express their gratitude to Countryside Care for the loving care of our mom and grandma.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St., with the Rev. Darcy Gritzmaacher officiating. Burial will follow at the Rupert Cemetery. A viewing for family and friends will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, and one hour prior to the service at the mortuary.

Rhea R. Peavler

HAGERMAN — Rhea R. Peavler, 72, of Hagerman, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, at her home.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Hagerman LDS Church. Burial will follow at the Hagerman Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Demary's Gooding Chapel.

Marion Pugmire

HAGERMAN — Marion Pugmire, 88, of Hagerman, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, at the Capital Care Center Nursing Home in Boise.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demary Funeral Service in Gooding.

Mark H. Brown

TWIN FALLS — Mark H. Brown, 84, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls.

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

Alice M. McClain

WENDELL — Alice Maxine McClain, 77, of Wendell, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, at her home.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demary Funeral Service in Wendell.

Steven T. Lammers

NAMPA — Steven T. Lammers, 59, of Nampa, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006, at a local hospital. Steven was born on Nov. 30, 1947, in Buhl, Idaho, to Bill and Lois Lammers.

He attended schools in Buhl and married Dorothy White in April 1968. He worked as a journeyman diesel mechanic and was a real estate agent and broker.

Steven is survived by his wife, Dorothy; sons, Kevin (Linda) and Joe (Tanya); grandchildren, Toni, Joseph, Joanne, and Cody; parents, Bill

Emil L. Wilkinson

GOODING — Emil L. Wilkinson, 67, of Gooding, died Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006, at Gooding County Memorial Hospital in Gooding.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demary's Gooding Chapel.

Leola F. Deatherage

IDAHO FALLS — Leola Faye Deatherage, 87, of Idaho Falls and formerly of Castleford, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, at the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Buck-Miller-Hann Funeral Home in Idaho Falls.

Roberta H. DeHart

BOISE — Roberta H. DeHart, 71, of Boise and formerly of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, at her home.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Alden-Waggoner Funeral Chapel in Boise.

Joe Terrell

BOISE — Joe Terrell, 86, of Boise and formerly of Mountain Home, died Friday, Dec. 8, 2006, at a Boise care center.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel.

and Lois; brother, Larry; and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests that donations be made to the Ten Mile Community Church, AWANA Youth Group at 4440 E. Columbia Road, Meridian, ID 83642.

Memorial services will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14, at the Ten Mile Community Church, 4440 E. Columbia Road, Meridian. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Alsip & Persons Funeral Chapel, 404 10th Ave. S., Nampa, ID 83651; office, 208-466-3545.

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SERVICES

Charles E. Cates of Rupert, gathering for family and friends from 1 to 3 p.m. today at Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.

Thelda Lorena Lowder Granbury of Heyburn, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.; viewing from 6 to 8 p.m. today and one hour before the service Monday at the funeral chapel.


Leo E. Watkins of Oakley, memorial service at 1 p.m. Monday at the Oakley LDS Stake Center (Payne Mortuary in Burley).

Omar Eldredge of Jerome, funeral at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Farnsworth Mortuary Chapel, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome; graveside service at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Bellevue Cemetery on Chestnut Street in Bellevue. Friends and family may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday and one hour before the funeral Tuesday at the mortuary.

Blanca Chairez of Burley, funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Holy Flower Catholic Church; viewing from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the mortuary.

church, with rosary at 6 p.m. (Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel).

Charles Justin "C.J." Gose of Boise, memorial service at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Immanuel Lutheran Church; interment at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Fielding Memorial Cemetery in Idaho Falls (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).


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Quilter Rosie Lee Tompkins dies at age 70

Los Angeles Times

The quilts of Rosie Lee Tompkins hung in museums, graced the pages of art magazines and left awestruck critics scrambling to describe them. They compared her work to Modernist paintings, jazz music, African textiles. They marveled at the quilts' tactile allure and "mutating geometries full of mystery and life."

In a 2003 article, Artweek critic Alison Bing wrote: "These quilts are works of such distinction and devotion that they supersede established art-historical categories, forcing reviewers to retreat to that dumbfounded admiration that attracted us to art in the first place."

For all that was said and understood about Tompkins' work, little was known of her personal life.

If she had chosen to do so, Tompkins could have dropped in without anyone even noticing that the artist had arrived. Only four people in the art world even knew what she looked like.

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IDAHO/WEST

# Congress OKs ban on Montana Rocky Mountain Front drilling

By Mary Clare Jalonick  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A permanent ban on oil, gas and mineral exploration along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front was included in a last-minute package of tax breaks and other legislation that cleared Congress early Saturday and is headed to President Bush for his signature.

"We finally got it done, we finally protected the Rocky Mountain Front forever," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., who added the provision to the larger tax package in the final days of the Senate session. The drilling provision would make permanent a 1997 moratorium on Rocky Mountain Front exploration and make refining existing leases easier. Drilling on the front has been debated passionately in Montana, for decades. Stretching about 100 miles in a part of west-central Montana where the mountains rise dramatically from the plains, the front is home to an array of wildlife and is known for solitude. Montana's congressional delegation is split on the ban. Republican Rep. Denny Rehberg, Montana's only member of the House, opposes the ban and called it "foolhardy" when the larger tax bill was introduced Thursday. He says drilling is needed at a time when the United States is struggling to meet its energy needs.

But on Friday, Rehberg voted for the larger bill, which includes \$38 billion in tax breaks for businesses, higher education costs and school teachers, plus credits for alternative energy initiatives. Rehberg expressed frustration after the vote that there was no opportunity for debate on the drilling ban. He said he voted for a procedural maneuver that would have sent the legislation back to committee, but then voted in favor of the

spending legislation before year's end. The drilling ban that cleared Congress on Saturday would give oil and gas companies a tax break if they sell their front leases to nonprofit groups. That break would be equal to 25 percent of the capital received by the seller. According to Baucus' office, that would apply to 60 current

leases on the front. Two energy companies agreed earlier this year to sell and donate the front mineral leases they hold. Supporters of the ban have said a permanent solution enacted by Congress would help make those deals final. President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law in the next few weeks.

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## State officials: Suspected red deer hybrid elk must be killed

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — A domesticated cow elk from an eastern Idaho ranch that is suspected of having red deer hybrid genes must be killed, the state has ordered.

The Idaho Department of Agriculture told Fremont County rancher Rex Hammell Thursday that he would have to destroy the animal to ensure that its hybrid genes could not be passed into the state's wild elk herds.

Hammell said Saturday he won't kill the animal himself, but he will allow state officials to do so. They are expected to destroy it Monday.

Even though they can produce larger antlers than pure elk, red deer hybrids are banned in Idaho for fear that they could pollute the gene pool of Idaho wild elk. The wild elk herds are the state's main hunting attraction and bring millions of dollars into its economy.

Hammell's cow tested free of red deer genes when he bought the animal in 1997 for his hunting ranch, but since then, genetic tests have improved, said John Chaburn, the agriculture department's deputy administrator for animal industries.

Although the tests did not confirm the cow has the hybrid genes, they couldn't rule it out, Chaburn said.

Hammell remains skeptical of the test results.

"They're asking me to shoot a purely healthy cow," he said. "Even though they're not sure she's positive."

The cow was one of as many as 160 elk that fled Hammell's Chief Joseph hunting preserve near Rexburg in August, that prompted Gov. Jim Risch to order an emergency hunt to reduce the chances red deer escapes would spread inferior genes or disease to wild herds near Yellowstone National Park.

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# Biker activists use attitude to help abused kids

By Milton Snyder  
Deseret Morning News

SALT LAKE CITY — On first impression, he wouldn't strike you as anything other than a biker. His long, graying shoulder-length hair tell no tales of a hero, but the back of his leather jacket speaks of something different, something that sets him apart.

The red, black and white emblem on the back of fornice Montoya's jacket is simple, a fist interspersed with chains, and reads "Bikers Against Child Abuse."

His voice is rough, but Montoya, tender on the inside, loves not just riding his Harley-Davidson, but also helping children. The central Utah chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse mixes the biker attitude with a soft spot for children and the drive to make a difference. The intimidating biker persona of many members may at first hide their commitment to the organization and to improving the lives of children.

"If you take something you love to do and have a chance to help a couple kids along the way, that's just the icing on the cake," said Montoya, central Utah chapter member and national ambassador for BACA.

Nationally, BACA has more than 100 chapters across 26 states, with three chapters in Australia. But what distinguishes the central Utah chapter of BACA is that here is where it all started, and since 1995, the chapter has swelled to more than 40 members and helped more than 700 children "break the chains of abuse" BACA's motto.

Children are a great resource, and they're going to be leaders someday," Montoya said. "If you have a leader that's been abused as a child, that scar never heals. BACA doesn't heal the scar, but we're trying to break the chains of abuse and get them to lead normal lives."

The second Saturday of each month, the members of the central Utah chapter gather and ride together to visit children newly referred to the organization by local agencies. The members joke and catch up, some "take a smoke" together and others drink coffee, warming up to a morning of setting children's lives on a better course.

The bikers ride to the houses of the children, giving each a BACA teddy bear, pins, a pillowcase signed by chapter members and a patch with a BACA logo on it. They spend roughly half an hour at each house, offering both their support and their presence something they don't inspire each child and gives him or her courage.

"They give them the patch and tell them they are now part of our family and we are going to do everything in our power so (the abuse) won't happen to them again," said Mont Barney, the president for the central Utah chapter.

"All those things are geared to be things that give comfort and strength to the child and remind them of their affiliation with us," said Roger Wise, a member of the chapter for more than six years.

The organization survives on donations. Fifty percent of the money and resources given to the chapter go to help the children in therapy and the rest to buy products such as teddy bears and pillowcases. The chapter also has an annual Christmas party for the entire BACA family.

Members are passionate in their cause. Aside from the monthly ride, each child is assigned two or three members who follow up on them, making sure they feel safe.

"Anytime the child feels scared and feels the need for the presence of his new BACA family, the child may call upon these bikers to go to the child's house and provide the necessary reassurance to feel safe and protected," according to the BACA Web site.

Sometimes the situation merits more intervention.

"We've had members actually have to go over when people are being harassed by perps," said Barney. "The cops can't always be there 24/7, and we'll have someone go over and stay with them and watch their house. When that happens, they (the members) leave the child."

We don't try to find someone and beat them up, but at the same time those kids don't need to be harassed by someone

who's molested them." "Anytime I see a perp locked up and I get to see the face of that child, it's worth it," Barney said. "The fact that we were able to empower that child, give them enough confidence that they can go and testify and put away that perp who molested them. That child knows that person is not going to hurt them for X amount of years, and the relief on that kid's face is wonderful."



Bikers Against Child Abuse member Roger Wise greets a young child in Spanish Fork, Utah, Nov. 11 during one of the chapter's monthly rides to visit abused children.

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WORLD

# Back to basics:

## Scottish school shuns the computer keyboard for the fountain pen

By Ben McConville  
Associated Press writer

EDINBURGH, Scotland — In this age of cell phones, text messages and computer keyboards, one Scottish school has returned to basics. It's teaching youngsters the neglected art of writing with a fountain pen.

There is no clicking of keyboards in most classrooms at the Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville Junior School, although there is a full range of facilities for computer lessons and technology isn't being ignored.

But the private school's principal believes the old-fashioned pens have helped boost the academic performance and self-esteem of his 1,200 pupils.

"The pens improve the quality of work because they force the children to take care, and better work improves self-esteem," principal Bryan Lewis said. "Proper handwriting is as

relevant today as it ever has been."

Students as young as 7 have been instructed to forgo their ball point pens and get to grips with its more artistic predecessor. By the time they reach grade five, at age 9, they are expected to write mainly with fountain pens.

At an English class recently, students worked at perfecting a skill that is under threat from the onset of e-mail — the art of writing a letter by hand. Each child's work was meticulous and clearly presented in the upright, graceful strokes of a fountain pen.

Ten-year-old Callean Gal has been using fountain pens in class for two years. It took the keen soccer player one month to master the pen and, like all pupils at the school, still has regular handwriting lessons.

"At the start it was hard because I kept smudging, but

"you get used to it," he said. "I still have to use a pencil for maths, and now I find it strange using the pencils. I like it because it makes me concentrate much more on my work."

Callean now uses his fountain pen even for non-school work, but classmate Katie Walker, 11, prefers to use ball point and pencil when not in class.

"I use it for schoolwork and homework only," she said. "It is quite easy using a fountain pen once you're used to it. My parents say it's improved my work enormously."

The children learn a handwriting style developed by teachers at the school, which charges \$12,500 a year. New teachers are also put through a course on how to write with pens — as well as refresher courses on literacy and numeracy — before they are let loose in classes.

Lewis said the school's 7 and

8-year-olds use fountain pens for 80 percent to 90 percent of their work, reverting to pencils for such subjects as math.

"I don't see fountain pens as old-fashioned or outmoded. Modern fountain pens are beautiful to use. It's not like in the old days of broken nibs and smudging," Lewis said. "We have a particular writing style and we have developed it very carefully and found a way that allows left and right-handed people to write without smudging."

Some people in wealthy nations argue that handwriting is becoming less important because of the growing use of cell phone text messaging and typing on computers, but the school disagrees.

"The talk of the paperless office and the paperless world, but this is not true," Lewis said. "You still need to have proper handwriting skills."

## Ecological tampering pits a hungry moth against a Mexican symbol — the cactus

By Mark Stevenson  
Associated Press writer

MEXICO CITY — A tale of nature's revenge, stretching back more than two centuries and halfway around the world, has come full-circle in a battle of cactus, moth and man.

It takes in the arrival of a Mexican national symbol.

The dull-colored cactus moth that reached Mexican territory this summer threatens to devastate the country's nopal, the prickly pear plant that graces the country's flag and is deeply interwoven in its history, culture and diet.

The moth didn't migrate here

from its native South America; mankind carried it — to Australia, South Africa, and finally the Caribbean. That makes it a cautionary tale about the dangers of transplanting species, even in the good cause of "bio-control" — unleashing one animal or plant to fight another rather than using pesticides.


"It's not the moth that's to blame, but rather people," says Jose Sarukhan, the head of Mexico's National Council on Biodiversity, talking about the first sighting of *Cactoblastis cactorum* on Isla Mujeres, an island off Cancun, this summer. "Imagine what would hap-

pen if this plague reaches here, and devours all the nopals in a country that's (their) center of origin," he said.

Experts say millions of acres of semiarid Mexican land could become total desert without its approximately 100 native species of nopal, or Opuntia, about half the world's total. Birds and reptiles that use them for nesting, protection or food would also suffer.

Mexico has more species of nopal cactus than anywhere else, and the plant has been used here for thousands of years for everything from fence and construction to food and medicine.

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AROUND THE WORLD

IRAQ

Saddam Hussein's nephew escapes prison

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A nephew of Saddam Hussein serving a life sentence for financing insurgents and possessing bombs escaped from prison Saturday in northern Iraq with the help of a police officer, authorities said.

Elsewhere, sectarian attacks killed at least 20 people, including five who died in a suicide car bombing outside a Shiite shrine in Karbala, police said. Officers also found 35 bullet-riddled bodies in Baghdad that apparently were victims of revenge killings by Sunni Arabs and Shiites.

The escape by Saddam's nephew underscored one of the problems facing the U.S. military as it tries to train enough Iraqi security personnel so U.S. troops can go home: the ability of Sunni Arab insurgents and Shiite militiamen to infiltrate Iraqi police forces.

LONDON

Report: DNA proves driver of Diana's car was drunk

New DNA evidence proves the driver of Princess Diana's car was drunk on the night of her fatal crash in a Paris "underpass" in 1997, British Broadcasting Corp. said Saturday.

The tests confirm that original post-mortem blood samples were from driver Henri Paul and that he had three times the French legal limit of alcohol in his blood, the BBC said, quoting from a documentary it will screen Sunday. Conspiracy theorists have claimed Paul was not drinking that night, contending the blood samples were swapped with blood from someone else who was drunk.

The driver, the 36-year-old prince and her friend Dodi Fayed, 42, died when their Mercedes crashed inside the Pont d'Alma tunnel Aug. 31, 1997, while being followed by media photographers.

Russian investigators to go to London for inquiry

Russian dissidents close to Alexander Litvinenko said Saturday they were worried about coming face-to-face with Moscow investigators who plan to visit London over the ex-Soviet spy's death from radiation poisoning.

Foreign Minister Manuotehr Mottaki claimed U.S. troops were responsible for at least half the violence tearing apart Iraq and that their departure would pay security dividends for the entire region.

ILLINOIS

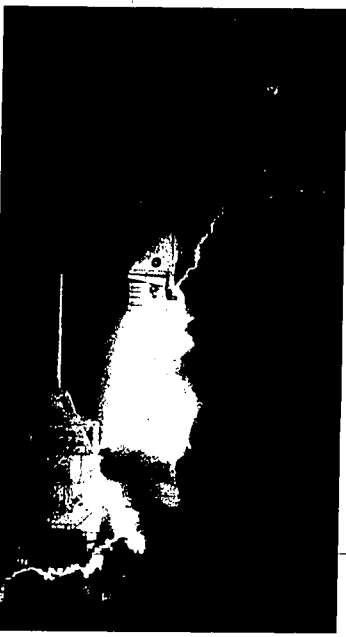
Gunman felt cheated out of credit for invention

The gunman who fatally shot three people in a law firm's high-rise office before he was killed by police felt cheated over an invention, authorities said Saturday.

Joe Jackson forced a security guard at gunpoint to take him up to the 38th floor offices of Wood, Phillips, Katz, Clark & Mortimer, which specialized in intellectual property and patents. He carried the revolver, a knife and hammer in a large manila envelope and chained the office doors behind him, police said.

Jackson, 59, told witnesses

FLORIDA



Flashes of flame from space shuttle Discovery lit up the darkened sky Saturday as the space shuttle blazed off the launch pad for the first night-time liftoff in four years. The shuttle's seven astronauts are on a mission to rewire the International Space Station, one leg of a three-year race to finish construction on the orbiting outpost before shuttles are retired in 2010.

before he was shot that he had been cheated over a toilet he had invented for use in trucks, Police Superintendent Phil Cline said Saturday.

Alexander Chupriyan. He said all 45 victims — reportedly 43 patients and two staffers — were dead by the time firefighters arrived.

Inspectors who visited the

IRAN offers to help U.S. withdraw from Iraq

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iran's foreign minister delivered a blunt challenge to the United States on Saturday, saying Tehran is willing to help U.S. troops withdraw from neighboring Iraq but only if Washington makes some tough policy changes.

Foreign Minister Manuotehr Mottaki claimed U.S. troops were responsible for at least half the violence tearing apart Iraq and that their departure would pay security dividends for the entire region.

"If the United States changes its attitude, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to help with the withdrawal from Iraq," Mottaki told the International Institute of Strategic Studies conference here. "Fifty percent of the problem of insecurity in Iraq is the presence of foreign troops."

RUSSIA Fire kills 45 trapped in Moscow hospital

MOSCOW — The locked gates and barred windows that kept 45 women from escaping a fire early Saturday at a drug treatment center pointed to conditions now common in post-Soviet Russia's state-run institutions.

An official described a scene that hinted at horrific panic as patients struggled to escape the fire — Moscow's deadliest in decades.

"Judging by the placement of the bodies, they really tried to get out," said Deputy Emergency Situations Minister

hospital in February and March had recommended its temporary closure because of safety violations, said Russia's chief fire inspector Yuri Nenashin.

FLORIDA Building lunar outpost a cost NASA can't calculate

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — It'll be cheaper to build a permanent moon base and keep it running than it will be to get to the moon. Just don't ask how much. NASA's boss says.

The U.S. space agency's newly unveiled grand plan for a continually staffed lunar outpost starting around 2024 doesn't come with a similarly grand price tag. It doesn't come with a price tag at all.

"You ask what things will cost, I don't know yet," said NASA Administrator Michael Griffin, a detail-oriented engineer. "We just rolled out a very preliminary architecture."

Griffin's lack of specifics is partly because NASA is budgeting its large cosmic construction projects differently, more "pay as you go" than "get there at all costs."

It's a departure that outsiders call either a brilliant way to avoid cost overruns and sticker shock — or a blank check that will end up squeezing taxpayers.

NEW JERSEY Archbishop gets support for marriage crusade

PARSIPPANY — The renege Roman Catholic archbishop who was excommunicated by the Vatican after he installed married priests as bishops acknowledged Saturday that the Rev. Sun Myung Moon was supporting his crusade against mandatory celibacy.

At a weekend conference of married priests, Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo distributes a statement to participants headed "Thanks," crediting the Korean

evangelist for his backing for the meeting and for Milingo's Married Priests Now! advocacy group.

"Today we are present as beneficiaries of 'In Order to ensure the success of our convocation he dedicated his key organizations to give their utmost support, in every way needed on the Married Priests Now!'"

Milingo was married to a Korean acupuncturist chosen for him by Moon in a mass Unification Church wedding in

2001. The archbishop appeared to drop those ties when he headed places from Vatican officials and Pope John Paul II to renounce the marriage and return to Rome.

When Milingo disappeared from Italy this year, resurfacing in the United States in July, he and his aides denied any link with Moon. They said they were fighting on their own to save the church from its clergy shertage and sex abuse crises that they blamed on celibacy.

— Compiled from wire reports

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on page C-6

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INSIDE: Boise State tries to maintain focus; Troy Smith takes home Heisman Trophy, C4-5



INSIDE: Local roundup, C2 | NFL, C5 | YourSports, C6 | Mini-Cassia, C7 | Weather, C8



## Close to home

Jerome standout will remain in valley, playing for CSI

By Brad Galt  
Times-News

**T**WIN FALLS — She's on her way, home sweet home. The 2006 Times-News All-Area Volleyball Player of the Year Megan Parrish won't stray too far from Jerome when she begins her collegiate career. On Monday, College of Southern Idaho volleyball head coach Heidi Cartisser will announce that Parrish will join the Golden Eagles for the 2007 season.

Parrish's final year with the Jerome Tigers didn't end with championships, but she didn't let that put a damper on her experiences through her high-school career. She's a multi-sport star for the Tigers, as she currently plays for the basketball team, but volleyball is Parrish's first love. It's the sport she's spent the majority of her time practicing and excelling in.

"The exhilaration when you make a great kill," Parrish said, speaking about the intangibles volleyball provides her. "That's the best."

Jerome head coach Rick Burke credited Parrish with the best work ethic of any player he's coached, calling her a player that no one could outwork.

"That's one thing that I really appreciate," he said. "She didn't expect anything. She grabbed what she wanted."

The work paid off in her season stats with nearly 300 kills and over 60 blocks. Besides her physical talent and effort, Parrish stood out this year not because of her play but because of her attitude. As a senior on a team full of underclassmen, she emerged as a natural leader.

"She took it upon herself to help younger players with hitting techniques, responsibilities on the court," Burke said. "When a player takes time to help younger kids, it's amazing to see."

The maturity certainly caught the attention of CSI's Cartisser. Parrish had been looking at other colleges such as Albion and Lewis and Clark State, but she was the only Magic Valley athlete that CSI was actively pursuing.

"She had pretty much solidified herself at the (Jerome) tournament, but I knew of her through CSI camps for quite a while," Cartisser said.

What piqued interest was Parrish's size, arm strength and her touch on the ball. Cartisser said could be put to

Please see PARRISH, Page C8

## 2006 TIMES-NEWS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MEGAN PARRISH



Jerome senior Megan Parrish, the 2006 Times-News Volleyball Player of the Year, will play for the College of Southern Idaho Golden Eagles next fall. Parrish was a two-time Great Basin Conference West Division Player of the Year and led the Tigers with 292 kills and 66 blocks this past season.

### Parrish by the numbers

**2006 season statistics**  
292 kills  
82 errors  
435 total attacks  
183 serves attempts  
79 service points  
23 service errors  
86 total blocks  
58 games played  
43.8 kill percentage

**Other honors**  
2006 Great Basin Conference West Division Player of the Year  
2006 District IV All-Star Team  
2005 Great Basin Conference West Division Player of the Year

## Idaho's Dennis Erickson hired as Arizona State head football coach

The Associated Press

**PHOENIX** — Dennis Erickson has accepted a head coaching job at Arizona State, former athletic director Rob Spear said Saturday.

The 59-year-old Erickson spent one season at Idaho in his second stint at the school, going 4-8. He led Miami to two national titles, also has been a head coach at Wyoming, Washington State and Oregon State and coached Seattle and San Francisco in the NFL.

Erickson has a 149-64-1 record in 18 seasons as a college coach at Oregon State, but took over a program that had an NCAA Division I record 28 straight losing seasons. His first team in Corvallis went 7-5 and an Oniz Bowl appearance. His second Beavers' team routed Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl to cap an 11-1 season.

Arizona State sports information director

Mark Brund had no comment, but Spear said Erickson told him Saturday afternoon that he was accepting the Sun Devils' job.

Athletic director Lisa Love had conducted a secretive search since firing Dirk Koetter, but Erickson's name surfaced as a candidate almost immediately.

Arizona State must pay a \$150,000 buyout to Idaho. Erickson had signed a five-year deal, and Spear said he was "very disappointed" in the coach's decision to leave after only one season.

"Had we known that we were going to end up in this situation we would never have gone down that road," Spear told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "We made a commitment and we thought we had a commitment from the other end, but I wish Dennis Erickson the best."

Erickson replaces former Boise State coach Dirk Koetter, who was fired after going 40-33 in six seasons.



Erickson

## Cardinals clip No. 13 CSI women

Times-News

**COEUR D'ALENE** — A Saturday win will remain a hop and a skip away for the College of Southern Idaho women's basketball team.

Down 74-73 with 11.6 seconds left in the game, CSI worked the ball inside to Ashley Thompson, but instead of finding the game-winning shot the Golden Eagles needed, Thompson was called for fouling for traveling with 0.9 seconds remaining as the North Idaho College Cardinals upset the No. 13 team in the nation, 74-73.

"Maria made a nice dump-down pass to Ashley, but she got caught under the basket," CSI head coach Randy Rogers said Tuesday. "Whether she traveled down there, I don't know. I'll have to look at the

tape. It's just unfortunate because she fougt. The whole team fought to get us there. Nobody feels worse than Ashley, because she wants to win so badly."

CSI was in position to win the game after North Idaho's Simone Jordan and Kay Hill missed a number of late free throws and Maria Moore buried a lay-up and a pair of 3-pointers with under 30 seconds left in the game to dig the Golden Eagles out of a 71-65 deficit. The loss drops CSI to 9-2 on the season and 1-1 in SWAC play, while NIC improves to 7-3 (1-1).

"You're always disappointed when you get the 'first win' Rogers said of the weekend split. "If we had have lost the first, I'd have been happy with the split, but I don't know if anyone's going to be able to come

See how the No. 6 CSI men fared against the North Idaho men in Saturday's late game.

— page C2

up here and sweep this team." Jordan led the Cardinals with 20 points, scoring 10 in each half. Maria Moore paced CSI with 19 points, while Amy Braivold added 17. Brittany Moore chipped in 16 points.

The Golden Eagles trailed 30-26 at the half despite opening the game with a 16-0 run. After the Cardinals fell behind 14-3, they were able to make a run on CSI, especially at the free-throw line as the Golden Eagles were whistled for 14 first-half fouls. NICS Jordan was the only player in double figures with 10 points at the break, while Brittany Moore led CSI with eight points.





# SCOREBOARD

## BASKETBALL

**NBA**  
All-Time Franchise Leaders

Player	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks
Wilt Chamberlain	30,914	23,924	8,305	2,294	2,314
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	38,387	23,924	11,161	3,283	3,027
Shaquille O'Neal	23,687	13,099	5,211	2,956	3,027
LeBron James	22,928	10,541	5,135	1,145	1,044

**Today's Division Leaders**

Team	W	L
Atlanta	9	1
Charlotte	8	2
Orlando	7	3
Washington	6	4
Miami	4	6
Philadelphia	3	7
Memphis	3	7
Chicago	2	8
Cleveland	2	8
Phoenix	1	9
San Antonio	1	9
Portland	1	9
Los Angeles	0	10
Indiana	0	10
Utah	0	10
San Diego	0	10
Golden State	0	10
Dallas	0	10
New York	0	10
Denver	0	10
Minnesota	0	10

## GAME PLAN

**TV SCHEDULE**

**BOWLING**  
ABC — PGA Tour WGC, Barbados World Cup, final round, at St. James, Barbados  
5 p.m.  
ESPN — PGA, Bellview Classic, at St. James, Barbados, 5 p.m.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
ESPN2 — NCAA Division II semifinal, Delta State at Grand Valley  
6 p.m.  
ESPN — LSU vs. Texas, at Houston  
7 p.m.

**FIGURE SKATING**  
ABC — U.S. Figure Skating Challenge, at Boston  
7 p.m.

**FOOTBALL**  
ABC — Regional coverage, doubleheader game  
6:15 p.m.  
NBC — New Orleans at Dallas  
8 p.m.

## WOLF

**TV SCHEDULE**

**BOWLING**  
ABC — PGA Tour WGC, Barbados World Cup, final round, at St. James, Barbados  
5 p.m.  
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**ISU**  
Bengals Backs: ISU's 500 yard unit in 9-23 beats 33 of 52 trails, 5 of 17, 65% open. Month: ISU 40:30; NFL 30:50; NFL 30:50.  
**Brannigan** — Sat 6:50 for 25 skiers, 100% open. Month: ISU 40:30; NFL 30:50; NFL 30:50. Lookout Pass — Sat 5:50 for 25 skiers, 100% open. Month: ISU 40:30; NFL 30:50; NFL 30:50.  
**Magic Mountains** — Plan to open 12/14  
**Rossville** — Sat 8:30 for 25 skiers, 100% open. Month: ISU 40:30; NFL 30:50; NFL 30:50.  
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NBA  
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# Schroeder scores 21 as Idaho State wins third straight home game

By Mark Liptak  
Times-News correspondent



UC Davis guard K. Peltz (21) drives under the defense of Idaho State's Austin Kilpatrick (23) during the first half at Holt Arena in Pocatello on Saturday.

**POCATELLO** — After a brutal road non-conference schedule, Idaho State is finally enjoying some home cooking. Better yet, the Bengals are taking advantage of it by winning games.

Saturday night ISU (4-3) moved it three in a row at home by blowing out UC Davis 76-49.

It marks the first time since the 1993-94 season, Idaho State has won consecutive games against division I opponents by 15 points or more.

Like Wednesday's blowout win over Idaho, the Bengals were sluggish for the first eight minutes and trailed 9-5. That's when senior David Schroeder caught fire, scoring seven Bengal points in a row, part of a 12-1 run to give ISU a 17-10 lead.

Schroeder, who finished the first half with nine points, tossed in a thunderous two-hand dunk to up the lead to 25-14. ISU would go into the break ahead 30-7.

"Schroeder was incredible tonight," said head coach Jo O'Brien. "It's going to me a lot to think about next year because we're not going to have him around."

The Aggies (1-7) actually showed some fire early in the second half, posting a 7-0 run to close to within eight at 41-33. But the Bengals couldn't contain a 10-point burst by the Aggies, and the ballgame — That run was capped off by another dunk, this time by freshman Austin Kilpatrick to make it 51-33.

Schroeder led all scorers with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Akbar Abdul-Ahad added 13 points and 11 assists. ISU shot 59 percent from the field for the game and hit 10-of-19 from 3-point range.

O'Brien said Schroeder was the only double-figure scorer for the Aggies with 12.

O'Brien and his team has had a relaxing week for a change, a big difference from the nerve-wracking overtime losses at Marquette and BYU as well as the blowout losses at Washington State and Auburn. He said he expects the game for a change — everybody who played tonight scored and we were able to give some of the younger players a lot of minutes," said O'Brien.

# SPORTS SHORTS

**National and Magic Valley briefs**

With finals scheduled for this week, ISU is off prep for practices. The following weeks see three games, including road contests at Oregon and Illinois.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL**  
**MAGIC VALLEY**  
Appalachian St. headed for title tilt

BOONE, N.C. — Appalachian State coach Jerry Moore wants his program to reach the level of Youngstown State's dominant teams of the 1990s.

He's nearly halfway there.

Armani Edwards ran for 110 yards and three touchdowns and threw for another score and a defensive national champion Appalachian State beat Youngstown State 42-24 on Saturday to reach the NCAA Division I-AA title game.

Kevin Richardson rushed for 145 yards and two touchdowns before leaving in the third quarter with a shoulder injury as the Mountaineers won their 13th straight game and earned a bye in the title game.

Youngstown State was the Friday night I-AA in the 1990s, winning four national championships under now-Ohio State coach Jim Tressel. But the Penguins hadn't won a playoff game since 1999 before their run to the semifinals in this winter's college football season that has become I-AA's second dominant team.

"What we did last year and particularly if we could follow it up this year, it puts you on the edge of being like a Youngstown in the '90s," Moore said. "It really isn't sunk in reality what we've done in this year. It's not that you're not that you're not uncanny ability to focus on what's happening that week."

**Jerome boosters to meet Monday**  
JEROME — The Jerome High School Boosters will meet Monday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. in Room 101 at Jerome High School.

— Compiled from staff and wire reports

SPORTS

# Keeping focus

## Petersen trying to maintain mental edge for Fiesta-bound Broncos

BOISE (AP) — A little more than three weeks away from the biggest game in Boise State's history, coach Chris Petersen said he's simply trying to keep his team from getting too keyed up or too relaxed.

"That mental edge is razor thin," Petersen told a news conference Friday.

The Western Athletic Conference champion Broncos (12-0) play Big 12 champion Oklahoma (11-2) in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1 in Glendale, Ariz.

Petersen returned to Boise on Thursday after a recruiting trip and marveled at the reception he was getting from potential players due to the success of this year's team.

"It's awesome the buzz that Boise State is stirring out there now," he said.

But that success means Petersen is competing to hold on to assistant coaches, some of whom he said have been talking with other programs with job openings. Petersen said no other schools have talked with him.

As for the Fiesta Bowl, he said he's just beginning to look at the challenge Boise State, No. 9 in the AP poll, faces against No. 7 Oklahoma.

"I've seen enough to know that I'm very scared," the coach said. "This is definitely a different type team than we've seen all year."

The Broncos are ranked No. 8 in the Bowl Championship Series standings, and are only the second team from a non-BCS conference to get into a BCS game, following the 2004 Utah team. It will be Oklahoma's fifth BCS appearance. Petersen said he hasn't considered how Boise State would deal with Adrian Peterson, the Oklahoma running back who was a Heisman contender until he broke his collarbone midway through the season. Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said he expects Peterson to play against the Broncos.

"You're kind of more into stopping schemes than you are peo-



Boise State wide receiver Jovan Hutchinson, left, and tight end Sherm Blaser, right, celebrate after the team was officially invited to play in the Fiesta Bowl Dec. 3 in Boise. Boise State will face Big 12 champion Oklahoma on Jan. 1, 2007. Above: Boise State coach Chris Petersen reacts after the team was invited to the Fiesta Bowl Dec. 3.

ple," said coach Petersen. "And then I don't know what you really do to combat a guy like that."

Even though Petersen, in his first year as head coach, is the first to take a WAC team to a BCS game, fellow WAC coaches snubbed him and voted Hawaii coach June Jones the WAC coach of the year earlier this week. "I think it's awesome for June Jones," said Petersen. "I'de done a great job and I'm happy for him."

The two coaches said they voted for each other.

The Broncos have the bullets of the WAC the last five years, but Petersen said his team will be the underdog against Oklahoma. "But these guys have always played their best when they're in that underdog role," he said.

"We've reached the first hurdle, and that's to qualify a team into one of the BCS games," said WAC commissioner Karl Benson. "Now

with that comes the pressure to perform both on the field and in the media place."

Of the 17,500 tickets Boise State was given for the game, only 2,500 of the \$150 passes remained. Thursday, School officials expect the rest to be sold well before the game.

"We know we're the window to the university," Petersen said. "And the window just got wider and bigger, and more eyes are on us."

# Americans rise, Sweden in lead at World Cup

ST. JAMES, Barbados (AP) — The United States made seven consecutive birdies to end the front nine, vaulting up the leaderboard. Wales finished its day with five straight, and Scotland strung together four in a row to put itself into contention.

Still, they're all looking up at Sweden and Argentina entering Sunday's final round of the final World Golf Championships event of the year.

Welcome to a suddenly close-knit World Cup, which seemed destined to be an Argentine runaway at one point before the leaderboard turned into one giant cluster at Sandy Lane. Sweden (63) rallied to finish Saturday 16-under par and with a one-shot lead over Argentina (67), with Scotland (65) another shot back.

After the Scots, it's a seven-way tie for fourth at 11 under — with Wales (62) and the U.S. (63) making big third-round moves to get into that cluster, along with Italy (64), Mexico (65), Spain (67), South Africa (67) and Germany (68).

"I think it might be a dogfight tomorrow," said Stewart Cink of the U.S.

If not for Cink, the U.S. — seeking its first World Cup since 2000 — probably wouldn't be included.

Cink had five of the seven birdies during the Americans' big run to end the front side: a burst that started when J.J. Henry drove the green at the downhill, 353-yard third hole, two-putting from about 70 feet.

Cink hit a 15-footer from above the hole for a birdie at the par-4 fourth, then made a tricky downhill try from about 12 feet at the fifth.

On the par-5 sixth — playing directly into the wind — Henry's chip from left of the green stopped about 10 feet from the cup. Cink chipped his ball from the right side much closer, before Henry made his put to get the U.S. to 7 under.

Cink birdied the next three holes, all from 20 feet or less. At the eighth, with wind whipping across the green and making him back off from the putt once, Cink got the ball to just trickle in the right side, and his approach to within 4 feet at the ninth helped move the U.S. to 10 under. He also had the lone American birdie on the back, at the par-5 15th.

"Let me say just one thing: Stewart played phenomenal golf out there today," Henry said.

The U.S. team struggled to a 2-over 73 in Friday's alternate-shot round, putting itself in an eight-shot hole entering Saturday.

"Before we even started this morning, I told J.J. it felt like a day where we should just aim at every flag," Cink said. "And why not? I don't know really why that was, but we didn't have a lot to lose."

Now, they have a lot to chase — the winning team after Sunday's foursomes round split a 1 million.

Sweden's Carl Petersen had five birdies, four of them on the back side.

# Howard, Magic edge Sixers

ORLANDO, Fla. — Winning with Allen Iverson was difficult enough. Now the Philadelphia 76ers are learning how tough it is to get a victory without their disgruntled star.

Dwight Howard scored 28 points and Grant Hill added 23 Saturday night, leading the Orlando Magic to an 86-84 victory that extended Philadelphia's losing streak to seven games.

The 76ers played for the second straight night without Iverson, who was sent home before Friday night's home loss against Washington and told he would not make the trip to Orlando, either.

After Kyle Korver cut Philadelphia's deficit 85-84, the 76ers wasted two opportunities to tie or take the lead when Chiri Weir and Kevin Ollie attempted difficult shots, then failed to even hit the rim. Weir, who had 19 points and 11 rebounds, felt he was fouled when he drove the lane with 10.4 seconds left.

## Rockets 114, Wizards 109

WASHINGTON — Yao Ming scored 23 of his season-high 30 points in the fourth quarter and the Houston Rockets ended the Washington Wizards' winning streak at three games.

Tracy McGrady had 28 points for Houston before leaving the game in the fourth quarter clutching his back. Rafer Alston added 12 points for the Rockets in their fourth straight victory over Washington.

Gilbert Arenas shook off a ragged start to finish with 41 points for the Wizards.

## Knicks 115, Bucks 107

NEW YORK — Eddy Curry powered his way to a career-high 36 points to lead New York



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard, center, passes the ball after driving the lane past Philadelphia 76ers guard Andre Iguodala, left, and Rodney Carney (25) during the first half in Orlando, Fla., Saturday.

to its third win in 11 home games.

Jamal Crawford, starting for the injured Steve Francis, added 25 points for the Knicks.

Mo Williams scored 33 points for the Bucks.

## Celtics 92, Nets 90

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Paul Pierce hit a buzzer-beater and Boston rallied from an early 20-point deficit to snap a five-game losing streak.

Al Jefferson had 29 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who trailed 22-2 in the first quarter. Pierce had 17 points and Delonte West 15.

Nenad Krstic led the Nets with 20 points, and Vince Carter had 19 and 11 rebounds.

## Cavaliers 107, Pacers 75

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 24 of his 27 points

in the first half and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 15 to lead Cleveland.

James had seven rebounds, six assists and spent the entire fourth quarter relaxing on the bench. The Cavaliers built a 24-point lead in the first half and coasted to their most lopsided win this season.

Donyell Marshall added a season-high 17 rebounds for the Cavs, who outbounded Indiana 57-34.

Darrell Armstrong had 13 points and Darnell Gaurier 12.

## Clippers 89, Grizzlies 82

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Elton Brand scored 26 points and had a strong defensive effort to help Los Angeles get its first road victory of the season. The Clippers, the last NBA team without a road win, were 0-7 away from Staples Center.

Sam Cassell added 18 points for Los Angeles, while Chris Kaman finished with 12 points and eight rebounds and Coutino Mobley scored 10.

## Timberwolves 91, Bulls 81

CHICAGO — Kevin Garnett scored 18 points to help Minnesota snap Chicago's seven-game winning streak.

The Timberwolves built a 21-point lead in the third quarter and withstood a push by the Bulls on the way to their fourth straight victory.

## Mavs 105, Nuggets 90

DALLAS — Josh Howard matched his career high with 30 points, and Dirk Nowitzki added 25 to lead Dallas.

Jason Terry scored 13 of his 24 points in the first quarter to help the Mavericks build leads of as many as 18 points.

— The Associated Press

# UCLA holds off Texas A&M

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Josh Shipp scored 18 points and Arron Affalo had eight of his 13 over the final nine minutes to lead No. 1 UCLA to a 65-62 victory over No. 6 Texas A&M on Saturday in the John R. Wooden Classic.

Darren Collison added 15 points, but had six of the 13 turnovers by the Bruins (8-0).

Acie Law scored 21 points and Joseph-Jones had 11 points and 13 rebounds for Texas A&M.

## No. 2 Pittsburgh 70, Buffalo 67

AMHERST, N.Y. — Aaron Gray scored 19 points and added 11 rebounds — his seventh double-double of the season — as Pittsburgh overcame an 11-point deficit.

## No. 3 North Carolina 94, High Point 69

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Tyler Hanstrough had 24 points and North Carolina game coach Roy Williams his 500th career victory.

## No. 4 Alabama 92, Alabama St. 58

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Richard Hendrix had a career-high 34 points on 15-of-19 shooting to lead Alabama, which played without starters Jermarco Davidson and Ronald Steele.

## No. 5 Ohio St. 78, Cleveland St. 57

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Greg Oden made all eight of his shots from the free in his first college start to lead Ohio State.

## No. 7 Duke 69, George Mason 53

DURHAM, N.C. — DeMarcus Nelson scored 24 points and freshman Jon Scheyer added 18, both career highs, for the Blue Devils (9-1), who led the entire way to extend the nation's longest home nonconference winning streak to 48 games.

## No. 10 Wichita St. 83, Wyoming 69

CASPER, Wyo. — Kyle Wilson scored 19 points, including two big baskets in the second half, and No. 10 Wichita State held off the Cowboys at the Wyoming Shootout.

## No. 11 Wisconsin 70, No. 17 Marquette 66

MILWAUKEE — Alando Tucker scored a sea-

son-high 28 points and Wisconsin withstood a late rally to beat its in-state rival.

## No. 12 Kansas 68, Toledo 58

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Brandon Rush had a career-high five 3-pointers and scored 19 points for the Jayhawks, who broke a school record with 15 blocked shots.

## No. 14 Arizona 69, San Diego St. 48

SAN DIEGO — With star freshman Chase Budinger held to only five points in his homecoming, Marcus Williams scored 21 points to lead the Wildcats to their seventh straight win.

## Indiana St. 72, No. 15 Butler 64

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — Gabe Moore scored a career-high 24 points as the Sycamores ruined the nation's most surprising start.

## No. 16 Memphis 82, Mississippi 70

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Chris Douglas-Roberts scored 17 points and Jeremy Hunt added 16 to lead Memphis.

## No. 21 Syracuse 79, Colgate 52

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Demetrius Nichols matched his career-high 28 points, including a school-record six straight 3-pointers in the second half.

## No. 22 Oklahoma St. 75, Ball St. 56

SAN DIEGO — Mario Boggan scored 24 points and Oklahoma State used a 16-0 run to remain undefeated.

## Creighton 73, No. 24 Xavier 67

OMAHA, Neb. — Anthony Tolliver scored 17 points and Creighton used a strong defensive effort to snap Xavier's four-game winning streak.

## Vanderbilt 73, No. 25 Georgia Tech 64

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Shan Foster scored 25 points and Derrick Byars added 18 as Vanderbilt snapped a nine-game losing streak against ranked opponents.

— The Associated Press

# Smith picks up Heisman on way to BCS title game

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Winning the Heisman Trophy was easy. The hard part for Troy Smith was staying composed.

To the surprise of no one, the Ohio State quarterback was a runaway winner Saturday night of the award that honors college football's best player.

Seconds after his name was called, he hugged everyone intimately in his life — coaches and family — let out a deep, deep sigh and headed for the podium.

"Normally, I'm pretty cool in pressure situations, but my heart is pounding so fast now," he said. "I'm at a loss for words. I just can't believe this is happening. ... It means everything. Just to be here in this situation. I love everybody back home in Columbus."

Just two weeks after nearly derailling his career by taking money from a booster, Smith received 601 first-place votes and won the Heisman by 1,662 points — both the second-best marks in the 71-year history of the award.

The senior moved to the front of the Heisman race in September with a flawless performance against Texas and finished off a perfect regular season by throwing four touchdown passes against Michigan.



Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith holds up the Heisman Trophy after winning the award in a landslide over Arkansas running back Darren McFadden and Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn Saturday in New York.

Now, there's only one thing left for Smith to do: Beat Florida for the national championship on Jan. 8. Like so many of the victors Smith

**Heisman Voting**  
 NEW YORK — Voting for the 2006 Heisman Trophy, with first-, second- and third-place votes and total points (voting on 52-1 basis):

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Troy Smith, Ohio State	801	62	13	2540
Darren McFadden, Arkansas	45	298	147	878
Brady Quinn, Notre Dame	13	276	191	782
Steve Slaton, West Virginia	6	51	94	214
Mike Hart, Michigan	5	58	79	210
Col Brennan, Hawaii	6	44	96	202
Rick Rice, Rutgers	1	16	44	79
Ian Johnson, Boise State	1	13	44	73
Dwayne Jarrett, Southern Cal	1	11	22	47
Calvin Johnson, Georgia Tech	1	8	24	43

has led the Buckeyes to this season, the Heisman win was a rout. Arkansas running back Darren McFadden finished second, Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn was third and West Virginia running back Steve Slaton was fourth.

Only O.I. Simpson's 1,750-point victory in 1968 was more one-sided than Smith's.

A huge smile lit up Smith's face when the winner was announced.

After gaudy handshakes from Quinn, Smith headed to the row of chairs directly behind him, where his mother, Tracy, and sister, Brittany,

were sitting. They each took turns giving Smith a big squeeze. But Smith wasn't done with the hugs — one for Ohio State coach Jim Tressell and another for his high school coach, Ted Ginn Sr.

When stepped away a tear and his sister shouted "Yeah, Troy!" as Smith ascended the stairs to give his speech and collect his big bronze statue.

Smith also received 86.7 percent of the first-place votes, a record, and his 2,540 points moved him into 11th in Heisman history behind Simpson (2,853) and fellow Southern California tailback Reggie Bush, who had 2,541

## Heisman Winners

- 2006—Troy Smith, Ohio State, QB
- 2005—Reggie Bush, Southern Cal, RB
- 2004—Matt Leinart, Southern Cal, QB
- 2003—Jason White, Oklahoma, QB
- 2002—Eric Palmer, Southern Cal, QB
- 2001—Eric Crouch, Nebraska, QB
- 2000—Chris Weinke, Florida St., QB
- 1999—Ron Dayne, Wisconsin, RB
- 1998—Ricky Williams, Texas, RB
- 1997—Charles Woodson, Michigan, CB
- 1996—Dwight Gooden, Florida, QB
- 1995—Eddie George, Ohio State, TB
- 1994—Charles Salaam, Colorado, RB
- 1993—Rashawn Barber, Florida State, QB
- 1992—Gino Torretta, Miami, QB
- 1991—Deshaund Howard, Michigan, WR
- 1990—Ty Detmer, Brigham Young, QB

last season. The 22-year-old Smith is the sixth player from Ohio State to win the Heisman and first since tailback Eddie George in 1995. And it's the school's seventh Heisman — Archie Griffin won two in 1974-75 — tying Notre Dame and Southern California for the most.

USC has been on a Heisman run, winning two straight and three of the last four. Before Smith stepped in,

# Saints, Cowboys could earn playoff spots

Heading into Sunday's showdown in Dallas, both the Cowboys and the New Orleans Saints hold two-game leads in their respective divisions.

Both have a chance to earn certain scenarios play out, to wrap up berths in the postseason.

**DAVID GOLDBERG**

Both are 8-4 heading into tonight's game at Texas Stadium. But right now, Dallas, which is a six-point favorite, is playing as well as anyone in the league — and is certainly the hottest team in the NFL. The pick ... **COWBOYS, 27-17**

Indianapolis (minus 1½) at Jacksonville. The struggle continues for the Colts. **JAGUARS, 17-14**

Baltimore (plus 3) at Kansas City. The Chiefs have rebounded from Cleveland loss. Don't they? **RAVENS, 17-16**

Denver (plus 7½) at San Diego. If you saw Jay Cutler throw while falling ... **CHARGERS, 27-6**

Chicago (minus 6) at St. Louis (Monday night). If the Bears can win with a QB whose rating is 1.3, they can beat a team whose QB is sniping at his linemen. **BEARS, 19-3**

New York Giants (plus 3) at Carolina. The Giants played decently Sunday, are getting some guys back from injury and might be due to win. **GIANTS 23-20**

Buffalo (plus 4) at New York Jets. A dangerous game for the Jets? Mangini on a roll. **JETS, 24-23**

Seattle (minus 3) at Arizona. Seahawks cruise toward a title. **SEAHAWKS, 24-20**

New England (minus 3) at Miami. Belichick's kids tend to play better after a bad game, even if it was a win. **PATRIOTS, 21-17**

Atlanta (minus 3) at Tampa Bay. In the NFC, the Falcons are still in it. **FALCONS, 24-14**

Philadelphia (pick 'em) at Washington. In the NFC, the Eagles are still in it. **EAGLES 24-14**

Tennessee (plus 1½) at Houston. In the AFC ... No, neither of these teams is in. **TITANS, 16-13**

Oakland (plus 11) at Cincinnati. Oakland's defense makes the Raiders half a team. Half doesn't count. **BENGALS, 21-5**

Green Bay (plus 5) at San Francisco. The Packers can compete against NFC West teams. **49ERS, 20-17**

Minnesota (plus 3) at Detroit. The only reason the Lions are favored is that they're playing a team without a QB. **LIONS, 17-2**

**LAST WEEK: 8-8 (spread) 7-9 (straight up)**  
**SEASON 82-102-8 (spread); 116-76 (straight up)**

## Looking for the clincher

Holding two-game leads in their respective divisions, the Dallas Cowboys and New Orleans Saints, through various scenarios, could clinch a playoff berth with a win on Sunday in Texas Stadium.

**Atlanta at Detroit 5-7 2-6**  
 The Vikings lost to Chicago 23-13 because they had five turnovers of their own. Rookie Terrence Jackson could start at QB this week.

**Buffalo at N.Y. Jets 6-8 3-9**  
 The Jets are one of the league's surprise teams and what looks like an easy remaining schedule seems to give them a good shot at a playoff berth. J.P. Losman is developing into an adequate QB on a team that can run and play some defense. **41-18**

**Denver at San Diego 8-3 7-5**  
 Three weeks ago, these two were led for the AFC title game in the regular season. The Chargers came from 17 points down in the third quarter to win 15-27 in Denver, convincing Mike Shanahan that these Broncos are not a Super Bowl team. **41:18**

**Indianapolis at Jacksonville 6-8 3-9**  
 For all the criticism of Matt Vick and his receivers, who have had the drops all season, the Falcons are still in contention. Bruce Groves, who looked pretty good as Chris Simms' stand-in early, has stumbled lately as the Bucs play out the string 1 p.m.

**Minnesota at Tampa Bay 6-8 3-9**  
 All the talk of the AFC wild-card race. The Colts who have had the drops all season, the Falcons are still in contention. Bruce Groves, who looked pretty good as Chris Simms' stand-in early, has stumbled lately as the Bucs play out the string 1 p.m.

**New England at Miami 8-3 5-7**  
 The Patriots seem to be muddling along, yet still on track for a decent playoff seed. The recently injured Angelo and San Diego stumble. The Dolphins had four-game winning streak that ended with that loss to Jacksonville. 1 p.m.

## NFL WEEK 14

**Baltimore at Kansas City 10-2 7-5**  
 The Ravens are in good shape for the playoffs — a win here with some great circumstances and they clinch a playoff spot. The Chiefs are at wild-card middle with a bunch of other teams and they have a tough closing schedule. 1 p.m.

**N.Y. Giants at Carolina 6-6 6-6**  
 Two teams who expected more but still lead the NFC wild-card race. The Giants who have had four straight playoff games in a 23-20 loss to Dallas last week. Both have injury problems. The Panthers have a hunch injury on the throwing hand 1 p.m.

**Oakland at Cincinnati 6-6 6-6**  
 A defensive struggle? Maybe. The Bengals, traditionally challenged on defense, have had just seven points in four games. Browns and Ravens that ended a three-game losing streak. The Bengals beat Houston to minus 5 yards passing and still lost 1 p.m.

**Green Bay at San Francisco 4-8 5-7**  
 Despite their loss in New Orleans last week, the 49ers remain alive for a playoff berth. The Packers play respectably on the road, then drop back to horrible, as in their 38-10 loss to the Jets last week. Colles is out of 23 rookies. 4:05 p.m.

**San Francisco at Seattle 6-4 3-9**  
 The Seahawks can clinch the NFC West with a win and a San Francisco loss, surviving despite playing a good part of the season without Matt Hasselbeck and Shaun Alexander. Seattle has won two of three under Matt Leinart. 4:05 p.m.

**Chicago at St. Louis 8-4 10-2**  
 The Bears have clinched the NFL North and would have to win the NFC West with a home field advantage in the NFC Love Smn is standing behind the Bears despite 14 NFL in his last seven games. Rams' Trent took six of seven and sent out of the playoff race. 6:30 p.m.

**Denver at San Diego 8-3 7-5**  
 The Cowboys have a good shot at being the primary challenger in the NFC West and the NFC. Especially if they can get the Saints, who lead the NFC South. New Orleans has been the NFL's most pleasant surprise. 8:15 p.m.

# Seahawks try to avoid a letdown vs. Arizona

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — With Shaun Alexander and Matt Hasselbeck back and returning to form, the Seattle Seahawks are on the brink of clinching their third consecutive NFC West title.

They have had prefalls before when riding high, though, so Sunday's game at Arizona is no automatic victory, especially because the Cardinals, after eight losses in a row, have won two of three and are coming off their first road win of the season.

"These guys have given us a hard time every time we play them, especially down there," Hasselbeck said. "The Seahawks will have Alexander and Hasselbeck together for the third game in a row after injuries disrupted the team's main cog in an offense that made it to the Super Bowl a year ago. Despite their talent, there has been some difficulty reintegrating them into the offense."

"It's not difficult from a coaching standpoint, but it's difficult for a player," Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said. "Shaun didn't play football for eight weeks so he's going to be in and it's like the start of training camp. After a quarter-back, even for a veteran like Matt, you think they would just pick right up where they left off, and I think that's hard to do."

Despite the injuries, the Seahawks are running away from the mediocre competition in the division. Seattle is 8-4 and, with a victory at Arizona and a loss by San Francisco to Green Bay on Sunday, can clinch the division title.

"We are in a great situation," Alexander said, "because we know that we've done some things well and we have done some things just good enough to get by. To be sitting here at 8-4, we're pretty proud that all the backups have come in here playing hard ... We know with a little hard work and a little chemistry, it can flow the right way and the sky is the limit."

Alexander, out half the season with a cracked rib, has been back for three games. Hasselbeck has played the last two after missing four games with a sprained knee.

While Alexander seems his old self with 292 yards in the last two games, Hasselbeck has looked rusty. He's 33-for-64 for only 325 yards, three touchdowns and four interceptions. Still, the Seahawks won the last two games.

"There are some areas of the team I'm not particularly pleased with," Holmgren said. "We've been way too inconsistent on offense."

# Tony Dungy's quest is for a Super Bowl ring

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tony Dungy's teams have made the NFL playoffs seven straight seasons, going on eight. He is as respected as any man in the game, both as a person and for his coaching ability.

And yet ... Not only has he never won a Super Bowl, he has never reached one. And not only has he never reached one, but there are those who whisper he never will because he lacks the one thing a Super Bowl-winning coach needs: the killer instinct to push aside everything else.

In other words, he's too nice. The cameras never catch him shouting at an official or cursing under his breath. His priorities are to his family, to his religion and to society, including advancing minority hiring in the NFL.

He is still going through a personal tragedy, the suicide of his 18-year-old son, James, last Dec. 22. But he also has turned it into a social cause, reaching out to those trying to prevent teenage suicide. ("I was amazed at how many people had suffered through the same thing," he says.)



Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy watches a replay on the scoreboard during the second quarter of the Colts game with the Denver Broncos in Denver Oct. 29.

or outstanding season, outside causes draw his attention.

During a 45-minute talk this week with The Associated Press, his face lit up when it was mentioned that Jerry Reese, who is black, appears to be the front-runner for New York Giants general manager when Ernie Accorsi retires after the season.

"Jerry? Is that right? Wow!" he said. "Just to have someone mentioned as a front-runner for a job like that. That's great — an African-American as a front-runner for a GM, job."

On the other hand, make no mistake: It is much more important to Tony Dungy that the Indianapolis Colts win the Super Bowl than that Jerry Reese becomes general manager of the Giants.

In six seasons with Tampa Bay and in 4½ with Indianapolis, Dungy has won 112 games and lost 60, a winning percentage of .651. That's better than any other active coach — Joe Gibbs, Bill Cowher, Mike Shanahan and Mike Holmgren are 2-3-4-5.

Dungy's playoff record is 5-8 and includes some notable losses, such as a home to Pittsburgh last season after the Colts secured home-field advantage in the AFC.

have Super Bowl wins. Gibbs has three. Dungy's closest brush with the Super Bowl was after the 1999 season, when his Bucs lost the NFC championship game in St. Louis 11-6. They shut down a team that had averaged almost 33 points a game in the regular season and lost in part because of a late replay reversal of a reception by Bert Emanuel — one that led to a rules change that would have made it a catch today.

Dungy also made it to the AFC championship game in January 2004, losing 24-14 in New England with the Colts.

But you also can argue that Jon Gruden's title with the 2002 Bucs was with players assembled and coached by Dungy. And that Bill Parcells, who won Super Bowls after the 1985 and 1990 seasons, doesn't have a regular-season winning percentage as good as Dungy's.

You can't judge a coach only on Super Bowl wins. The Colts president, Bill Polian, who hired Dungy a week after he was fired by the Bucs following a playoff loss in Philadelphia after the 2001 season. "It's an injury here, a play there — like the Bert Emanuel thing — or simply the bounce of the ball."

Your Scores and Stats

BOWLING
MAGIC VALLEY TWIN FALLS
SUNDAY ROLLERS
LADIES SERIES: 20 Adena 637, Roby Weidung 604, Gary Fray 573, Kelly Rieley 555.

CRYSTAL SHAL 190.
MOONSHINERS
SERIES: Alicia Soran 482, Flame Klunert 463, Mechelle Heppner 456, Romy Chambers 446.

MOONSHINERS
SERIES: Alicia Soran 482, Flame Klunert 463, Mechelle Heppner 456, Romy Chambers 446.

BOWLING
MASON
SERIES: Eda Bakker 534, Dot Van Hoek 530, Gelsita Bonacci 479, Xitly Gray 476.

MUSICIANS
SERIES: Doreen Dapré 508, Virginia Williams 482, Beba Cook 459, V. Crnjaric 167.

BOWLING
MASON
SERIES: Eda Bakker 534, Dot Van Hoek 530, Gelsita Bonacci 479, Xitly Gray 476.

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MASON
SERIES: Eda Bakker 534, Dot Van Hoek 530, Gelsita Bonacci 479, Xitly Gray 476.

Martin honored by Humanitarian HOF
RUPERT — Whitney Martin was recently selected to represent Albion College of Idaho as the outstanding female student/athlete and Humanitarian at the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

eligibility and athletic achievements.
Members of the Wrangler High School All Star Rodeo Team receive official competition apparel consisting of Wrangler shirts embroidered with the team logo and two pairs of competition jeans.

George P. Esma
Attorney At Law
736-6232
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Tuesday, December 12, 2006

US AUCTION
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Robert Jones Realty

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Paul DeMeule
Century 21

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# Stars of wonder



Luis Portillo, Candace Sorenson and Kristen Koyle work together on one of the 'Stars of Wonder' lighted orbs that the West Minico Middle School eighth-graders are building and selling to benefit the Gift of Green program.

## Gift of Green program in its 12th year

By Trena Tegan  
For The Times-News

PAUL — The color of money is also the color of Christmas at West Minico Middle School in Paul.

The Gift of Green program is in its 12th year at the school. The program consists of fundraising and collecting donations in help newly families in the area. Students bring their loose change each day for six days to go toward helping the families. Many also bring gifts for the families.

The faculty and staff at the school contribute as well, holding a Gift of Green party where they each bring items to buy and sell.

"It's a group effort throughout the school," says Ginger Jones, organizer and founder of the Gift of Green project.

This year is the contribution from the eighth-graders through their "West Minico Christmas Comet Light Company."

Barbara Gallegos is the eighth-grade history teacher at the school and she has been teaching the students about entrepreneurship. The students were to develop a business to learn the intricate details of the business world. To this end, they drafted a written proposal, listing liabilities and assets and applied for a loan to establish their company.

"They even learned that, yes, you have to pay taxes," Gallegos said.

The product of the company is lighted orbs called "Stars of Wonder." The students spent

several class periods assembling the items, which are available with white or blue lights. They will be selling the "Stars of Wonder" for \$15 each and the net profit will be donated to the Gift of Green.

"The kids decided on their own that they wanted the money to go to the Gift of Green," Gallegos said. "They said they wanted the money to go to little kids."

Because history is a requirement for eighth-graders at the school, all of the eighth-grade students are involved.

"They're learning about business and giving at the same time," Gallegos said. "And they've had a lot of fun with it."

Trena Tegan writes every Sunday about the Mini-Cassia area. Send story ideas or feedback to her at (208) 677-8730.

### How to help

Anyone interested in buying one of the "Stars of Wonder" lights can contact any West Minico Middle School eighth-grader or call adviser Barbara Gallegos at the school. (208) 438-5018, ext. 128.

Give a Gift of Love **Donate to "Meals on Wheels" in the...**

Name of \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_

Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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The entrance to the Minidoka Memorial Hospital Emergency Department will be temporarily moved to the doorway immediately west of the current ER entrance in order to remodel the emergency department reception area, and to improve the security of that part of the hospital building. The closure is expected to last for approximately three weeks beginning December 13th.

Physicians and hospital services will continue to be available to the public for emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, without interruption. Please call 911 for emergency assistance, or come to the temporary ER entrance that will be marked and lighted on the north side of the hospital building.

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**TWIN FALLS: FORECAST**

Today: Cloudy with a chance for mixed rain and snow showers. Highs near 40  
 Tonight: Slight chance for a snow shower, mainly early. Lows near 30  
 Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and mainly dry. Highs lower 40s

**BOISE: FORECAST**

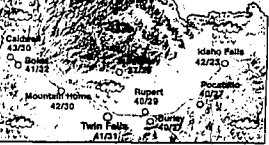
Today: Cloudy with a chance for mixed rain and snow showers. Highs near 40  
 Tonight: Slight chance for a snow shower, mainly early. Lows near 30  
 Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and mainly dry. Highs lower 40s

**IDAHO'S FORECAST**

Today: Highs 38 to 44. Tonight's Lows: 16 to 24  
 A series of upper level storm systems will parade in off the Pacific during the next several days. This will bring a nearly daily chance for mountain snow and mixed precipitation in the valleys.

Flare and snow showers will be scattered about today, tapering up some tonight. Monday through Wednesday will see a chance for rain and snow as moisture continues to stream in from the west.

**NORTHERN UTAH**  
 Mountain snows and mixed valley showers can be expected today, tapering up some by Monday morning. More rain or snow will move in Tuesday.



Yesterday's State Extremes: 62 at Spaulding, Low: 2 at Dixie  
 Weather key: H: High pressure, L: Low pressure, T: Thunderstorm, S: Snow, R: Rain, M: Mixed rain and snow, C: Clouds, B: Breeze, F: Fog, D: Drizzle, N: Nebula, O: Other

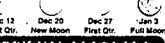
**TWIN FALLS: FIVE DAY FORECAST**

Today	Tonight	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Yesterday's Weather
Cloudy with rain and snow showers	Chance of snow showers	Partly cloudy	Slight chance for mixed showers	Chance of rain and snow	Chance of mixed rain and snow	City: 32-39, High: 39, Low: 25
High 41	Low 31	43 / 25	40 / 29	41 / 29	45 / 30	Boise: 32-39, High: 39, Low: 25

**ALL MAJOR TWIN FALLS**

Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric Pressure	Sunrise and Sunset
Today's High: 41, Low: 31	Today: 0.04, Month to Date: 0.04	Today's: 65%, Yesterday's: 60%	Today: 30.01, Yesterday: 29.99	Today: 7:52 AM, Sunset: 5:06 PM

**MOON PHASES**



**MOONRISE AND MOONSET**

Monday: 6:58 AM, 11:58 PM	Tuesday: 7:52 AM, 12:52 PM	Wednesday: 8:46 AM, 1:46 PM	Thursday: 9:40 AM, 2:40 PM
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**U.V. INDEX**

Low Moderate High  
 The higher the index the more sun protection needed

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
Boise	32-39	31-38	Idaho Falls	32-39	31-38
Blackfoot	32-39	31-38	Pocatello	32-39	31-38

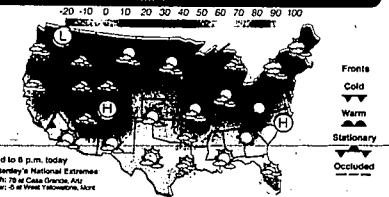
**NATIONAL FORECAST**

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
Atlanta	52-60	51-58	Los Angeles	62-70	61-68
Boston	32-40	31-38	Miami	72-80	71-78

**WORLD FORECAST**

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
London	42-50	41-48	Paris	42-50	41-48
Tokyo	52-60	51-58	Sydney	62-70	61-68

**TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP**



**GAHANIA FORECAST**

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
Boise	32-39	31-38	Idaho Falls	32-39	31-38
Blackfoot	32-39	31-38	Pocatello	32-39	31-38

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**Parrish**

Continued from page C1

use on the outside where Parrish could terminate the ball.  
 Burke said that the previous staff had shown interest as well, including that Parrish was already a standout.  
 "She's not a flash in the pan. She's been a good player for a few years," he said.  
 Despite the fallout of former coach Ben Straud's firing back in August, Parrish's interest in CSI didn't wane.  
 "I really took it as a new

"If you're going to start anywhere, there's not a better place to play."  
 -- Megan Parrish on playing at CSI next fall

beginning," Parrish said. "A new opportunity for everyone. A fresh start."  
 At CSI, Parrish can be close to home and a family that guided her through her quest to play at the collegiate level.  
 "It's really nerve-wracking to get out away from your comfort zone," she said. "My parents

"If you're going to start anywhere, there's not a better place to play," she said.  
 Through three years as a varsity starter, three different head coaches, two state tournament titles and a Great Basin Conference West title, Parrish has never put herself or any ego ahead of the team effort, and it's not likely to change at the next level.  
 "She never thought she was the best player. She was a team player," Burke said. "That's what makes her so special."

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Senior Megan Parrish will take her game to the next level, playing for the College of Southern Idaho in the fall of 2007. Parrish is the 2006 Three-Rings Volleyball Player of the Year.

**The Snow Center**  
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**Tires LES SCHWAB**

INSIDE: Community, D2-3 | Classifieds, D4-20 | Sudoku, D7 | Jumble, D8 | Crossword, D14 | Business and service directory, D18

# Choosing to be chosen:

## Hispanic New Mexicans intrigued by hints of a hidden Jewish past

By Matt Cresson  
Associated Press writer

RUIDOSO, N.M. — Within weeks of becoming New Mexico state historian, Stanley Hordes started receiving some odd visitors. They would enter his Santa Fe office, close the door — and gossip about their neighbors.

"So-and-so lights candles on Friday nights," they would whisper. "So-and-so doesn't eat pork," they would say.

The young historian was intrigued. Though the people Hordes spoke with were clearly Catholic, they reported following an array of Jewish customs. They talked about leaving pebbles on cemetery headstones, lighting candles on Friday nights, abstaining from pork and circumcising male infants.

When Hordes asked why they did such things, some said they were simply following family tradition. Others gave a more straightforward explanation: "Somos judios," they said. We are Jews.

A quarter century later, Hordes has a stirring explanation of how Judaism got to New Mexico. Like so many Jewish stories — the Exodus, David and Goliath, the Hanukkah story — it is an ancient and epic tale of triumph against overwhelming adversity.

And like so many of those stories, it requires a certain suspension of disbelief.

In the spring of 1492, Jews in Spain were given two choices: convert to Catholicism or leave the country. Many left. Many others simply abandoned their religion for Catholicism.

But a few of those who converted did so only publicly, continuing to practice Judaism in secret.

Modern scholars have found a few communities of so-called "crypto-Jews" that survived in both Iberia and the New World for centuries, hiding their true religious identity from their neighbors and the Catholic church.

In his 2005 book "To the End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico," Hordes suggests that many crypto-Jews found their way to the northern frontier of the Spanish colonial empire.

There they continued to observe their religion behind locked doors, blending publicly into the monolithic Catholic culture and teaching their children that revealing their true identities could mean death by the inquisition.

"They were invisible," Hordes said. But the very same secrecy that protected Judaism in the Spanish Southwest eventually doomed it. The people had no synagogue, no Torah, no connection to global Jewish culture.

By the 20th century, Hordes concludes, all that was left were a few suggestive customs — and a vague sense that somehow, they were Jewish.

For Sonya Loya, there's nothing vague about it. Growing up Catholic in Ruidoso, N.M., Loya was intensely spiritual. But she never identified with Jesus or Christianity.

"I never felt whatever I was supposed to feel when I was Catholic," Loya said.

Loya began observing the Jewish Sabbath, Shabbat, six years ago, about the same time that she learned about the secret Jewish past being uncovered by Hordes and other scholars. She was thrilled at the possibility that she might actually have Jewish heritage, that a faith her ancestors lost over centuries was inexplicably welling up inside her.

"I believe that what drew me back home to who I am is my Jewish soul," Loya said.

In 2004 she went to her parents, asking them to bless her conversion to Judaism, not expecting the worst. Perplexed by their daughter's rejection of Catholicism, they had often reacted badly to such pronouncements.

But this time it was her turn to be perplexed. Not only did her father give his blessing, Loya said, but he revealed that he had known since childhood that he had Jewish ancestry. An uncle, returning from World War II, had seen the family name among a list of concentration camp inmates.

"I'm still discovering a lot of these things from my own family," she said. Bill Sanchez always felt Jewish, too. But not that Jewish; he's a Catholic priest.

Sanchez discovered his own Jewish roots after having his own genes tested by a Houston-based company called Family Tree DNA. The company determined that he has a set of genetic markers on his Y-chromosome that is also found in about 30 percent of Jewish men. The tests even indicated that Sanchez has a genetic signature that has been associated with the Cohanim, a priestly clan that is said to go back to Moses' brother Aaron.

Since then Sanchez, a Catholic priest, has embraced his Jewish heritage. He wears a Star of David around his neck on the same chain that holds his crucifix, and keeps a menorah in his office at St. Edwin parish in Albuquerque.

Like Hordes, folklorist Judith Neulander was fascinated by stories like Sanchez and Loya's when the first went to New Mexico in the summer of 1992. And Neulander, too, heard

"I never felt whatever I was supposed to feel when I was Catholic. I believe that what drew me back home to who I am is my Jewish soul."

— Sonya Loya

accounts of grandfathers donning shawls before they pray and grandmothers carefully draining every drop of blood from chickens after slaughtering them. But hearing the stories for herself, she grew increasingly uneasy.

People told her about how their parents or grandparents prayed to "Yahweh" — Hebrew for God. But Judaism forbids saying God's name out loud.

They talked about playing as children with a four-sided top that resembled a dreidel. But dreidels first appeared among Central and Eastern European Jews well after 1492. How would the descendants of Spanish Jews who fled Europe during the inquisition have known anything about them?

"All of it just doesn't really hold up when you examine it carefully," said Neulander, who is now co-director of the Jewish Studies Program at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

She concluded that the notion of a Jewish heritage must have been brought to the Southwest by evangelical Protestant missionaries from one of several small sects who considered themselves descendants of a lost tribe of Israel. Though rare today, such Christian groups follow many Jewish traditions while believing in Jesus, and consider themselves the world's only truly chosen people.

"There were probably many more sects like this in the early part of the 20th century," Neulander said.

The debate isn't just academic. People like Loya and Sanchez are constructing their religious lives around



Crypto-Jew Sonya Loya of Ruidoso, N.M., participates in a Jewish Sabbath celebration at her parents home ushering in the Sabbath on Nov. 17.

the assumption that their ancestors were Jewish: "You'll never have proof," Loya said. "You have these bits of evidence... like bread crumbs."

Sanchez hopes to make the case with DNA. He estimates that more than half of the men he knows who have been tested have DNA signatures consistent with a Sephardic ancestry.

Yet the only serious genetic study that has attempted to find Jewish ancestry among Hispanics in the Southwest reached a different conclusion.

"We just couldn't wait to find all these Jews," said Alec Knight, who was working in an anthropological genetics lab at Stanford University when he saw the crypto-Jew story in an in-flight magazine.

Knight recruited a handful of colleagues for a simple study. They took DNA samples from 139 men in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, most of whom could trace their family trees in the region back to the 17th century.

"There were a few individuals who did have typically 'Jewish' profiles, but no more than you would find in Spain, due to the presence of Jews there before 1492."

"Basically, it was a migration of Spaniards," said Knight, who recently left Stanford to teach science in Alpine, Texas, at the high school level. When confronted with the genetic evidence, Hordes quickly points out that genes are not culture.

Besides, he adds, he never claimed that the early European settlers of the Southwest were overwhelmingly Jewish.

But if there were never more than a handful of Jews among the first Southwesterners — if any — and they never left any visible impact on the culture beyond a few odd customs,

why are people so eager to resurrect them?

"The notion that you're somehow indomitable, that there can be such a thing as a miraculous survival, is so comfortable, so buoyant to the spirit, that it's very hard to let go," Neulander said. The crypto-Jew saga is one of cultural survival against the odds, a life-affirming counterpoint to the genocidal reality that Jews have faced throughout history. Those who embrace a crypto-Jewish identity see themselves as heirs to a legacy of survival against tremendous odds.

And what of the scholars like Hordes? Neulander accuses them of being seduced by the age-old fantasy of discovering a lost tribe.

The remote Southwest used to have such "tribes" in abundance. They lived in pueblos, remote mountain villages and on desert reservations, isolated from the outside world for centuries. But earlier generations of researchers have already done the job of documenting these more typical Southwestern traditions. What was once an exotic, almost foreign region of the country has witnessed an influx of retirees and second-home dwellers that has swelled its population and diluted its sense of place.

The crypto-Jew story injects fresh mystery into this increasingly humdrum world. In fact, the crypto-Jew phenomenon probably tells us more about life in the Southwest today than it does about what happened there hundreds of years ago.

But that doesn't matter to people like Sonya Loya. Having "felt Jewish" for most of her life, the crypto-Jew story gives her the authority to embrace the heritage of her choice.

And as she and others continue to spread the incredible survival story of the Southwest's Jewish colonists, it almost becomes a religion itself.



Roman Catholic priest Bill Sanchez holds a shofar he keeps on a symbolic replica of the Ark of the Covenant, right, in the sanctuary at St. Edwin Catholic Church in Albuquerque, N.M. Sanchez has embraced his Jewish heritage since he learned his DNA has markers on the Y-chromosome that is found in about 30 percent of Jewish men.

## Border agents see annual upsurge in child smuggling around the holidays

By Lynn Bruzsky  
Associated Press writer

LA JOYA, Texas — Little Douglas Ramirez of Guatemala was crying as the preschooler and his two older sisters, ages 10 and 13, were picked up by border agents last week along a highway just north of the Rio Grande.

That was where they were abandoned by the smuggler who had brought them across the Mexican border to reunite them with their father in the U.S. for the holidays.

Immigration officials in Texas say the annual holiday surge in children crossing the border illegally is on.

Illegal immigrants working in the United States sometimes arrange for friends, relatives or

professional smugglers to sneak their youngsters into this country.

In some cases, the smugglers try to slip the children across the Rio Grande and through the brush along lightly guarded sections of the border, using the Ramirez children.

In other instances, adults pretend to be the youngsters' parents and try to drive across the border bridges during the busy holiday season, claiming they are visiting relatives or going shopping in the United States.

"As the holiday season is already upon us, so also is the season for child smuggling," said David Higginson, director of the port of entry at Hidalgo, Texas.

Three Houston residents

were arrested last week at the Hidalgo international bridge for posing as the mother and grandparents of a 2-year-old Mexican boy. The boy was groggy from an apparent dose of a pain-relieving syrup, administered to keep him quiet as they went through customs.

A few days before, a 24-year-old woman was arrested at the bridge for trying to pass off as a U.S. citizen a 10-year-old Mexican she said was her nephew.

Late fall is a peak time to make the attempt, because of the desire among many families to be together during the holidays, and because many parents who crossed over early in the year for the growing or construction season have saved enough money and established

themselves enough to send for their kids.

Children who are caught on the bridges are sent back to shelters on the Mexican side to wait for family members to claim them. Those caught on the U.S. side, such as Douglas and his sisters, are usually sent to American shelters, and after a lot of red tape, many are ultimately released to their families in this country, even though the parents are illegal immigrants.

But the risks are considerable for the families, their children and the adults who try to smuggle the youngsters in.

In some cases, depending on the federal agency or the particular officer involved, the illegal-immigrant parents can be taken into custody when they show up to claim their child, and the

whole family can then be deported.

As for entrusting children to professional smugglers, "if they're young girls they could be raped. Little boys can be sold to other families," said Nina Pruneda of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"They could be kidnapped, held for more money. Some actually make it, and end up with their families, everything's happy. Others don't."

At the Hidalgo port alone, customs officers have stopped 24 child-smuggling attempts since the 2007 fiscal year began Oct. 1, Higginson said. Customs spokesman Rick Puausa said Laredo's two bridges saw 218 child smuggling attempts during fiscal year 2006, many of them during the holidays,

though he did not have a month-by-month breakdown.

Martha Newton, director of the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, said 65 percent of the approximately 8,000 children sheltered yearly across the nation end up released to someone in the United States.

"We will release to undocumented sponsors," she said, referring to parents who are not citizens. "We are not the Department of Homeland Security. We're in charge of the best interests of the child."

On Monday, a happy, playful Douglas sat in a big chair next to lawyers and Texas social workers, peering around and smiling joyfully at a man claiming to be his uncle and a man he did not seem to know as well, who said he was the father.



**SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU**

**Volunteers — Idaho Home Health and Hospice** is in need of volunteers who can help in the home by visiting with patients, relieving the caregivers or running errands. Office assistance is also welcome. For information about the volunteer program, call Susan or Grace at 734-4064 or stop by the office at 820 Eastland Drive in Twin Falls.

**Beds/clothing/household items** — The College of Southern Idaho Refugee Center is in need of twin-size beds, clothing for men and women and household items. To donate items, drop them off from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Friday at 1526 Highland Ave. E. The office is closed from noon to 1 p.m. Call Teresa at 736-2166.

**Lift chair** — An elderly lady is in need of a large-size lift chair. Call Roberta at 544-7720.

**Volunteers** — Volunteers are needed to help a family who has a loved one with a life-limiting illness. Volunteers can help by shopping, running errands, cleaning or slitting with their loved one, while the

**Want to help?**

This public service column is designed to match needs in the communities of the eight counties in the Magic Valley with volunteer help. If you need a volunteer, call the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at 738-2122, ext. 320, before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday for Sunday publication. RSVP is a United Way-sponsored agency at the College of Southern Idaho. Call weekly to retain your request.

caregivers take a break. Call Flo at Hospice Vision at 735-0121.

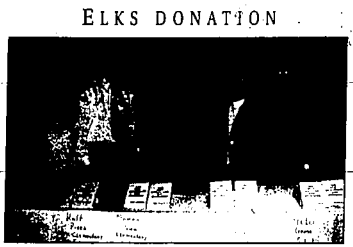
**Drivers** — The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at the Office on Aging is looking for volunteers, age 55 and older, who are willing to drive clients to doctor appointments and go grocery shopping. Volunteers are needed in the Burley/Rupert area. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and covered by excess insurance. Call Kitty at 677-4872, ext. 2.

**JEROME HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL**

- |                                    |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Jerome HS announces honor students | Jessica Dunsberger<br>Tyler Elwell<br>Maricruz Espinoza<br>John Gardner<br>Stephanie Govea<br>Stacie Holton<br>Scott Hines<br>Daniel Hair<br>Josiah Higley<br>Melissa Hockenberry<br>Zachary Ingraham<br>Whitney Jones<br>Marilyn Nolasco<br>Maria Nolasco Lopez<br>Hailey Long<br>Chelsea Layne<br>Sergio Mendoza<br>Irena Blomgomy<br>Ashley Morrill<br>Britanna Ridgway<br>Hayley Reinstra<br>Breanna Robbins<br>Jarom Swenson<br>Gabrielle Steinger<br>Candice Selthold<br>Logan Parker<br>Megan Hinton<br>Trayvin Mapes<br>Megan Traugber<br>Michelle Thompson<br>Melissa Long<br>John Zepeda | Alois Folkings<br>Adriana Gonzalez<br>Katherine Halper<br>Yu Hattori<br>Justin Humphries<br>Jordan Leshar<br>Patrick Loug<br>Tyler McClure<br>Ashley McKay<br>Vanessa Mendoza<br>Baillie Meservy<br>Sarah Nutsch<br>Celeste Olson<br>Daniel Pertulla<br>Austin Petersen<br>Rachel Pickett<br>Justin Praeger<br>Justin Ralston<br>Koycie Smith<br>Luke Suggen<br>Jenna Thompson<br>Jamie VanderLinden<br>Raphael Zepeda | Danielle Ridgway<br>Brianna Stein<br>Kodi Spess<br>Trevor Tolman<br>Maggie Wheatley<br>Kelsey Woodbury<br>Rachel Woodell | Gabrielle Yearsley<br>Tenth grade<br>Nicole Blingham<br>Victoria Chojnacky<br>Cory Cummins<br>Dallas Hammer<br>Tanaraye Holbrook<br>Jordan Hillfield<br>Elizabeth Jauregui<br>Jacob Lammers<br>Jordan Meservy<br>Aglaia Naumann<br>Kimberlie Floss<br>Nilo Thomas<br>Tyler Tolman<br>Shelby Walters<br>Eleventh grade<br>Alexander Barber<br>Nathan Bobrowski<br>Jeff Horgan<br>Ashley Miller<br>Melissa Miller<br>Kabina Montgomery<br>Christina Paulos<br>Megan Parrish<br>Ashlee Thiessen<br>Megan Wayment<br>Alison Wheatley<br>Twelfth grade<br>Marybeth Barrels<br>Chelsea Boyd<br>Marisa Dickinson<br>Maria Govea<br>William Ledbetter<br>Dorothy Lopez<br>Megan Parrish<br>Elena Riggenbach<br>Melisa Thompson<br>Hilary VandenBosch |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|

**WENDELL MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL**

- |                                       |   |  |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Wendell Middle School honors students | Riley Merrill<br>Samantha Mize<br>Tyler Sauer<br>Michelle Smith<br>Taylor Vanholland<br>Tyler Wington | Dana Tenorio<br>Jordan Chapman<br>Khrystyna Cortes<br>Kaleigh Kelsey<br>Jorge Lopez<br>Ceisyce McClellan<br>Shayla Peer<br>Michelle Ponce<br>Alex Swainston<br>Abby Zamodiri<br>Halilee Blunt<br>Nikki Calderon<br>Alexander Nebeker<br>Rj Combs<br>Chas Nebeker<br>Tyler Thompson | Lucas Villagomez<br>Christian Aiello<br>Ashley Bates<br>Kaleigh Butterfield<br>Jorge Diaz<br>Quinten Locke<br>Megan Benson<br>Luke Bunn<br>Sean Campbell<br>Robert Carlson<br>Romina Caron<br>Joshua Egbert<br>Alberto Gonzalez<br>Jessica Hurtado<br>Marina Lara<br>Morgan Swainston<br>Seventh grade<br>Felisha Azevedo<br>Alix Hurtado<br>Spencer Johnson<br>Shelby Nelson<br>Analy Nolasco<br>Sandra Perez-Ferreira<br>Maryann Rollins<br>Iseldia Valera<br>Daisy Vargas<br>Victoria Allen<br>Caitlyn Johnson | Rhett Kelley<br>Destree Kessler<br>Micaela Revels<br>Karen Tenorio<br>Monica Alvarez<br>Alma Huante<br>Emily Kuka<br>Trentan Lessly<br>Martha Maderra<br>Eighth grade<br>Stephanie Henderson<br>Jazmine Jimenez<br>Jared Lund<br>Martha Martinez<br>Rachel Pierce<br>Melissa Rojas<br>John Washington<br>Michael Wright<br>Steven Dreisler<br>Kade Francis<br>Bodine Todd<br>Cody Wilhelm<br>Tyler Egbert<br>Hailey Hope<br>Megan Rodrigues<br>Clarisa Sandoval<br>Nolan Stouder |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|



The Burley and Rupert Elks presented dictionaries to students of Mid-Casala schools. The dictionaries will be given to the third-grade students at each school to keep. From left are Carolyn Holton, Oakley Elementary; Jeff Birch, Almo and Ruff River; Delia Valdez and Erica Ellinger, Mountain View; Marlene Boettcher, St. Michaels; and Rebecca Hunsaker, Declo, Dworshak, Heyburn, Rupert, Paul and Aquegua schools will also receive dictionaries.

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**FOCUS ON PEOPLE**

**CSI speech/debate team second in tournament**

**TWIN FALLS** — The College Southern Idaho Speech and Debate Team placed second among community colleges at the Lower Columbia College Forensics Tournament Nov. 2-4 in Longview, Wash.

Senior Sophomore Kevin Otzenberger placed second in the open division of after-dinner speaking and fifth in the open division of prose interpretation. Otzenberger also earned with Twin Falls freshman Shantel Chapple to place third in the junior division of parliamentary debate.

Chapple placed second in the open division of informative speaking. Otzenberger and Chapple placed among the top 10 speakers in the open division of parliamentary debate placing ninth and seventh, respectively.

Twin Falls sophomore Kevin Perkins placed fourth in the open division of informative speaking and second in the novice division of editorial commentary. Kimberly freshperson John Heinemann placed second in the novice division of extemporaneous speaking, and Twin Falls sophomore Eric Nutsch placed fifth in the novice division of editorial commentary. Filer sophomore Will Van Leuven placed sixth in the open division of prose interpretation. Filer freshman Elysi Siffer also competed for CSI.

**MUSIC TEACHERS GROUP AWARDS WINNERS**

**TWIN FALLS** — The Magic Valley Chapter of the Idaho Music Teachers Association announced the winners of the **Sonata/Sonata Festival**, held Nov. 11 at the College of Southern Idaho.

Sixty-three piano students participated. Judges selected the top two performers from each level, and those students advanced to the finals recital. Students received trophies and ribbons. Winners were:

Colton Biedenbach, Ethan Alexander, Salsha Meyer, Lara Jones, Tyler Stevens, Samantha Walker, Rachel Allen, Taber Davidson, Jael Rasmussen, Jacob Conder, Elizabeth Papac, Sierra Koyie, Alex Schneidermann, Briana Beck,

Chelsea Stevens, Conner McCall, Micah Schneidermann, Melissa Kunkel, Asa Schneidermann, Jason Walker, Jonathan Rasmussen, Nicole Allen, Ben Papac, Merri-Grace Jones, Lauran Smith, Kristen Miller, Claire Jones, Rebekah Papac, Jessie Jensen, Megan Wayment, Maggie Jones, Brac Beck, Ian Schneidermann, Trent Parke, Kelsey Bordovky, Becca Stonemets, Tamara Downs and Rachel Ashby.

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Woman celebrates 85th birthday at open house**

**TWIN FALLS** — Virginia Kelley will celebrate her 85th birthday on Dec. 19. She will be honored at an open house, hosted by her children and grandchildren, from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 17 at her new home, 208 Long Island Ave.

**Santa flies in for airport holiday party**

**TWIN FALLS** — The Magic Valley Regional Airport is flying Santa Claus in for a Christmas party. Santa will arrive by helicopter at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. All children are invited.

**American Legion Post, Auxiliary holds party**

**ALBION** — The Albion American Legion Post and Auxiliary Christmas party will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Albion Grange Hall, 110 W. North St.

There is no admission and each member should bring a gift to exchange and a toy or game for the MISTI Toy Barn at

St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise. For more information, call Commander Ron Beedle at 677-3413.

**December driver safety classes planned**

**TWIN FALLS** — The AARP Driver Safety classes will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday and Friday at the Office on Aging on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho.

The classes are geared for anyone 50 years or older, though younger people can attend. Participants do not have to belong to AARP and no driving is involved. The fee is \$10, and students must attend both sessions to receive a certificate of completion. For more information, call Paul at 733-2629 or Charlie at 733-9880.

**Jerome library plans family Christmas party**

**JEROME** — The Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E., will hold a family Christmas celebration at 10:30 a.m. Friday in the library's Multi-purpose

Room. There will be stories, songs, a skit, refreshments from the Friends of the Library and visit from Santa.

**Twentieth Century Club plans holiday meeting**

**TWIN FALLS** — Twentieth Century Club will meet at noon Tuesday at the Turf Club. Larry Lawson will sing Christmas songs.

Members are invited to bring a guest.

Others interested in attending should make a reservation with Helen at 733-2552. For information, call Esther at 734-1487.

**Toastmasters' reunion meeting this month**

**TWIN FALLS** — The Magic Valley Toastmasters' special reunion meeting for past members is at noon Dec. 19 at the Golden Corral restaurant.

Current members and visitors are also invited. For more information, call Donna at 736-1025.

**Hospital receives grant for free tests, education**

**RUPERT** — Mindoka Memorial Hospital received a \$11,442 grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for the Breast Cancer Detection and Education Project at the hospital.

The program will provide free mammogram services for up to 32 uninsured women. The participants must be between the age of 35 and 49, must not have medical insurance coverage and cannot meet the financial obligation.

The project will provide breast health education to the community, as well as program participants. Hispanic women will receive no less than 25 percent of mammogram services in the project. Emphasis will be placed on



Ivana Hanzer, project director at Mindoka Memorial Hospital, receives a check from Mary Oulnard and Jeanne Krantz from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

but not exclusive to, first-time (base line) screenings.

Breast health and breast cancer education information will be provided in a variety of media and communication

outlets to women in the target population, but not inclusive to that group, the hospital reports.

Anyone interested in participating can call 436-8143.

**JEROME CENTENNIAL 1907 - 2007**

**Jerome Centennial**

**1907-2007**

**New Year's Eve Gala**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE 2006**

**8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.**

**Jerome Recreation District**

**2032 South Lincoln**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
by  
**HIGHSTREET BAND**

**FIREWORKS at Midnight!**

**TICKETS:**  
\$15  
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Morton Federal  
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**March 20th News**

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To learn more or become a Life Flight member call (800) 574-9464 or visit [www.saintalphonsus.org](http://www.saintalphonsus.org)

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**Legal**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise those citizens who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings.

**IMPORTANT**  
Please address all legal advertising to:  
**LEGAL ADVERTISING**  
The Times-News  
PO Box 548  
Twin Falls, Idaho  
23303-0548  
email to:  
legal@magicvalley.com

Deadline for legal ads: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby, legal clerk, at 208-735-3324.

**101 Lost and Found**

**PEOPLE FOR PETS**  
420 Victory Ave.  
PO Box 1163  
736-2299

Twin Falls, Idaho  
**FOUND**

1. Min Pin female, adult
2. Min Pin male adult
3. Spaniel X female, gold pup. St. Lukes Hospital
4. Lab X male gold pup. St. Lukes Hospital
5. Rot X red male adult 2100 E 3400 N
6. Pit Bull white with black spots male adult water tower on Washington
7. Spaniel Chocolate male adult 3600 E 3900 N
8. Lab X ivory-pup male Labor Camp Washington St.
9. Border Collie X black and white 2000 Black Collie E 579A-0409.
10. German Shorthair, male near Grismer 1126, 324-5278 or 320-2454.

**FOUND** kitten long haired gray female, 3+ Ave. North area in Twin Falls, 208-9673

**FOUND** Shih Tzu on Kimberly Rd. Call to identify 208-410-1562 for more information.

**FOUND** small white dog with short hair at 4. Rot X black & tan male adult. Wearing red collar with yellow border. Front left foot hurt or deformed. 208-431-2184 or 208-439-3954

**LOST** black CPL tool box on 500 W. 300 St. in Paul. The box was stocked with Snap-On & Corwell tools; Has initials DOT, SRT, & TS. Reward: Please call Dink at 208-431-3365 or 208-316-2295

**101 Lost and Found**

**LOST** black Lab, registered 10 month old, at 400 S. Burley. Wearing orange and brown collar. Answers to Boddy. 208-678-2451.

**LOST** Cal. black male, young, short hair, neutered. Lost near Barbary Hot Springs, off of River Road between Bull and Hageman. May have traveled far. Call 208-443-5639 W. msg.

**LOST** Cal. female, spayed, 1 1/2 years old, gray/brown tabby. Lost near O'Leary. Call 734-2813

**LOST** chocolate Lab on 1127 at 950 W. Paul. Has come out. 18 months old. Answers to Rock. Reward: Call 208-439-8586 or 208-431-5588

**LOST** Doberman, black & tan, lost in Jerome. Lings, male. Call 208-420-0936

**LOST** dog Justice Grade 1129, black & gray female schnauzer, answers to Zoey. \$50 reward 208-837-6085

**LOST** female black Lab 6 years old. Pink collar with tag "Aunt". South of Twin Falls by Franklin Building Supply. Reward: Call 208-280-0769 or 731-8007

**LOST** small English Springer on Dec. 5 on Hwy 24 Kamina area. 1/4-3/4 old female, wearing red collar. Reward: 208-532-4215.

**LOST** Whitehead Pointer on 1150 W. 900 N. in Paul. Female, wearing leather collar, very nice. 431-1431

**113 Child Care Services**

**AGAPE CHILD CARE** has (2) full and (1) part-time openings for 3 year olds and up. Licenses, CPR and ICCOP with large playground. Call 208-734-3693

**CHILD CARE** in home care, has openings. Call Amanda 733-5680

**DAY CARE** has openings. Licenses, CPR and ICCOP. Call 208-734-1058 for info.

**Licensed Child Care** day and swing shift. Meals & snacks, ICCOP and CPR. Reqs. Call 208-735-4193

**200 Employment**

**Asking Questions?** Contact public opinion poll over the telephone. Absolutely NO SALES!!! Slightly researched. \$7.00 to \$9.00/hour Casual work environment. Flexible scheduling, day and week hrs. 15-30 hours/week. Great part-time jobs or second job. Close to CSI campus. For more information Call 208-736-2853 \*\*\*\*\*

**BOOKKEEPING** Daily seeking Accountant/Bookkeeper. Great opportunity with expanding company. 2 yrs exp. a must. Knowledge of Quickbooks and excel needed. Multi-Family. Pay DOE. Send resumes to twimrg@aattamp.com Attn: Darick

**CAREGIVER** Respite needed for Hospice Assisted Living. Apply at 1177 Eastridge Ct. Twin Falls or call 208-734-9422

**CAREGIVERS** Retirement community in Twin Falls is currently looking for Resident Aides to assist the elderly and provide companionship in a Retirement Home setting. No experience necessary all training will be provided. Day, swing and graveyard shifts available. Pay \$7.00-\$9.00 DOE and shift. Full benefits available. Apply in person at 736 S. College St., Suite B, Twin Falls or call 735-5002 for more information.

**CASHIERS** Part-time or full-time Cashiers needed evenings and weekends. Flexible scheduling. Starting wage \$8.00/hr. Apply on line at 736 S. College St., Suite B, person 6350 Hwy 2 Jerome

**101 Lost and Found**

**LOST** Australian Shepherd Blue Heeler X Female 9 1/2 yr old. Black & white mottled hair color. Ruffy tail. Wearing blue collar, name is Scruffy, very sweet. Needs her medicine. Margie 490-0720 or 724-3538

**FOUND** Alaskan Malamute female, in Oakley, very beautiful and affectionate, missing her family. Please call 208-882-9267

**FOUND** dog at Keniluck Fried Chicken in Burley on 12/03/06. Call to identify, 208-579-0409.

**FOUND** German Shorthair, male near Grismer 1126, 324-5278 or 320-2454.

**FOUND** kitten long haired gray female, 3+ Ave. North area in Twin Falls, 208-9673

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**200 Employment**

**CLERICAL** Receptionist/FT general office duties. Full resume to PO Box 207, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or fax to 208-735-8343.

**CLERICAL** Seeking a Clerical/Receptionist w/great personality and customer service skills. Must have excellent computer knowledge, accounting background, and 2+ years experience in office education plus a M.F. fulltime \$8.00-12.00/hr DOE. Send resume to twimrg@aattamp.com Attn: Darick

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**ADMINISTRATIVE** Administrative Assistant  
We are looking for the finest administrative assistants in offering the finest products and services to our customers. A mix of one year of administrative assistant experience with excellent computer skills required. Applicant must be detail oriented, self-motivated, and work well with people and a team player. Salary DOE and benefits available. Daily experience is a plus but not required. Please send resume to PO Box 170 Jerome, ID 83308 or fax to 208-324-7325

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The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or properly classify any ad. Receipt of copy via remote entry (fax, e-mail, etc.) does not constitute final acceptance by this newspaper. The advertiser, not the newspaper, assumes responsibility for the truthful content of the advertisement message.

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The ideal candidates for these positions will be dynamic, sales oriented individuals with excellent customer service skills and cash handling experience.  
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**DRIVER**  
 Local distribution  
 company is seeking a  
 motivated,  
 experienced, CDL  
 with Hazmat Driver  
 for delivery route.  
 Full-time with bene-  
 fits package. Must  
 be able to lift 50 lbs  
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 employment testing  
 includes driving record,  
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 and substance abuse  
 test. High School  
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 1801 Highland Ave  
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**DENTAL**  
 Dental Asst. wanted.  
 Experience preferred.  
 Please contact  
 Dr. Bryce Kilian's office  
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 Local distribution  
 company is seeking a  
 motivated,  
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 with Hazmat Driver  
 for delivery route.  
 Full-time with bene-  
 fits package. Must  
 be able to lift 50 lbs  
 continuously. Pre-  
 employment testing  
 includes driving record,  
 physical screening  
 and substance abuse  
 test. High School  
 grad diploma or GED  
 required. Apply at:  
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 1801 Highland Ave  
 E, Twin Falls  
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**DRIVERS**  
 IdahoWag Transport,  
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 Rupert, ID is looking  
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 drivers to haul  
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 \*Willingness to  
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The Times-News is looking for an experienced Press Operator or entry-level worker with a desire to learn a 12-unit plate press, 4-color process, plate development and registration. Must be knowledgeable on working around heavy machinery safely and be familiar with mechanical maintenance and adjustment. Additionally, the ability to work well with others, to lift 85 lbs., to stand and climb the majority of the work shift, and c/wk ladders is necessary. Hours of work are primarily 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., including weekends.

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 208-733-1823

**STONE SPLITTER**

90 Openings. Job located in Oakley, ID. Temporary. 31-030107. OT varies at \$13.23. 40hr/wk. 8:00am-5:00pm. Use pry bar to position large stones for splitting. Use hammer and chisel to split stones and cut rock. Stacks neatly according to size, thickness, texture and color. Keep work area clean of debris. Must be able to lift 100 lbs. frequently. All tools and eye wear provided w/o charge. No experience of education necessary. Apply for the job listing number at the nearest Idaho Commerce and Labor office, or send resume with the job listing number to:  
 Idaho Commerce and Labor  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, West  
 310 W. Street  
 Boise, ID 83725-0810  
 Refer to Job Listing #1265493

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Sign up for EZ Pay and take  
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**Call 733-0931 to start EZ Pay today.**

**TimesNews  
 magicvalley.com**

**GENERAL**  
**Part-Time Animal Control Assistant**  
 The Jerome Police Department is accepting applications for the position of part-time Animal Control Assistant. This position will pay \$8.50 per hour, for approximately 16 hours per week. Availability for work on Saturdays and Sundays is required. Duties and responsibilities of this position include feeding and water dogs, cleaning the shelter, assisting with animal adoptions, accepting stray dogs, and other duties as assigned. Applicants must have the physical ability to handle large dogs.

Candidates that are selected for potential hire will be required to undergo a background investigation, drug screen and an oral interview board. Applications and more information may be obtained by contacting the  
**Jerome Police Department located at  
 124 South Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338.**  
 Applicants may contact the police department by telephone at 208-324-4328. All applications must be received by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> 2006.

**Plant  
 Maintenance**

McCaun Foods, the world's largest privately owned producer of fresh frozen food products, is currently accepting applications for Plant Maintenance positions at the Idaho plant.

Plant maintenance is responsible for performing maintenance general maintenance and repair of machinery and equipment. This includes: repair, adjust, install, rebuild and overhaul various types of machinery and systems for the factory job responsibilities include plumbing, welding and electrical repairs, using hand tools, instruments and other materials. Requirements include 1-year certificate from college or technical school and 3 years of related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Compensation includes a competitive hourly wage and excellent benefits. To apply for this position, please contact your local State of Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor office or send resume to McCaun Foods, Attn: Wendy Galtman, P.O. Box 10, Burley, ID 83318. Email: [wendy.galtman@mc.caun.com](mailto:wendy.galtman@mc.caun.com) Fax: 208-264-7872. Equal Opportunity Employer/DFW

**Electronics  
 Technician  
 (Programmer)**

McCaun Foods, the world's largest privately owned producer of fresh frozen food products, is accepting applications for Electronics Technicians at the Idaho plant.

The primary responsibility of the Electronics Technician is to develop, program and install new control systems and maintain existing control systems with LAM controllers, coordinate factory control projects and provide programming for new control projects. Provide training and technical support for Production and Maintenance personnel. This position will also carry out a variety of maintenance duties and mechanical repairs, repair electrical machinery, rebuild and reassemble various types of machinery and systems for the factory. Responsibilities will include plumbing, welding and electrical repair using hand tools and instruments.

The successful candidate will have an associates degree in a technical field or equivalent from 2-year college or technical school, or a certificate in electrical engineering and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have the ability to program Allen Bradley PLC's, PLC's, SLC's, SSI's, SSI's, PLC's, PLC's and Inverter Drives. Must have demonstrated strong computer background, including IC hardware, and software programming. Must have demonstrated Windows 95 and NT and general knowledge of Local Area Networks required. Must possess the ability to read and understand schematics, have experience working with AC/DC control systems, and have 100 hours experience with electrical wiring, an associate with the National Electric Code, experience with PLC's, and experience with Allen Bradley Controls (PLC's and HMI's) and systems, and experience with repairing and maintaining mechanical equipment.

Compensation includes a competitive hourly wage and excellent benefits. To apply for this position, please contact your local State of Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor office or send resume to McCaun Foods, Attn: Wendy Galtman, P.O. Box 10, Burley, ID 83318. Email: [wendy.galtman@mc.caun.com](mailto:wendy.galtman@mc.caun.com) Fax: 208-264-7872. Equal Opportunity Employer/DFW

**CIRCULATION**  
 The South Idaho Press currently has the following position available in the  
**Circulation Department:**  
**Customer Service Representative-Part Time**

This position would be scheduled to work Mon-Fri, evenings, 4pm-approx. 7pm. Responsibilities include customer service via telephone and web in traffic, customer retention, dispatching newspaper delivery, redelivering newspapers as needed, and other tasks as assigned. Some weekends and holidays could be included.

Ideal candidates will possess good verbal and written communication skills, good computer skills, and have a good telephone presence. We are looking for people who enjoy working with the public, are detail-oriented, self-motivated, and comfortable doing outbound calling. To be considered, all candidates must have a valid driver's license with a good driving record and be able to work weekends and holidays.

To apply, please submit an application/ resume to:

Jani Busick  
 Circulation Director  
 -South Idaho Press  
 200 E. Main St.  
 Burley, ID 83318  
[busick@southidhpress.com](mailto:busick@southidhpress.com)

**South Idaho Press**

Drug Free Work Place and an Equal Opportunity Employer

**Great  
 Opportunities!**

McCaun Foods, the world's largest privately owned producer of fresh frozen food products, is currently accepting applications for the following positions to work 12-hour night shifts (7pm-7am) at the Burley, Idaho plant:

**Welder Attendant  
 Utility Packaging Attendant  
 Sinter/Trimmer  
 Forklift Operator**

Successful candidates will have a high school diploma/GED or 13 credits of related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have the ability to read, write and comprehend safety instructions and safety requirements. Experience in a similar position is highly preferred. Candidates will be required to wear and maintain a factory issued safety harness, however, responsibilities through the Operation Training Program and computer skills for data entry and electronic tracking requirements.

Compensation includes a competitive hourly wage and excellent benefits. To apply for this position, please contact your local State of Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor office or send resume to McCaun Foods, Attn: Wendy Galtman, P.O. Box 10, Burley, ID 83318. Email: [wendy.galtman@mc.caun.com](mailto:wendy.galtman@mc.caun.com) Fax: 208-264-7872. Equal Opportunity Employer/DFW



# su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

	2	9	8		
		2	7		8
8			5		
	5				4
3					5
6				7	
		4			2
6	1	9			3
	8		6	4	

HARD #20

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for today's puzzle on page E-17.

## 200 Employment

### GENERAL

**New Movies, Fashion** project Need Actors, Extras, Models. No exp. Not a school. 208-433-0511

### MEDICAL

Searching for quality RN. Need skilled nursing experience to coordinate quality measures at 3 Nursing Home in Magic Valley. Call May Tan at 208-251-5273

### NEWSPAPER

**Need Extra Holiday Cash?** Consider the benefits of a Times-News delivery route. You can earn extra income early in the morning and still have your days and evenings free. We offer bonuses and rewards for excellence in customer service and a sign on bonus on some routes. To see if routes are available in your area call 208-726-3348 today or visit us online www.magicvalley.com

### NIGHT DISPATCH

Position available with local Trucking Company. Form to fill with rotating 4 days on, 4 days off. Contact Mark at 324-4255. EOE

### MEDICAL

**NIGHT OWL INSOMNIAC?** WANT NOT PART TIME TO WORK FOR YOU!

### NATION'S

needed for No Shifts Positions available in Alzheimer Care Unit and in LTC. Dawn Otero 208-724-8848 or apply in person 840 Filer Ave W., Farm Manager +WAC. ID 83301

### PLUMBING

Master Rooter Plumbing is looking for a licensed Journeyman Service Plumber. Great pay, benefits & retirement. Please Call 735-9191

## 200 Employment

### MEDICAL

**RN Consultant** needed 4 hours a month. Call Theresa 508-2042

### PROFESSIONAL

Progressive Behavior Systems is seeking an IBI Professional to provide quality and ethical IBI services. Flexible hours. Competitive wages DOE. Also need Developmental Therapist after school. Competitive wage DOE. Call 208-438-4911.

### PROFESSIONAL

**PSR Worker**, needed to work with children & adults. PT & FT avail. Benefits avail. Send resume to 634 Filer Ave. Ste 1050 Twin Falls, ID 83301 or fax 736-0999

### PROFESSIONAL

**The American Red Cross of Greater Idaho** is looking for a Health and Safety Director for the local office. Person must be motivated, organized and outgoing. Position will require computer and presentation skills, knowledge of the community and an interest in Red Cross. Contact Whitney Beem for more info at 1-800-853-2570 x 302

### RANCH

General Ranch Worker Drive a feed truck, maintenance and repair, fence, irrigate, and ride, Ramona, S. Idaho Ranch. Call 208-857-2385

### RECEPTIONIST

Part-Time in Fairfield. Medical office. Receptionist/Secretary needed 3 days per week for clinic in Fairfield. Send resume to FHS, Attn: A. Snyder 794 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301

### RESTAURANT

**COOK** Needed. Experienced. Apply in person 825 N Lincoln Jerome or call 208-334-3726

## TECHNICIANS

**WE NEED TECHNICIANS!**  
**YEAR ROUND EMPLOYMENT!**  
No Experience? No Problem!  
Must have own Truck or Cargo Van.  
Piece Rate Wages \$25 and Up per Job!  
Get paid for the work you do!  
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EOE/DFW/F  
Fax to 208-461-2108  
Attn: Chris or email manager@starwestsatellite.net or For Details Call 866-317-9399



## TECHNICIAN

**THE AMALGAMATED SUGAR COMPANY LLC**

We have an excellent opportunity at our Twin Falls, Idaho sugar beet processing facility for a:

### DRAFTING TECHNICIAN

Candidates must prepare clear, complete and detailed drawings using AutoCad software and hand drafting techniques. Must produce properly illustrated design specifications in a readable and appropriate manner using information from sketches and blue prints. Be familiar with the latest drafting techniques, tools and programs.

Looking for someone with 2 or more years... of drafting technology training and/or experience in using drafting equipment which provides the knowledge, skills and abilities to meet the requirements of the job.

We offer an excellent benefit package and competitive salary.  
Interested applicants may mail resumes, including salary history, to:

**The Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC**  
Attn: Ron Olsen  
3184 Elder Street  
Boise, Idaho 83705

(We do not accept faxed or e-mailed resumes.)  
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F

## SALES

**ROB GREEN** President, Buildz GMC Pleasant, Myrtle

**Rob Green Auto Group** is now hiring for the following position:

**Sales Position**

Excellent opportunity for growth.

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Call Jeff Malmstrom 731-3927  
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## SALES

**Advertising Sales Representative / Real Estate Specialist**  
The Times-News is seeking an enthusiastic, self-motivated and goal-driven individual to join our advertising sales team. This individual will develop and sell advertising campaigns to existing clients and potential advertisers, service advertiser accounts, write ad copy and prepare sales presentations. Experience in real estate sales is a plus.

The successful applicant should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, effective time management and organizational skills. The ability to multi-task and work with deadlines in a fast-paced environment are essential. Sales experience or a bachelor's degree is preferred; must possess a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and good driving record.

We offer an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation. To learn more about the Times-News and its parent company, check out our website at [www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com) or [www.tee.net](http://www.tee.net)

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to:  
**Times-News,**  
Attn: Human Resources,  
Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303  
or email [mary.karren@tee.net](mailto:mary.karren@tee.net)

## MANAGER

**Apartment Manager** full-time. Need strong computer and leasing skills. Must be bondable. Salary plus commission. Send resume and salary requirements to [jalvins@hotmail.com](mailto:jalvins@hotmail.com)

## MECHANIC

Mechanic needed. Wages DOE up to \$25/hr. Heavy equipment, Diesel engine. Hyd is helpful. Send resume to P.O. Box 1431 Twin Falls, ID 83303 or fax 208-735-0804

## DARY

Experienced Milker needed. Call 208-731-4060.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- \* Forklift/Cold storage
- \* Mechanic-Diesel
- \* Machine Operator
- \* Welder-stainless
- \* Concrete/ Carpenter
- \* Farm Manager +WAC
- \* P/T Scale House
- \* Sid Resort
- \* CNC Operator
- \* Milker
- \* 735 Overland Ave Burley, ID Call 678-4040

## OPERATOR

The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications for a **WATER DEPARTMENT OPERATOR**. Beginning monthly salary is \$2150 plus a comprehensive benefit package. Under supervision performs heavy physical labor and, as needed, operates various vehicles and equipment involved in the installation, maintenance and repair of city water lines. High school diploma or GED required. Must have, or be able to obtain, a Class A CDL with tanker endorsement within 30 days of employment; live within 15 miles of the City limits; and be able to obtain a Class I water license. A City employment application and job description are available at [www.tfid.org](http://www.tfid.org). For additional information contact the Personnel Office located in City Hall, 321 2nd Ave E or phone (208) 735-2586. Closing date is 12/15/06; The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Drug Free Workplace.

## SALES

**Professional Outside Sales Rep** needed. Must have 2 yrs. outside sales experience, proven successes, 2 yrs. college and ability to travel. Insurance experience helpful, but not necessary. Potential \$50,000-\$70,000 first year with base pay and bonus, company car, benefits, paid expenses, 401K and pension plan. FAX resume to: 509-931-1997, or e-mail to: [carla.edwards@af-group.com](mailto:carla.edwards@af-group.com)

# Keep up with the auctions.

You never know what you'll find!

Check **The Times-News Magic Valley and Classified** sections, and log on to [www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com) for local auction information and times.

For More Information, Contact Jill Hollon: 208-735-3222

## The Times-News

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• Brookfield Ct. • Galepa Ct. • Stonercrest Ct. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Ironwood Dr. • Alderwood Dr. • Palmbrush Dr. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Adams St. • Jefferson St. • Madison St. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Lynwood Blvd. • Fremont St. • Alder St. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>
• Carriage Ln. • Eastgate Dr. • Sagebrush Dr. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Morning Sun Dr. • Del-Mar Dr. • Carriage Ln. N. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Bitterbrush Dr. • Sagebrush Dr. • Trotter Dr. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Twin Parks Dr. • Park Meadows Cir. • Parkway Dr. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>
• 11th Ave. E. • Addison Ave. E. • Maple Ave. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Crestwood Dr. • Del-Mar Dr. • Sherry Dr. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Jackson St. • Monroe St. • Quincy St. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Harrison St. • Tyler St. • Van Buren St. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>
• Anny Dr. E. • Ashley Dr. • Bradley St. <b>TWIN FALLS</b>	• Main to 16th • Conant & Burton • Park Ave. <b>BURLEY</b>	• 4th Ave. E. • 3rd Ave. E. • Link Apartments <b>JEROME</b>	• S. Lincoln Ave. • W. Ave. G • W Ave. I (Sign on Bonus) <b>JEROME</b>
<b>Substitutes Needed</b>	• 15th Ave. E. • 16th Ave. E. • 17th Ave. E. (Sign on Bonus) <b>FILER</b>	Town Routes Sign On Bonus <b>FILER</b>	<b>Sign on Bonuses!</b>

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 Twin Falls: **Kristyn Canary 735-3346**  
 Burley, Hazelton, Rupert, Heyburn, Oatley & Kimberly: **Brad Foy 735-3346**







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HABIT ESCORIAL  
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**PC#150**  
\$8,900 Twin Falls MLS#98279164  
3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths (Cray trailer, sufficient  
unless everything you need.  
Maintenance 529-2626, Michele 404-9519

**PC#211**  
\$59,900 Buhl MLS#98249309  
Fantastic view of river level 5 acres  
Kathie Schneider 731-9819 or 737-3917  
kalschneider@prattrealestate.com

**PC#732**  
\$65,000 Arroyo MLS#98272849  
1 acre building lot with water 1.5kts available  
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**PC#722**  
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3 bedrooms 2 baths Affordable starter  
home with extended 1 car garage.  
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3 bedrooms, 1 bath (fenced) with the property  
Country storage  
Kathy 737-3918 Ron 737-3912 Elm 255-2524

**PC#200**  
\$90,000 Arroyo MLS#98272639  
Great restaurant location in the heart of  
Arroyo  
Alex Catalano 529-2758 or James 737-3914

**PC#201**  
\$124,900 Buhl MLS#98278146  
3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths Over-sized yard with  
huge sunsets. Recently repainted interior  
Alex Catalano 529-2758 or James 737-3914

**PC#202**  
Klondike MLS#98262325/98263258  
\$131,000 Cash flow! Beautiful wooded lot,  
view, nature on your front door  
Stacy Shelton 308-1101

**PC#203**  
\$128,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278544  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths (Covewood) New  
floor!  
The Gem Team Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

**PC#204**  
\$128,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278944  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths Many recent updates  
Speakers/Escortment RV spot  
Nichole Webb 529-2758 or 737-3906

**PC#205**  
\$144,900 Himesha MLS#98279102  
MLS acres with water shares & more  
Alex Catalano 529-2758  
James Rosen 737-3914

**PC#206**  
\$144,900 Twin Falls MLS#98274656  
3 Bedrooms, 2 baths  
Great Deck! No wait!  
The Gem Team Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

**PC#207**  
\$148,500 Buhl MLS#98276982  
4.5 acres Kanaha Rippled Spectacular  
storage on Creek Geothermal water  
Dorothy Cole 543-5790 or 737-3903

**PC#208**  
\$149,900 Twin Falls MLS#98281329  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths "Covewood" by  
Woburn Homes 1 level 1275 sq ft.  
The Gem Team Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

**PC#209**  
\$149,900 Twin Falls MLS#98283318  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths "Woodland" by  
Woburn Homes 1 level 1300 sq ft.  
Web 737-3939 Arroyo 404-9495 James 737-3914

**PC#210**  
\$149,900 Arroyo MLS#98279208  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths Big lot for garden &  
shop potential  
The Gem Team Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

**PC#211**  
\$149,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278443  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths Brand new! No wait!  
The Gem Team Arroyo  
Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

**PC#212**  
\$153,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278816  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths New home! No wait!  
The Gem Team Arroyo  
Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

**PC#213**  
\$154,900 Twin Falls MLS#98283037  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths "Covewood" by  
Woburn Homes  
Arroyo 404-9495 James 737-3914

**PC#214**  
\$159,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278940  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths "Covewood 4" by  
Woburn Homes  
Alex Catalano 529-2758 James 737-3914

**PC#215**  
\$179,900 Twin Falls MLS#98276141  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths The "Majic" by  
Woburn Homes  
The Gem Team Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

**PC#216**  
\$198,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278463  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths Brand new! No wait!  
The Gem Team Arroyo  
Arroyo 404-9495 Web 737-3939

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on the INTERNET at  
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Go to the Twin Falls site,  
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found in our ads.

**PC#217**  
\$169,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278944  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths The "Woodland" by  
Woburn Homes  
Alex Catalano 529-2758 James 737-3914

**PC#218**  
\$174,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278953  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths Separate living, family  
& computer room.  
The Gem Team Arroyo Web 737-3939

**PC#219**  
\$179,900 Twin Falls MLS#98279497  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths The "Majic" by  
Woburn Homes  
Alex Catalano 529-2758 Web 737-3939

**PC#220**  
\$199,900 Klondike MLS#98282642  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths 1/2 acre maintained  
property with all the extras  
David Tibby 404-9495

**PC#221**  
\$299,900 Twin Falls MLS#98272653  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths (Double 340) sq ft  
Vintage home-Double car garage  
Dorothy Cole 543-5790 or 737-3903

**PC#222**  
\$239,900 Twin Falls MLS#98272147  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths Exceptional value-  
home on 1.57 acre-Rest for horses  
Vicki Sauer 200-8043

**PC#223**  
\$299,900 Twin Falls MLS#98279761  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths The "Secret" by  
Woburn Homes  
Web 737-3939 Arroyo 404-9495 James 737-3914

**PC#224**  
\$269,000 Twin Falls MLS#98272446/2346  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths Outstanding landscaping  
with lot of privacy  
Dorothy Cole 543-5790 or 737-3903

**PC#225**  
\$299,900 Twin Falls MLS#98277714  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths (Cypress newer)  
home in great neighborhood  
The Gem Team Arroyo Web 737-3939

**PC#226**  
\$299,900 Twin Falls MLS#98278883  
4 bedrooms, 2 baths The "Secret" by  
Woburn Homes 1 level 1600 sq ft  
Web 737-3939 Alex 737-3917 Kathy 68-4664

**PC#227**  
\$359,900 Twin Falls MLS#98280215  
6 bedrooms, 2 baths Country living at its  
best 3 acres on Aerial!  
Alex Catalano 529-2758 James 737-3914

**PC#228**  
\$375,000 Twin Falls MLS#98272543  
4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths (beautiful) spacious  
home on 1 acre  
Alex 529-2758 James 737-3914

**PC#229**  
\$379,000 Klondike MLS#98274749  
Big 6600 sq. ft. 4 bps 14 overhead doors  
The Gem Team Arroyo  
Web 737-3939

**PC#230**  
\$395,000 Buhl MLS#9827779781  
Kanaha Rippled 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths  
Beautiful home overlooking creek  
Dorothy Cole 543-5790 or 737-3903

**PC#231**  
\$499,900 Klondike MLS#98282236  
4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths (Elegant!) Private  
Spectacular location!  
Dorothy Cole 543-5790 or 737-3903

**PC#232**  
\$625,000 Twin Falls MLS#98278746  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths (Gated, private access to  
Rock Creek Spectacular home on 3 acres  
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shop & barn, 80 acres with CAT D permit  
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**602 Unfinished Homes**

**Buhl 2 bedroom, 1 bath, mobile home, no pets, long term, \$450 month + deposit. Call 208-543-4342.**

**Buhl 3 bedroom 2 bath country house, \$600 month + 1st, last and cleaning deposit. Ref., Rec. No pets/smoking. Call 208-404-4703**

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475 Rosewood 5 bedroom, 2 bath, \$950 + \$850 deposit.  
2911 Denlee 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$875 + \$875 deposit.  
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NO SMOKING/PETS  
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**602 Unfinished Homes**

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**TWIN FALLS 1956** Laura Circle, 3 bdrm 2 bath Morningside school dist. Avail. now \$850 + dep. 420-5686

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**602 Unfinished Homes**

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**602 Unfinished Homes**

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Westerra Tour Of Homes continues Friday December 15 from 4p to 6p and Saturday December 16 from noon to 3pm. Call our offices in Twin Falls and Jerome Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm if you need directions to any of the locations on the list below.

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~4PM-6PM~  
SATURDAY, DEC 16<sup>TH</sup>  
~12PM-3PM~

Cut out this list or visit our web site to download the most up to date list at [www.westerrarealestate.com](http://www.westerrarealestate.com)

**TWIN FALLS**

- 2320 Settlers Lane.....MLS# 98260399.....Agent: Jeff Blick/Val Hanks
- 2165 Settlers Lane.....MLS# 98271562.....Agent: Jeff Blick/Val Hanks
- 2145 Settlers Lane.....MLS# 98272961.....Agent: Lexi Roth
- 2764 Longbow Dr.....MLS# 98260197.....Agent: Doris Barker/Kay Kendrick
- 2749 Longbow Dr.....MLS# 98274004.....Agent: Doris Barker/Kay Kendrick
- 2720 Longbow Dr.....MLS# 98276328.....Agent: Doris Barker/Kay Kendrick
- 604 Sunbeam.....MLS# 98250012.....Agent: Doris Barker/Kay Kendrick
- 1466 Atlantic St.....MLS# 98276162.....Agent: Doris Barker/Kay Kendrick
- 2217 Settler's Lane.....MLS# 98250241.....Agent: Beckie Kukal
- 1460 Wendell St.....MLS# 98257590.....Agent: Jack Stalley
- 429 Coiner Circle.....MLS# 98272140.....Agent: Betsy Farence

**KIMBERLY**

- 4042 N 3320 E (Prairie Rose).....MLS# 98259134.....Agent: Clay Wannini
- 1410 Kimberly Meadows Dr.....MLS# 98253259.....Agent: Lexi Roth

**JEROME**

- 23 Northridge.....MLS# 98233979.....Agent: Beckie Kukal

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**JEROME** Links Apts accepting applications. 2 bedrooms available, all appls. W/D hook-up, AC, high speed internet, cable, garages, IHA accepted. Contact Cindy 208-324-0572.

**JEROME** Now taking applications for 1 bdrm apts. Rent based on income. Immediate move-in! Pick up applications 621 South Davis or call for info 324-4929

**JEROME** Prestwick Apts over 62 handicapped or disabled, 1 bdrm, all appls, private patio, AC, incl. IHA accepted. Contact Cindy 324-0572.

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<p><b>604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</b></p> <p><b>KIMBERLY 2 bedroom,</b> 1 bath, large yard, appis, W/D hook up. No smoking. \$550 mo. + dep. 206-324-2244</p> <p><b>KIMBERLY 3 Bedrooms,</b> 5695 Twin Falls Rentals 734-4334 <a href="http://twinfallsrentals.com">twinfallsrentals.com</a></p> <p><b>SANTA STOPS TO VISIT! WHY DON'T YOU!</b> Fawnbrook Apts. 734-1800 847 Fawnbrook Ave. Handicap accessible Equal Housing Opportunity</p> <p><b>WHAT A NEW TO START CHRISTMAS!</b> 1st month free! (1st month rent) • 10 beds • Rent like you'd live in it • 21 hour classes center • Central location • Call for a tour <a href="http://www.thereest.com">www.thereest.com</a> Rivercrest Call (208) 732-0400</p>	<p><b>604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</b></p> <p><b>KIMBERLY Duplex 2</b> large bdrm., 2 bath, office, laundry room, close to schools. No smoking, no pets. \$625 per month. Call Jann at 734-0082 or 731-8891.</p> <p><b>KIMBERLY/Twin Falls</b> You can own! EZ down E-2 payments. Call 208-410-2332.</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 1 &amp; 2</b> bdrm apts \$400-\$425 + deposit. No pets. Call eves 733-3669.</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 1, 2, &amp; 3 Bedrooms</b> 3500 - 5895 <a href="http://twinfallsrentals.com">twinfallsrentals.com</a></p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 &amp; 3</b> bdrm nice lg newly remodeled, new carpet, oven, W/D hook up \$600 731-8260</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm,</b> 1 1/2 bath, fireplace, AC, DW, W/D. No Pets. Smoking. \$525 month. 736-1603</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm,</b> upstairs opt, no smoking, no pets, no W/D. \$550 + dep 732-8712 or 308-4859</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm,</b> bsmt apt. All util, no pets. Idaho Housing approved. 736-0812</p>	<p><b>604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</b></p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm,</b> duplex, DW, AC, carpet, no smoking/pets. \$525. 208-733-7142.</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm,</b> 1 bath. New paint &amp; flooring. \$500 mo. + dep. No smoking/pets. Call 208-739-0929</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 bedroom</b> 1 bath duplexes, hardwood floors, gas heat. \$25 &amp; 527 Shoup Ave. W. \$225 month + \$400 deposit. No pets/smoking. Call 736-0929</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2 bedroom</b> townhouse units, 1 1/2 baths, all appls, fireplace/AC. No pets, no smoking. Also local area. Call 208-734-4120</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 2, 3, &amp; 4 bdrm.,</b> units Available Now! Ask about our \$100 move in special. <b>Twin Falls Garden Apartments</b> office located at 340 Lois Street Call 208-736-7105</p>	<p><b>604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</b></p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm,</b> 1 1/2 bath townhouse, W/D hook-ups, \$595 a mo. New carpets, no dogs. 734-3194</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm,</b> 2 bath apt w/garage at 377 Morningglow Dr. \$650 per mo. + dep. No smoking, no pets. Call 208-490-6527.</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom,</b> 2 bath, \$500 mo + \$500 dep. 3250 N. 2300 E. South of Flar. Call 208-420-1301 after-4pm.</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 304 Blue Lakes #1</b> 2 bdrm, appls, W/D, \$485; 317 1st Ave E 1 bdrm, appls. \$375. No pets/smoking Call 208-735-0473</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS 321 N. Morningglow #2</b> 3 bdrm, 2 bath, \$700 dep. Call 280-2537</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS A newer</b> 3 bedroom, 2 bath 4-pkx near CSI. Yard and garage. W/D hook-ups, paid water and garbage. No pets/smoking. \$625 + dep. 570 Jackson St. #3 Call 510-853-4559</p> <p><b>Classified.</b> The answer to all your questions. 733-0931 ext. 2</p>	<p><b>604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</b></p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS APTS,</b> 382 Bracken Ave. W. #B 2 bdrm., 1 bath, kitchen appl, W/D, elec heat/AC. \$575 + \$575 dep. No smoking/pets. 1948 Addison Ave. E. #C 2 bdrm., 1 bath, kitchen appliances, W/D, hook-up, gas heat/AC. \$550 month + \$550 dep. No smoking/pets. Veah Property Management Lyle @ 731-4559</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS Clean 2</b> bdrm, AC, private W/D, appliances, downtown. No pets. 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Free to call for more information or free turn key estimates 208-408-4345 <a href="mailto:frg@triconstruction.com/crossroads.htm">frg@triconstruction.com/crossroads.htm</a></p>	<p><b>604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</b></p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS NICE</b> size 2 bdrm, split level, appls, elect heat, carpet, \$525 month. The Magnet 733-0739</p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS quiet</b> clean lg 2 bdrm 1 bath garage w/d patio AC gas, W/D hook up no pets/smoking \$575 + dep 208-420-3555</p> <p><b>WENDELL</b> Now accepting applications for 2 bdrm apartments. Clean &amp; moderate. Convenient location. Appls turn, DW, disposal, laundry rm on premises &amp; rent based on income. Rancho Verde Apts. Wendell 536-4244</p>	<p><b>604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</b></p> <p><b>TWIN FALLS studio</b> apartment. \$225 mo. + dep. 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Bottom: Bob Drake (Loan Officer), Lu Gosar (Loan Officer/Transaction Partner), Corrinno Long (Administrative Assistant)

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ANSWER: Using the Michaels cue-bid to show both majors over a minor-suit opening, or the other major and an unspecified minor over a major-suit opening) combines well with the unusual no-trump. I use the call on hands with good playing strength in the suits. Ace-fith is unsuitable, Q-J-9-fith far more appropriate, and unless an unfavorable vulnerability, I do not need to wait for a decent hand to act.

Dear Mr. Wolff: Holding ♠ Q-7-3, ♥ A-J-5-♦ 2-K-5, ♣ K-10-3, I opened one heart and raised a one-spade response to two. My partner said he would have preferred a rebid of one no-trump, though the net result of my action was to help get us to a decent game of four spades! What do you think about the raise?

ANSWER: While I would rather have four trumps to raise, I am prepared to raise when I hold three trumps in a semibalanced hand. In your example I would bid to the death your choice to raise, but with guards in both minors, bidding one no-trump is also acceptable. However, if you had A-K-J-fifth of hearts and a small doubleton diamond, the direct raise would be the only sensible action.

Dear Mr. Wolff: How much does one need to raise a level overall? Last week my partner was to help get us in a flat six-count and heard my partner bid two clubs over one heart. When the next hand passed, should I have been thinking about raising obstructively, or should I have passed and then competed on the next round?

ANSWER: Some balanced hands offer more prospects than others. With a balanced six-count, all queens and jacks, you probably should not raise. Partner will be hoping to buy just a little more from you, and may overcompete or sacrifice. By contrast, with say, K-J-fourth of spades, a doubleton heart, four small diamonds and queen-third of clubs, you offer partner some bits and pieces, not to mention the chance of heart ruffs in dummy. So that hand would have gone to raise.

Dear Mr. Wolff: In third seat, when does one judge to open hands that would be passed in other seats? And are the criteria for opening a major the same as for opening a minor?

ANSWER: In third-seat openings, a minor does not generally obstruct the opponents that much. So one should not open a minor suit, except with real shape, or for the lead. So, pass balanced 9-11 counts unless you really want the suit led that you have bid. The situation is murkier with majors, when you can obstruct the opponents more easily. Generally, I tend to bid with good suits or shapely hands, and worry about the consequences later.

Dear Mr. Wolff: Holding ♠ A-Q-7-3, ♥ J, ♣ 6-5, A-Q-7-4-2, I opened one club to leave myself room to bid spades. That worked out badly when the opponents bounced to four hearts, and I had no room to bid spades safely. Was I unlucky here, or misguided?

Chain Reaction, Houston, Texas

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at *bobbyw@midwestnet.com*.  
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Call 208-678-8193.</p>	<p><b>1010 Autos</b></p> <p><b>Looking for Autos Wheels</b> (Twin Falls) <b>Wheels.com</b></p> <p>Check us out @ <a href="http://www.wheels.com">www.wheels.com</a></p> <p><b>MIDDLEKAUFF</b> (Twin Falls) 208-733-7700</p> <p><b>MERCURY '02 Sable</b>, V6, auto, air, PW, PL, alloy wheels. \$6986</p> <p><b>MIDDLEKAUFF</b> (Twin Falls) 208-733-7700</p> <p><b>MERCURY '94 Sable</b> 3.8 liter eng., air, power. No dents/brakes. \$2,000. 326-4451</p> <p><b>CARS WANTED!!</b> Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY! Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.</p> <p><b>OLDS '97 Aurora</b>, blue, V-8, front WD, heated leather seats, fully loaded. Drives like a dream. \$5,000/offer. Call 208-678-8193.</p>	<p><b>1010 Autos</b></p> <p><b>NISSAN '06 Altima 2.5S</b>, 7,000 miles, power everything, CD, alloy wheels. \$20,500. Call 208-431-1232</p> <p><b>OLDSMOBILE '91</b> Model 98, runs great, two owners, \$1,350 or best offer. 731-1026</p> <p><b>PONTIAC '00 Firebird</b>, 2 door, V6, 3.6L, auto, RWD, \$9966</p> <p><b>MIDDLEKAUFF</b> (Twin Falls) 208-733-2480</p> <p><b>PONTIAC '03 Bonneville</b>, GM certified, PW, PL, PM, spoiler, alloy wheels. Stock #2752 \$11,931</p> <p><b>CHEVROLET</b> (Twin Falls) 208-733-3033</p> <p><b>PONTIAC '03 Grand AM</b>, PW, PL, PD, CD, auto, cruise. Stock# 2497 \$9555</p> <p><b>CHEVROLET</b> (Twin Falls) 208-733-3033</p>	<p><b>1010 Autos</b></p> <p><b>PONTIAC '05 Grand Prix</b> electric windows, locks &amp; seats, cruise. Come in and take a look. \$10,495. Harms Auto. Call 208-829-5000</p> <p><b>PONTIAC '94 Grand Am</b>, SE, 2 door, V6, 3.1L, auto, FWD, \$1986</p> <p><b>MIDDLEKAUFF</b> (Twin Falls) 208-733-2480</p> <p><b>SUBARU '01 Outback</b> Impreza Sport, AWD, new tires &amp; brakes, cruise, power, 83K miles. \$8900/offer. 420-5504 or 734-8523</p> <p><b>SUBARU '05 Outback</b> wagon, gold, full power, 17K miles. \$18,200. 732-5770</p> <p><b>TOYOTA '04 Camry</b> LE. Like new, electric seats &amp; most options. \$12,995. Harms Auto. Call 208-829-5000</p> <p><b>TOYOTA '85 Corolla</b> 150K, 35 mpg, needs tune up. \$599. Call 320-0646 or 308-2500</p> <p><b>TOYOTA '99 Camry</b>, Seating Grandmas black beauty! 83K hwy miles. 4 cyl. auto, AC, PW, PL, CD, sunroof. \$8200. Call 208-324-3205.</p>	<p><b>1010 Autos</b></p> <p><b>CARS WANTED!!</b> Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY! Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.</p> <p><b>VW '00 Jetta</b> manual transmission, clean, low miles. Must see! \$8,200/offer. 733-9048</p> <p><b>VW '00 Passat</b> 1.8 turbo 5 speed, 35 mpg. PW, PL &amp; heated seats, new tires, well maintained. \$7500/offer 208-316-2366</p> <p><b>VW '01 Beetle</b>, sunroof, CD, PW, PL, only \$9995</p> <p><b>LUTHIA</b> (Twin Falls) 208-733-4776</p> <p><b>WARNING</b></p> <p>When purchasing a vehicle, make sure that the title is in the name of the seller. Under Idaho motor vehicle code a vehicle cannot be sold unless the title is in the name of the seller (exception: Idaho licensed dealer). The seller shall provide the new purchaser a signed bill of sale showing the following: Full description of the vehicle, vehicle identification number, amount paid and name(s) and address of the new purchaser. The bill of sale must be signed, dated and show actual mileage at the time of sale. If you have any questions, please contact your local assessor's office.</p> <p><b>WHO can help YOU sell your car?</b> Classifieds. Call! 733-0931 ext. 2 <a href="http://twadad@magicvalley.com">twadad@magicvalley.com</a></p> <p><b>1011 Import And Sports Cars.</b></p> <p><b>MERCEDES BENZ '00</b> E320, 4 door, only 37K miles, like new, mint car, loaded, white, \$19,950. Call 731-0392.</p>
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Bang your drum:  
Steelpan drumming  
program leads to  
success, E6

**SUNDAY**  
DECEMBER 10, 2006

INSIDE: Senior calendar, E2 | Dear Abby, E4 | Horoscope, E3 | Stork report, E5 | Engagements, weddings anniversaries, E5

## More wishes from care center residents

Times-News

For many years, *Times-News* readers have opened their hearts to give holiday gifts to residents of assisted living centers.

Today, we offer another such opportunity.

This wish list — submitted by SunBridge Care and Rehab in Twin Falls — was inadvertently left out of the lists we printed last Sunday.

Each resident is identified by gender and a number. Deliver gifts to Craig Nebeker or the activities department at SunBridge no later than Dec. 20; to reserve a resident number, call him at 734-8645.

1 F: Slippers, gardening calendar, sugar-free candy and eyeglass chain.

2 F: Jewelry (pierced ears), XL sweat pants, various candles and shower cap.

3 M: Chocolate candy handkerchiefs and lighthouse calendar.

4 F: Beaded necklace, sugar-free candy, trail mix, dried fruit, various colored yarns and Gold Bond powder.

5 F: Floral calendar, sugar-free candy and XL slippers.

6 F: Beaded necklace, pink nail polish, flower calendar and wind chimes.

7 F: L buttoned sweater and fleece lap quilt.

8 F: Sugar-free chocolates, XXL sweater, dried-fruit-and-nut mixture.

9 M: Hand-held game, jigsaw puzzles, fleece blanket and candy.

10 M: Calendar, hard candy and XL slipper socks.

11 M: Calendar, hard candy, XXL slipper socks and back scratcher with long handle.

12 F: Elvis memorabilia, stuffed animals, M sweat shirts and microfiber pillow.

13 M: Fishing calendar, aftershave lotion, masculine lotion and fish mobile.

14 M: Baseball or football calendar, aftershave lotion and XL/tall flannel pajamas.

15 M: Large-print daily calendar, high-powered magnifying glass and sugar-free candy.

16 M: Sports pictures, L slipper socks and lap quilt.

17 M: Sports calendar, boxers (size 40-42) and chocolate candy.

18 F: Plant, sugar-free candy, flower calendar and stuffed animal.

19 F: Hand-held game, jigsaw puzzles, fleece blanket and candy.

20 F: Flower calendar, soft-and-chewy or chocolate candy and L slippers.

21 M: Hand-held game, jigsaw puzzles, fleece blanket and candy.

22 F: Hand-held game, jigsaw puzzles, fleece blanket and candy.

23 F: Hand-held game, jigsaw puzzles, fleece blanket and candy.

24 F: Lotion, baby animal calendar and stuffed animal.

25 M: Calendar, lotion and soda.

26 M: L quilted flannel shirt and soft, chewy candy.

27 F: Hard candy, "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books and

Please see SENIORS, Page E2



Larry and Sherrel Olsen of Buhl address a crowd of their 10 children, over 30 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, extended family and close friends during their recent family reunion.

## Reunions bring that old family feeling back

By Blair Koch  
Times-News correspondent

BUHL. — Family reunions are hard to pull off.

Months of planning. Lodging, entertainment, travel and food details ironed out in advance.

But reunions are worth the effort because, if only for a fleeting moment, the nest is full again. And that's a feeling so many parents crave this time of year.

Larry and Sherrel Olsen of Buhl have 10 grown children, ages 45 to 23. The last time everyone was together was nearly five years ago, and a lot has changed. Since then, about a dozen grandchildren were born, one great-grandchild joined the family, and soon a round of older grandkids will be off to college.

The Olsens decided it was high time for a reunion and on Nov. 21 they somehow got all their children together for a night of potluck and memories at Buhl's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 3rd Ward.

"Family members" and "close friends began arriving around 5 p.m., and soon over 40 vehicles filled the parking lot. Inside, children's laughter, along with aromas from a variety of covered dishes, hung merrily in the air.

The roots of the Olsen family are deeply anchored in food, and everyone was asked to share a dish of their most-remembered food.

"Long tables were pushed together, holding about 20 feet of edibles including classic mashed potatoes, green and pasta salads, chicken and lots of Jell-O.

"Some of this we can't forget because we ate so much of it growing up," said Lorré Olsen, the couple's third-oldest child.

Larry prepared his favorite food eaten with the family, sukiyaki — chicken or beef prepared with celery, cabbage, onion, carrots and soy sauce and served over a pile of short-grain brown rice.



Over 30 grandchildren of Larry and Sherrel Olsen line up during the reunion.

"I brought sukiyaki," he told the crowd before they dished up. Someone hollered back and others snickered. "You mean super-icky?"

The dish, however, was eaten. Even appreciated by grown-up tastes.

"This is actually pretty good," Farah Hosman, the couple's oldest, commented to Lorré, who agreed: "I guess that's what happens with age."

During dinner the crowd watched old home movies pro-

jected onto a big screen.

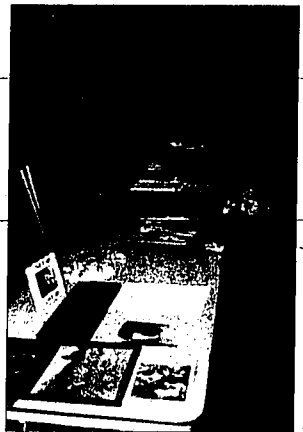
With a look of melancholy, Sherrel watched as her youngest son, Luke, 23, breakdanced as a toddler with his cousin Tia Hosman, about the same age. Her memory shifted further back and she explained the joy of being pregnant with her youngest while her oldest child was pregnant with her first.

"As I watch this video I am able to relive the last 45 years as a

Please see REUNION, Page E3

RIGHT: Josh and Becky Olsen of Kimberly enjoy sharing memories during the Olsen family reunion.

BELOW: Eli Olsen, 5, browses through old family photos and memorabilia. Eli is Larry and Sherrel Olsen's grandson, and son of Enoch Olsen.



## Plastic 'clamshell' packaging leaves many consumers steamed

By Margaret Webb Pressler  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — There's a part of Christmas morning that Tiffany Scay dreams getting everything out of its packaging. The twisties. The tape. The hard plastic ties, like handcuffs for dolls.

"It takes at least 40 minutes to get all the packaging off all the toys," fumes the Fort Washington, Md., mother of two. "I have a 2-year-old and he's like, 'Mommecccc!'"

In an effort to keep toys intact and music players from being pilfered, the consumer products industry has

moved en masse into a style of wrapping that's more prison than package. The hard plastic clamshell container, with its fused seams, is so impenetrable it has even spawned its own safe-cracking tools: razor-sharp gadgets

designed to slash through all that stuff. Manufacturers say molded packaging protects goods on the long journey from Asia.

Please see PACKAGING, Page E3

Holiday letters: Sending news that's not a snooze.  
See page E3

Five ways to take a great family photo for the holidays.  
See page E3

Dreaming of a green Christmas  
See page E4.



"It takes at least 40 minutes to get all the packaging off all the toys" for her two children on Christmas morning, says Tiffany Scay, of Fort Washington, Md. The twisties these hard plastic clamshell containers keep in rampant.

PHOTO COURTESY: THE WASHINGTON POST

# FAMILY LIFE

## Seniors

Continued from page E1

**religious calendar.**  
 28 F: Romance novels, word-search puzzle books and candy.  
 29 F: XL buttoned red sweater, Apple Newton cookies, mini-chocolate donuts and mesh hair nets.  
 30 F: L-sweat shirt and L-slip-pers with rubber sole.  
 31 F: Chocolate candy and M buttoned sweater.  
 32 F: Calendar, lotion and soda.  
 33 F: Motivational books, sugar-free candy, stationery, stamps, colored gel pens and LDS Temple calendar.  
 34 F: Dr Pepper, L-sweat shirt, XL plastic-waist capri pants and hard candy.  
 35 F: Stuffed animal, baby animal calendar and L-slip-pers with rubber sole.  
 36 F: Long housecoat, lap quilt, "Chicken Soup for the Soul" book and LDS Temple calendar.  
 37 F: Animal jigsaw puzzle, animal calendar, candy picture books and magazine.  
 38 F: Stuffed animal, XL sweater (easy to get on) and scenic calendar.  
 39 F: Word-search books, pens, craft kits, soft candy and Pepsi.  
 40 M: TV trivia game and classic-TV DVDs.  
 41 F: Sugar-free hard candy, XXXL T-shirts, lap quilt and XL slipper socks.  
 42 M: Calendar, lotion and soda.  
 43 M: Scenic book about fall in Vermont and fleece blanket.  
 44 M: Fleece blanket, hand-held game and candy.  
 45 M: Calendar, lotion and soda.  
 46 F: Calendar, lotion and soda.  
 47 F: Fleece blanket, hand-held game, candy and L-buttoned sweater.  
 48 F: Fleece blanket, hand-held game, candy and L-buttoned sweater.  
 49 F: Calendar, lotion and soda.  
 50 M: Fleece blanket, hand-held game and candy.  
 51 F: Fleece blanket, hand-held game, candy and M-buttoned sweater.  
 52 F: Fleece blanket, hand-held game, candy and "This Day in History" daily calendar.  
 53 F: Hand-held games, jigsaw puzzles, fleece blanket and candy.  
 54 F: Fleece blanket, hand-held game, candy and M-buttoned sweater.  
 55 F: Fleece blanket, hand-held game, candy and XL buttoned sweater.  
 56 F: Fleece blanket, hand-held game, candy and L-buttoned sweater.  
 57 F: Fleece blanket, pens, stationery, stamps, candy and XL buttoned sweater.  
 58 M: Scarf hats, Harley-Davidson calendar and large coffee travel mug.  
 59 F: Stuffed animal and nature CD.  
 60 M: Spray perfume, L-slipper socks, L-sweat pants and L-T-shirts.  
 61 F: Hat, jewelry, hair ties, handkerchiefs and floral calendar.  
 62 M: Butter-soft hard candy, XXL T-shirts, baseball cap and root beer.  
 63 M: Soft cookies, peanut butter cups, Peppermint Patties and XL hand shirt.  
 64 F: Stuffed animal, scenic calendar, L-sweat pants and L-sweater.  
 65 F: Stuffed animal, scenic calendar, M-slippers with rubber sole and L-sweater.  
 66 F: Journal, plain M&M's, chocolate pudding cups, collector doll, wind chime and LDS Temple calendar.  
 67 F: Frequent gun, Abba-Zaba candy bars and Sun-Daddy suckers.  
 71 F: Stuffed animal and nature CD.  
 72 F: Bird calendar, bird feeder, birdseed, fleece blanket and hairbrush set.  
 73 M: Fleece blanket, root beer, horse calendar and after-shave lotion.  
 74 F: Quilting flannel, batting, Sizzler gift certificate, LDS Temple calendar, beef sticks and cheese and peanut butter.  
 75 F: Sugar-free candy, LDS Temple calendar, XL slip-pers with rubber soles and fleece lap quilt.

### Twin Falls Senior Center

530 Shoshone St. W.  
 Dinner served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3.50 for seniors. Cost is \$5 for people under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.  
 Pool room open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lounge room available for television, puzzles and reading. Bargain Center open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Menus:**  
 Monday: Taco salad bar, corn chips, cottage cheese salad, cake with strawberries  
 Tuesday: Sweet and sour pork with fruit, vegetables, apple salad, cinnamon roll  
 Wednesday: Meatloaf or liver, potatoes and gravy, corn salad, beefs, bread, carrot cake  
 Thursday: Ham, yams, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, fruit salad, bread, pie  
 Friday: Chili, Jell-O salad, vegetables, fruit bowl, cookie pudding

**Activities:**  
 Tuesday: Magic Valley Bridge Club  
 Monday: Monday bridge, 1 p.m.  
 Quilting  
 Medicine D  
 Tuesday: Ticket Tuesday Blood pressure  
 Wednesday: Medicare D  
 Elks Card Club  
 Backpat Bingo  
 Thursday: Pinochle Christmas dinner Santa Claus treat  
 Friday: Blood pressure  
 Quilting  
 Lunch bingo

### West End Senior Citizens Inc.

1010 Main St., Tuhl  
**Menus:**  
 Today: Fried chicken dinner, 1 p.m.  
 Monday: Soup and sandwiches  
 Tuesday: Polish hot dogs, sauerkraut, potato wedges, salad, applesauce, bread, cookies  
 Wednesday: Cook's choice  
 Thursday: Spaghetti, french bread, green salad, Jell-O with fruit, dessert

**Activities:**  
 Today: Buffet, 1 p.m.; \$4 for seniors, \$5 for people under 60 and \$3 for children 12 and under  
 Monday: Silver Sneakers exercise program, 10 a.m.  
 Cards and dominoes, 6 to 9 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Silver Sneakers exercise program, 10 a.m.  
 Thursday: Blood pressure, 11:45 a.m. to 1 to 3 p.m.  
 Friday: Dinner theater, "Murder at the Prom," 6 p.m.  
 Saturday: Community breakfast, 8 to 10 a.m.; \$3.50 per person  
 Dinner theater, "Murder at the Prom," 6 p.m.

### Filer Senior Haven

222 Main St.  
 Dinners served at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50 for seniors. Home-delivered meals available each meal-time.  
**Menus:**  
 Tuesday: Enchiladas, chips, salsa, green salad, fruit cocktail, cookies  
 Wednesday: Smorgasbord  
 Thursday: Chili, corn bread, tossed salad, pears, brownies  
**Activities:**  
 Monday: Bingo, 7 to 9 p.m.

## Keep the cats happy

Grumman engineers designed their fair share of cat-inspired fighter planes, from the F4F Wildcat to the F-14 Tomcat.

Now, a consortium of retirees from the global-defense company has created the Rock 'N' Roll Cat Feeder, which gets kitties to work for their food, piece by piece.

When a hungry feline grabs onto and pushes the faux cat's ears, it dispenses food.

Owners can adjust how much food gets released by raising or lowering the tail.

Available from [www.catutopia.com](http://www.catutopia.com) or call 886-RNR-CATS.

## SENIOR CALENDAR

**Tuesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.**  
 Bingo, noon  
 Games, 1 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.  
 Cards and games, 1 p.m.  
 Thursday: Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m.  
 Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.  
 Bingo, 1 p.m.  
 Friday: Lunch at the Twin Falls Senior Center

### Jerome Senior Center

212 First Ave. E.  
 All dinners served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3.50.  
**Menus:**  
 Monday: Creamed turkey over biscuits, corn, fruit, cottage cheese  
 Tuesday: Pork chow mein over rice, Oriental vegetables, green salad, zucchini bread, fruit  
 Wednesday: Porcupine, meatballs over potatoes, carrots, Jell-O with fruit, cake  
 Thursday: Chicken tenderloin, potato wedges, green beans, colelaw, fruit, apple bits  
 Friday: Barbecue ribs, au gratin potatoes, winter mix vegetables, fruit salad, pudding

### Activities

Monday: Silver Sneakers fitness class, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
 Tuesday: Pinochle, 1 p.m. Snack bar, 6 p.m.  
 Bingo, 7 p.m.; early bird, 6:45 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Silver Sneakers fitness class, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
 Pinochle, 7 p.m.  
 Thursday: Board meeting, 10 a.m.  
 Foot clinic, 1 p.m.  
 Bingo, 1:30 p.m.  
 Cooking with Ada  
 Friday: Silver Sneakers fitness class, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
 Election of board members  
 Pinochle, 1 p.m.  
 Humana, 1 p.m.

### Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.

310 Main St. N., Kimberly  
 Milk, coffee, juice and tea served.  
**Menus:**  
 Full-serve salad bar, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday.  
 Wednesday and Friday: take-out available: \$4 for seniors 60 and above, \$5 for people under 60, \$2.50 for children under 12  
 Thursday: Cheesy tuna wrap, Oriental vegetables, applesauce cake  
 Wednesday: Ham, scalloped potatoes, dessert  
 Friday: Oven-fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, corn, cake, ice cream

### Activities

Monday: Nu-2-U Thrift Store open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.  
 AA meeting, 8 p.m.  
 Al-Anon meeting, 8 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Nu-2-U Thrift Store open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.  
 Thursday: NA meeting, 7 p.m.  
 Friday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.  
 Bingo, 11:50 a.m.  
 Pinochle, 1 p.m.

### Gooding County Senior Citizens

308 Senior Ave.  
 All dinners are at noon. Suggested donation \$3 for seniors.  
**Menus:**  
 Monday: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, green

beans, carrot salad, french fries, pluto cobler  
 Tuesday: Chicken a la king, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, three-bean salad, bread sticks, cookie  
 Wednesday: Baked trout, potato wedges, spinach, tossed salad, french bread, cinnamon roll  
 Thursday: Roast beef, potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrots, applesauce, Jell-O, whole wheat roll, cake with lemon sauce

### Activities

Monday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Pinochle, 12:30 p.m.  
 Wild One, 6 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.  
 Hand and foot, 6 p.m.  
 Bridge, 6:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Board meeting, 1 p.m.  
 Shuffleboard, 6 p.m.  
 Thursday: Quilt social, 9 a.m.  
 Pool, 9:30 a.m.  
 Music by June Koonce  
 Pinochle, 7 p.m.  
 Friday: Bridge and duplicate bridge, 1 p.m.  
 Bowling, 1:30 p.m.

### Hagerman Senior Center

140 E. Lake  
 Open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; lunch is served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors; \$4 for other adults; and \$2 for children under 12. Thrift shop open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
**Menus:**  
 Monday: Pork chops, potatoes, vegetables, salad, fruit, bread, dessert  
 Wednesday: Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, fruit, bread, dessert  
 Friday: Potato bar, baked potatoes, chili, salad, fruit, bread, dessert

### Silver and Gold Senior Center

Eden  
 Suggested donation for seniors is \$3. All meals include salad, dessert, fruit, milk and coffee. Tuesdays are cookie and bread bake days, and Wednesdays are cinnamon roll and maple bar bake days.  
**Menus:**  
 Tuesday: Lasagna, green beans, salad, fruit  
 Thursday: Barbecue chicken, hash brown casserole, mixed vegetables  
**Activities:**  
 Wednesday: bingo, 7 p.m.

### Golden Years Senior Center Inc.

218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone  
**Menus:**  
 Fruit juice, milk and coffee served daily  
 Tuesday: Sauerkraut and wieners, California mix vegetables, mashed potatoes, fruit, homemade rolls, cookies  
 Wednesday: Bean soup, submarine sandwich, apple pie  
 Friday: Stroganoff, steamed rice, buttered beets, green salad, homemade bread, apple enchiladas  
**Activities:**  
 Monday: Exercise, 9 a.m. Coffee, 9:30 a.m.  
 Quilting, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Board meeting, 10:30 a.m.  
 Pinochle, 1 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Scrapbooking, 10 a.m.

Thursday: Exercise, 9 a.m. Coffee, 9:30 a.m.  
 Christmas party, 1 p.m.  
 Friday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.  
 Saturday: Pancake breakfast, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.; public is invited, \$3 per person

### Richfield Senior Center

**Menus:**  
 Fruit juice, milk and coffee served daily.  
 Monday: Lasagna, buttered peas and carrots, green salad, garlic sticks, pineapple upside-down cake  
 Thursday: Bean soup, hamburgers, pumpkin pie

### Blaine County Senior Center

721 Third Ave. S., Halsey  
**Menus:**  
 Tuesday: Lasagna, green salad, garlic bread, Italian mix vegetables, banana pudding  
 Wednesday: Ham, scalloped potatoes, rolls, peas, pineapple-cottage cheese salad, pumpkin bars  
 Friday: Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, hot rolls, green beans, sunshine salad, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting  
**Activities:**  
 Monday: Trip to Hansen to see Christmas lights, 3 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m.  
 Exercise, 1:15 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Red Hat's meetings, 11 a.m.  
 Yoga, 5:30 p.m.  
 Thursday: Massage therapy, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 Exercise at American Legion Hall (Ketchum), 1:30 p.m.  
 Friday: Sing-a-long, 11:45 a.m.  
 Christmas lunch with entertainment

### Three Island Senior Center

492 E. Cleveland Ave., Glens Ferry  
 Meals served at noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; beverages with meals. Binges available by phoning the center at 366-2051. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors, \$5 for people under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.  
**Menus:**  
 Tuesday: Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, spinach, carrot-pineapple salad, whole wheat bread  
 Thursday: Pork roast, brown rice, mushroom gravy, mixed vegetables, citrus salad, whole wheat bread  
**Activities:**  
 Monday: Potluck, 6 p.m.  
 Tuesday: Quilting, 1 p.m.  
 Wednesday: Birthday bingo, 2 p.m.  
 Thursday: Business meeting, 12:30 p.m.; election of officers, 1 p.m.  
 Friday: TOPS, 9 a.m.

### Golden Heritage Senior Center

2421 Overland Ave., Burley  
**Menus:**  
 Monday: Barbecue on a bun, later tots, mixed vegetables, salad, miscellaneous desserts  
 Tuesday: Italian chicken sandwich, vegetable soup, green salad, pudding cups  
 Wednesday: Birthday and anniversary dinner  
 Thursday: Nachos, cottage cheese with fruit, dessert  
 Friday: Hot beef sandwich, potatoes, vegetables, roll, assorted salads, assorted desserts  
**Activities:**  
 Monday: Pool  
 Pinochle, 1 p.m.  
 Blood pressure check  
 Exercise  
 Tuesday: Pool  
 Wood carving, 8:30 a.m.  
 Radio show, 9:06 a.m.  
 Wednesday: Pool  
 Pinochle, 1 p.m.  
 Exercise  
 Hearing aid checkup  
 Thursday: Pool  
 Exercise  
 Annual meeting, 11:30 a.m.  
 Board meeting, 1 p.m.  
 Community pinochle, 6 p.m.  
 Woodcarving, 6 p.m.  
 Friday: Pool  
 Exercise  
 Pinochle, 1 p.m.  
 Bingo, 1 p.m.

### Camas County Senior Center

127 E. Willow, Fairfield  
 Noon meals are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on meal days. Suggested donation for the meal is \$4 for above; \$2 for children under 10.  
**Menus:**  
 Tuesday: Sloppy Joe, cottage cheese, fruit, salad, bread, cookie  
 Wednesday: Soup and sandwich, fruit, salad

## FREE CAR WASH!

**Dec. 16th 9-4**  
**7 Tokens Only \$20!**

Enter to WIN 100 FREE Car Washes with each token package purchased!

Perfect Stocking Stuffers!

243 Blue Lakes Rd.  
 Access from Blockbuster

## Reunion

Continued from page E1

mother. I watch them as children growing up into adults, and I am thrilled beyond words with all of them," Sherrel said.

Reliving the past — before it's too far gone — is what reunions are for. Even close family friends tend to get the group here the family-affected others around it.

"I can remember specifically when I met each of you," Julie VanSickle of Huhl told the Olsen children. "And I remember when your spouses joined the family. You're like my family."

VanSickle got to know the Olsens at Miracle Hot Springs, which has been in the family since its creation in 1959 by Larry's father, Don Olsen.

The now-popular Huhl hot springs was found during a duck-hunting excursion in 1959. After tracking down the land's owner, Don Olsen purchased the property, and together father and son built the first six-hot-spring, fed-baths in 1961.

"Back then it was just seagrass. There were no trees or lawn, nothing," Larry said. "Now there are 19 baths and the swimming pool, along with places to spend the night, and it is still in the family. My sons Nathan (35) and Leigh (33) run it now."

No family reunion would be complete without funny stories of the past. Bob Burnham of Jerome, "Larry's friend since childhood, had plenty to share with the extended family, including a tale of how one lucky dog got away — after being shot at with arrows by

"We want our family to know that we love and appreciate each and every one of them. We love them each and every day, even without reunions. But it is nice to have everyone under one roof, even if just for a meal."

— Sherrel Olsen

both of them until their arsenal was depleted.

"I'm lucky to have a friend like Larry," he said. "Over the years we have gotten to have quite a few memories together."

It may be another five years before the Olsens all get together again, although they hope not. By then even more grandchildren may have been born or married. Some may have college diplomas, careers and growing families of their own.

Although time and space may come between, Sherrel said, they are bonded by something bigger: love.

"We want our family to know that we love and appreciate each and every one of them. We love them each and every day, even without reunions," she said. "But it is nice to have everyone under one roof, even if just for a meal."

## Packaging

Continued from page E1

Retailers say the heat-sealed edges keep shoppers from opening them in stores. And products certainly look picture-perfect in that clear plastic bubble.

"But once you've gotten it home," said Joan Hines, a Georgia-based packaging consultant to manufacturers, "then it's open at your peril."

The viral these packages inspire is so rampant the industry has a name for it: wrap rage. Georgia Taylor, of Woodbridge, Va., has it.

"I hate it. I hate it," the IRS manager says of the ubiquitous plastic clamshell. "Sometimes you snap and feel that plastic and it's the real hard kind, you think, 'Do I really want to bother with this?'"

Manufacturers can no longer ignore the soaring consumer complaints. The result, packaging experts say, is that this will be one of the last holiday seasons that require a box cutter.

"They realize it's a problem," said Jim Silver, editor of Toy Wishes magazine. "Over the next two years, they want to transform what the packaging is because they want to make it easier to open."

The always conflicted U.S. consumer feels two ways about packaging, said the design critic and author Thomas Hine.

"You want the virgin product — the product that's untouched by human hands," Hine said.

"Yet when you get it home, the very thing that kept the product pristine is what's keeping you from actually experiencing it. We want it, both ways."

Consider a patent application, granted in 2003 to California-based One Source Consumer Products, an improved kind of clamshell: "The seal between the backing and cover is preferably difficult to compromise, so that human hands have great difficulty opening the backing and cover," it reads.

Then consider the patent granted a year later, to Thomas Perimeter, for the OpenK tool designed for clamshell-cracking. It's put about a million into those frustrated human hands, and demand rises sharply around the holidays, he said. Another version called KickCut is sold in the Home Improvements catalogue.

This year, Consumer Reports magazine gave an award for the worst plastic clamshell packaging to a warehouse store version of a Union cordless phone set: It took 9 minutes 22 seconds to unwrap completely and nearly caused injury to the person using it. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, injuries from plastic packaging resulted in 6,400 visits to emergency rooms in 2004.

Hine is trying to come up with easier-to-open packaging, but spokesman Rex Holloway said many retailers



Consumer anger over needing special tools to open protective plastic has been dubbed 'wrap rage' by the packaging industry.

don't want change. "We've pushed clients for years to use more inviting and minimal wrapping, to no avail. Now that big retailers like Wal-Mart are trying to curb waste, he predicts "a sea change" in how things are presented.

It's not just the difficulty that steams shoppers, it's the environmental impact of all that plastic. "It's just so wasteful," said Jessica McBride, 30, of Falls Church, Va., who actively avoids buying anything that has too much plastic wrapping.

Consumers are way ahead of the industry with these concerns, said Aidan Petric, chief innovation officer of Item Group, a Providence, R.I., product design firm. He pushed clients for years to use more inviting and minimal wrapping, to no avail. Now that big retailers like Wal-Mart are trying to curb waste, he predicts "a sea change" in how things are presented.

Schick's Intuition ladies razor is an example of what's to come. "It has all the presence that people like about the clamshell," said Petric, "with none of the frustration. And in fact it has easy open tabs on it."

## Sending holiday news that's not such a snooze

The Washington Post

Dear Friends, Family and Readers, Happy holidays! What a year it's been. Wait, wait, wait — keep reading! We know this appears to be one of those often-offered, spirit-willing holiday newsletters. They come every year, always with loads to say, sometimes with photos of children losing a battle with adolescence, usually with typos, clichés and gag-worthy puns.

Things couldn't be better in the Bunday household! Great. Maybe what this holiday newsletter business needs is a bit of irreverence, or at least self-awareness.

So do us a favor, and revamp your family newsletter or e-mail. Some advice: • Keep it short. The only thing more tedious than your youngest's graduation is a string of thick paragraphs dedicated to the play-by-play of the ceremony. Tell us one interesting thing about the special event and move on. Anecdotes are always better than meandering prose, and one page is always better than two. Pick three significant events, extract a quick story from them and write it up in four, five tight sentences.

• Even better, forget the year's large events and build a letter out of small but important things, says Dan McGroarty, who teaches speechwriting at George Washington University and helped pen George H.W. Bush's first State of the Union address.

"In one sense, these things can be astonishingly banal, which is OK because it's wonderful that we've passed through another year unscathed," McGroarty says.

• But reporting on it at length is not

necessary. Sometimes they do read like a resume for America's most accomplished family, and that can be a little scary. Try to make virtue of the fact that the year rushes by so fast, and just try to present a handful of moments that say, "We hope you care about this as much as we do."

• Keep it funny. If funny is not your thing, then get a funny family member to do it. Either way, a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down. McGroarty still recalls a friend's letter from 15 years ago that had a memorable one-liner about his daughter, who had just graduated with a degree in criminal justice and "is actively exploring careers in both fields."

Sometimes it's best to make fun of yourself and your family. "Self-deprecation is great," says Al Goodwin, a local stand-up comic who sends a yearly e-mail that is heavy on photos with humorous captions.

"Make it more like a community newsletter," says comic Chris White, who lives on Capitol Hill here. "Include a detailed police report. Also, a 'People on the Move' column can be a coy, charming way of letting people know that you've dated a child or spouse."

"Putting something sarcastic in parentheses after a sentence or a story not only keeps the reader laughing, but gives the letter a more personal tone, too," says Erin Conroy, a comic who just moved to New York. "For example, 'Joe started his new job in October, and he's really optimistic about the potential of this new position. (And you know what they say: The sixth time's the charm.)'"

• Lay, summing up each family member's year in a haiku. For example, this one's from Dad:

Old shed fell over.  
Lies to Home Depot and  
Ate, the ER.

• Think outside the box. Last year, Dallas-based designer Elizabeth Malinkoff finally grew tired of receiving the arguably family newsletter every holiday season.

"It's a fruitcake," she says. "It's a fruitcake that comes in the mail."

So she went for a different approach and designed enlarged cards that featured each of her three children's names and some concise stats about their personalities. The result is a card that's short but rich in detail. (For example, daughter Isabel's card included "Age: 3.5, Hobby: eating cherries. Big moment: kicking both arm bones on the playground at Dairy Queen.")

This year she parlayed the idea into Basically Cards (www.basicallycards.com), an Internet company that lets you customize your holiday updates from a series of templates.

If that seems too ambitious, just be creative on a different level. Put a favorite recipe on one side of an index card and a brief synopsis of your year on the other. Or, if you're at a real loss, try making up stuff or embellishing the drabber parts of your life. In fact, perhaps you can write a newsletter about the year you wish you had. The only problem would be getting the letter to you.

• Finally, proofread. Use your spell-checker. Have a literate family member vet the letter for syntax errors. Nothing tarnishes the holiday spirit like a dangling modifier.

So no excuses. If you're going to do a letter, do it with verve and reserve.

## Five ways to take a great family photo

The Washington Post

The traditional family photograph usually has at least one of these features: eyes shut, clashing outfits, unflattering poses and squirmy children. To turn your snapshot into a Norman Rockwell masterpiece, follow these five tips.

• Pick the right photographer. All do not shoot alike. For a family portrait, hire a professional who is an expert at coddling children and positioning people, rather than capturing lions in the Serengeti.

Also, peruse different studios' portfolios, noting their creative styles. When you've selected your photographer, talk to him or her about the backdrop that will best capture the spirit of your family. Check out the Professional Photographers of America's Web site (http://www.ppa.com), which has more than 14,000 members worldwide and lets users search photographers based on location and specialty.

• Dress for the ages. Skip the gaucho pants and sheeps in a decade, they might be as fashionable as petticoats. Go for timeless attire in solid colors, preferably in jewel tones. Skip turtlenecks (you'll look like a floating head), black and white (too much contrast), sequins and patterns, unless they are a fine pin-stripe.

Before the shoot, lay out your family's outfits on a bed (try to pick similar colors or hues) to see which ones match and which ones clash.

• Do be a poser. To show off your best assets and skim off side avoid a straight-on pose. Instead, if standing, place your legs at a 45-degree angle to the camera, then twist your waist to a Gisèle Bündchen. If sitting, pull your body up into slouching. Slightly tilt your head to avoid extra chins and clear shots up your nose. Also, keep your hands to your sides or on your lap rather than buddy-style around your nearest relatives' shoulders. Don't be afraid to throw in props, such as your dog or something related to a family member's hobby (a football or a bat).

• Put on your best face. Don't get a haircut, eyebrow wax or facial in the days preceding the portrait. You want some of the cut, wax and exfoliate to have time to mellow out.

• Put on your best face. Don't get a haircut, eyebrow wax or facial in the days preceding the portrait. You want some of the cut, wax and exfoliate to have time to mellow out.

• For makeup, go natural, not Bozo. If you tend to have shiny skin, be sure to use a matte powder.

• Say smile. You want natural smiles, not those forced grins that come across looking painful. So laugh it up with a family joke. If your photographer's a real pro, she should be able to put you at ease — or just ask Uncle Joe to tell you the one about the donkey.

## You can't escape your limitations today, Virgo

IF DEC. 10 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The year ahead offers you an opportunity to focus on yourself. You will be intensely creative and also intensely attractive-even magnetic to others. Emotionally, you may need to work to maintain a balance between neither too volatile nor too shut down. Try to process frustrations as they arise and not let them build up and become explosive. Financial matters should be strong most of the year. Travel and educational opportunities may be limited as this year's purpose is more toward integration of your current knowledge of the world. Friendships will be supportive and close.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid getting into anything uncertain or too good to be true. If you stray around to haunt you for some time. You are energetic and can make a lot happen. Stay away from needless disagreements.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20):

### HOROSCOPE

Jeraline Saunders

You mesmerize those around you with your smoldering stare. Don't get too busy preparing for the week ahead that you skip over romance today. Though usually ingratiating, watch out for an unfortunate slip of the tongue.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your energy is over the top, but it is still advisable to pace yourself and accomplish things bit by bit. Realistic goals are more likely to pay off than shooting for the moon. Helping others is very satisfying.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): After a day or two under a dark cloud, today you feel lighter and happy. You can probably "charm" your way into almost any situation, but choose carefully — most things are easier to get into than out of.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):

Power and creativity are your allies today. Make sure your thinking is 100 percent realistic, as with thinking you've misled you now. If you are pragmatic, though, you could move ahead in business soon.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Some limitations are inescapable today, so do your best to accept them with your good humor. Your patience will definitely be rewarded soon. Keep a good attitude and don't let this temporary delay get you down.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you can arrange to do something different today, that will fulfill your wanderlust a bit. Learn something new. You are in a very influential cycle, so prepare to make the most of it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is a time for focus on friends and loved ones. You are unwavering, if you're called upon to help a friend in need, you will have no trouble rising to the occasion. Emotions could get the better of you early today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are definitely feisty for a few days. All that energy can be harnessed quite effectively and put to good use. Do watch your mouth as it would be easy to get a foot wedged in there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Power struggles are a very real possibility for the next few days. Try to sidestep potential conflicts as best you can and lead the way toward friendly win-win solutions. You can do it if you try.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Any alliances you form now will become a powerful help later. Have fun with friends and enjoy your popularity. You are on everyone's favorites list, and your influence reaches new heights.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be patient if financial matters seem stalled. You are a partner with your "now" in the money realm. Especially don't chase a will-o'-the-wisp. Your popularity is another story and you make quite an impression.

"Real Estate Corner"  
THE PITFALLS OF PARADISE  
by Laura Fitzgerald  
RE/Max American Dream Realty

How can you check out promotional land deals? The best defense is an "I'm from Missouri" attitude! Say, "Show Me!"

Study the public reports on the development. Check out the promoters. Ask the local Real Estate Board or Better Business Bureau about them. Is there potable water, electric service, legal access to the property?

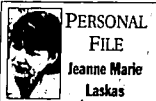
Make any offer to purchase contingent on your approval of a preliminary report of title. Never, NEVER purchase land sight unseen. Walk over it before you buy it. Don't sign anything after a free dinner and promotional movie. Millions of acres of swampland have been peddled at cocktail parties!

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FAMILY LIFE

# The meaning of mean

You sound like one of those cranky old professors, my sister Claire says to me on the phone. Oh, for heaven's sake. All I'm saying is that there are a statistically high number of students in America today with migraine headaches and dead grandmothers," I tell her.



**PERSONAL FILE**  
Jeanne Marie Laskas

"Some of them are telling the truth," Claire says. "Of course," I say. "But the point is I don't even care." "You're mean!" "Please. This has nothing to do with being mean. I'll show her mercy! It's about boundaries. Why should I care if a student misses class? I have absolutely no use for the migraine or the dead grandmother excuse — or the long, drawn-out apology — because I don't take it personally. I mark the student absent, and if he or she accumulates enough absences, it will lower the grade in the story. It does not affect my life."

"You're so mean!" Claire says. "That's what they're probably saying behind your back, you know. Watch out for her, she's really mean." Remember those professors?

"Those professors are dead," I say. "This is a new era. College is different." "You don't even sound like you ..."

"This is about responsibility," I say. "Mine is to teach. And to create an atmosphere for learning. A student's responsibility is to learn — or at least to follow the rules I've set that will enable learning to occur."

"You have become one of them, sister," Claire says. "You have become a cranky old authority figure."

"You're giving me a migraine," I say. "You're hanging up."

A few weeks go by. I'm in class taking attendance. A student who missed last week lands a doctor's excuse to help explain her absence. It's from a hospital emergency room documenting the concussion she suffered after passing out as a result of being so drunk she could not stand. "This," I say, "Why are you showing me this?" She looks at me as if to say, "You can't read, huh?" she says.

"It's a doctor's excuse." We're staring at each other across a vast divide. On my side, doctors don't have the authority to absolve sins of depravity. But I find that I am speechless. So I smile, take a deep breath and move on, but I don't excuse the absence. In an atmosphere for learning, I am not mean, for they, they think I'm nice. They think I'm the kind of professor in front of whom they can be open. Honest. I encourage this atmosphere for (my own) learning. They're being open and honest, as we begin setting in with our books. One of them is bragging about how she took a professor on

over the weekend. "I just had had it with him!" she says. She then relates the story about how she missed his class, and so, naturally, she emailed the professor the following Sunday morning to apologize. OK, I'm stuck right there, on every level. I imagine, back in my day, phoning one of my professors on a Sunday, or any day, to talk about myself. It's just so ... bizarre to me. This could be a simple fact of technology. E-mail has changed the way all sorts of people interact, so, OK, I'm trying to be open.

The student goes on to say that in her e-mail she asked the professor to tell her what she missed in class. He fired back a curt response saying she should contact another student for that information. "It was so rude!" she says.

"I'm like, duh, I understand you're busy. I'm busy; we're all busy. But do your job. You know? Help me out here."

The class is nodding. I feel so alone. His job? His job is to give her a private tutoring session because she missed class?

"So I wrote him back and told him how disgusted I was with him," she says.

"No, you didn't," says a girl in the back row, admiringly, while a few others clap, saying the first student has done what they wish they had the courage to do. "I'm paying \$50.00 of my own money for this education," one says. "What these professors don't realize is that they're working for me! I'm the customer!"

"Oh, my goodness," I'm saying. "Oh, my goodness." Customer service? What is this, a tire store?

"So, did he answer your e-mail?" one asks.

"Oh, about an hour later I got like a total text on what a disrespectful person I am," she says. "And I'm like, dude, in the time you took to write that, you could have just told me what I missed in class."

At this point I have no choice but to drop my head onto my desk and bang it, ever so slowly, bam, bam, bam. "I did us lost her," one of the students jokes. "You OK yet with us?"

"Not," I say, Bam, bam, bam. "Not OK." I am on the other side now. So very far removed from who they are and who I might see the world.

"What?" one says. "You don't agree with us?" "Yeah, tell us what you think," another urges. I raise my head. They are looking at me, awaiting my interpretation. "You don't want to know," I say. "Because I'm mean. I'm really, really mean."

# Dreaming of a green Christmas

By Karen Sommer Shalait  
The Washington Post

As the latest mania organic revolution has taken hold, Americans are increasingly looking for ways to make their lives — and their holidays — cleaner and greener. Blame rising fuel costs. Blame the spinach scare. Heck, if you want to, blame Al Gore — as if he hasn't had to shoulder enough already.

"People want to celebrate the holiday, but we care about the impact that it has on the environment," says Mark Smallwood, green mission specialist (actual title) for the Mid-Atlantic region of Whole Foods Markets, which has added 40 percent more environmentally sound gift items to its offerings this year due to rising demand.

"It's the incremental steps, such as switching energy-efficient LED Christmas lights, that make green living relevant and relatively easy," says green lifestyle guru and author Danny Seo. If your mantel calls for a different kind of twinkling light, a luxurious lineup of soy-based candles, such as Method's, will send 90 percent less soot into the air than all-paraffin candles.

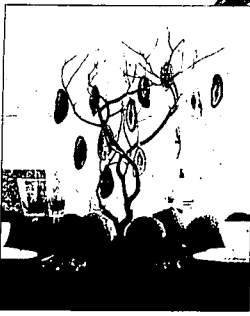
Find useful things that can double as tree ornaments, such as Viva Terra's sleek slivers of agate, which can be used as ornaments today and as napkin rings or coasters after the holiday. And gifts can be wrapped in recycled papers such as Paporganics' modern line and sent off with missives made from the same.

"We've realized that we can use Christmas to celebrate the Earth," says Smallwood, "and we can celebrate the Earth through Christmas."

Web, retail resources: Method aroma soy candle, \$6 at Target and www.target.com; Paporganics Snowflake gift wrap made from 90 percent recycled post-consumer fibers, at www.paporganics.com; Agate ornaments, \$49 for a set of six, at www.vivaterra.com; a 12-foot strand of LED C7 over-size Christmas lights, \$14.95 at www.brookstone.com.

"We've realized that we can use Christmas to celebrate the Earth, and we can celebrate the Earth through Christmas."

Mark Smallwood, green mission specialist (actual title) for the Mid-Atlantic region of Whole Foods Markets



Dreaming of a green Christmas? Find useful things that can double as tree ornaments, such as Viva Terra's sleek slivers of agate, which can be used as napkin rings or coasters after the holiday (\$49 for a set of six).

Americans are increasingly looking for ways to make their holidays cleaner and greener. You can start with energy-efficient Christmas decorations: a 12-foot strand of LED C7 over-size Christmas lights (\$15 at Brookstone).

# Mom who's started new life leaves puzzled kids behind

DEAR ABBY: I come from a family of seven kids that has been torn apart ever since the year our mother decided to leave our stepfather of 10 years to be with another woman.

It's not the fact that she chose to be gay; it's the distance that came along with it. She has severed her relationship with all of us kids.

Mom has changed her phone number a few times already. When she has given it to one of us, it was only after making us promise not to share it with any other sibling or family member. The same with her address. This has caused problems between siblings. Some are hurt because they don't understand why she doesn't talk to them.

I guess some of us borrowed money and didn't pay her back — and other similar things — but she doesn't even give us a chance to pay her back. A few weeks ago, I sent Mom a letter apologizing for everything I have put her through, asking for forgiveness and telling her I'll love her unconditionally. It has been more than two weeks since I mailed it, but still no reply. We live in the same city.

I'd knock on her door, but I'm afraid I'll be rejected. Everyone tells me to give up on her, but she's the only mother I've got, and I don't want to. What can you recommend I do?

— WANTS MY MOM IN SAN JOSE  
DEAR WANTS MOM: Risk the rejection. It would not be more painful than what you're experiencing now. Write your mother a check for the money you owe her, buy her flowers and knock on her door.

But before you do, please understand that people do not "choose" to be gay — and after having seven children and spending all those years with

DEAR ABBY  
Jeanne Phillips

two husbands trying to be straight, at this point she deserves all the love and support she can get.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have a 2-month-old baby. We agreed that I'd stay home for a few months and "take care of the house." Unfortunately, with breast-feeding and the baby's sleep schedule being irregular, I never get enough rest and I constantly feel fatigued.

I know this is a common occurrence with new moms, but my boyfriend feels he should come home every day to a clean house, with dinner on the table and me ready for sex. I want to do all of these things, but the household chores are harder than I thought, and the sex — I really have little desire for it yet.

When I try talking to him about it and explaining how I feel, he dismisses me and says that I'm the only woman in the world who can't do the "simple task" of keeping house, etc. — He insults me, calls me lazy and makes me feel awful. If I cry, he tells me to "stop feeling sorry for myself" and acting like a little girl. It's starting to make me not even want to try anymore. But I know that will

only make it worse. What can I do?

— HURT IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.

DEAR HURT: Your boyfriend is extremely uninformative — about the changes that take place in a woman's body — not to mention a couple's lives — when a baby enters the picture. A talk with your pediatrician might sensitize him, but if it doesn't, then it's time for you to look into finding day-care for your baby and a job for yourself, because, as it stands, your child could reach adulthood before your boyfriend does. His expectations are unrealistic, and his attitude of entitlement should give you serious second thoughts about ever marrying him.

# Too young for lipo

By Sandra G. Goodman  
The Washington Post

Liposuction should never be used as a treatment for childhood obesity, the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery warned, following media accounts of a morbidly obese 12-year-old girl who underwent the procedure.

Doctors said they were concerned that obese youths might be tempted to seek liposuction based on the experience of 12-year-old Brooke Bates, whose 35-pound weight loss from liposuction was chronicled in People magazine and widely reported elsewhere. The ASAPS, whose members are board-certified plastic surgeons, said there was no evidence the procedure is safe or effective for children.

"Eating and exercise habits do not change as a result of the surgery," said Archary Gerut, assistant clinical professor of plastic surgery at Albert Einstein Medical Center in New York and a member of the society's body-countering committee. "The majority of people who have

liposuction simply go on to gain the weight back. Liposuction is not a treatment for obesity in adults, and certainly not in children."

Last year more than 3,000 people younger than 18 underwent liposuction, a 22 percent increase over 2000, according to reports from members of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. But because liposuction increasingly is performed by doctors who are not plastic surgeons there is no way to tell how many teens actually have had it.

Many surgeons say the procedure should not be performed until a teen has stopped growing — and never for the primary purpose of weight loss regardless of a patient's age. Gerut and other specialists say it is rare to remove a lot of fat and fluid. The procedure is used primarily to reduce stubborn fat deposits in the abdomen, buttocks or thighs that are impervious to diet and exercise; the best candidates are of normal weight.

"The problem is that everyone wants a quick fix," Gerut said. "This is not it."

## SINUSITIS or COLD?

Because the symptoms of sinusitis sometimes mimic those of colds, you may not realize that you need to see a Sinus Specialist. If you suspect you have sinusitis, review these signs and symptoms. If you suffer from three or more symptoms, Sinus Center-Idaho can help!

SYMPTOM	SINUSITIS	COLD
Facial pressure/pain	Yes	Sometimes
Duration of illness	Over 10-14 days	Under 10 days
Nasal Discharge	Thick, yellow/green	Thin, whitish or thin
Fever	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes
Pain in upper teeth	Sometimes	No
Bad Breath	Sometimes	No
Coughing	Sometimes	Yes
Nasal Congestion	Yes	Yes
Sneezing	No	Yes

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ENGAGEMENTS

HAMMER-BARNES

JEROME — Bruce and Trudy Barnes of Jerome announce the engagement of their son, Clinton Craig Barnes, to Jessica Hammer, daughter of Richard and Leslie Hammer of Mountain Home.

Hammer is a 2004 graduate of Mountain Home High School and will attend the College of Southern Idaho next semester. She is employed as a certified nursing assistant at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls.

Barnes is a 2002 graduate of Minico High School and served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Maracaibo, Venezuela. He attends CSI and is employed at Pipeco in Twin Falls.



Clinton Barnes and Jessica Hammer

The wedding is planned for 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Sunrise P River Ranch in Rupert. A reception will follow from 3 to 5 p.m. The couple will reside in Twin Falls.

UDY-SEARS

TWIN FALLS — George and Shirley Udy of American Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Merrilee Udy, to Brian James Sears, son of Paul and Raedene Sears of Wendell.

Udy attended American Falls High School. She attended Ricks College on a basketball scholarship and later transferred to Idaho State University, where she graduated in secondary education and made her mark in ISU basketball record books. She is employed at the College of Southern Idaho as the assistant women's basketball coach.

Sears attended Wendell High School and served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Cleveland.



Brian Sears and Merrilee Udy

He is self-employed in the agricultural and livestock industry. The wedding is planned for Friday, Dec. 15, in the Logan LDS Temple. A reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the LDS Church, 2700 Elizabeth Blvd., Twin Falls.

VAUGHAN-WARREN

BURLEY — Gene and RoseAnn Vaughan of Arima announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Ann Vaughan, to J.C. Warren, son of Merle and Jeanette Warren of Burley.

Vaughan is a graduate of Marsh Valley High School and a 2005 graduate of the College of Southern Idaho with a degree in business management. She attended Boise State University in the Twin Falls program. She is employed by First Federal Savings Bank in Twin Falls.

Warren is a graduate of Burley High School and a 2001 graduate of CSI with a degree in information technology. He is employed by Sears Ferry Building Supplies in Burley.



Stephanie Vaughan and J.C. Warren

The wedding is planned for 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at the Joliet Plaza, 180 McKinley, Pocatello. A reception will follow. An open house will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 565 S. 200W. in Burley.

LAUB-MCGIFFIN

JEROME — Larry and Sherrie Laub of Jerome announce the engagement of their daughter, Jenette Vanessa Laub, to John Robert McGiffin, son of John and Laurel McGiffin of Tacoma, Wash.

Laub is a graduate of Brigham Young University-Idaho with a bachelor's degree in health science. She is employed at Lincoln Elementary School.

McGiffin is a graduate of BYU-Idaho and served a mission in La Paz, Bolivia. He plans to attend optometry school.

The wedding is planned for Thursday, Dec. 21, in the



John McGiffin and Jenette Laub

Portland LDS Temple. An open house will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at the Jerome LDS Stake Center, 26 N. 100 E.

REED-MORTON

BURLEY — Allison Reed of Lonetree, Colo., and Sean Morton of Littleton, Colo., announce their engagement.

Reed is the daughter of Mark and Sheryl Reed of Denver.

Morton is the son of Greg and Betsy Morton of Littleton and formerly of Burley. He is a

graduate of Highlands Ranch High School and Metro State College. He is employed at Kromka Sports and the Colorado Avalanche National Hockey League.

The wedding is planned for Friday, Feb. 9, 2007, at the Foothills Bible Church in Littleton.

LONG-SEIBOLD

JEROME — Chris and Becky Long of Jerome announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Ann Long, to Chad Jeffrey Seibold, son of Bruce and Patty Seibold of Jerome.

Long is a 2003 graduate of Jerome High School and attends Idaho State University, where she is in a master's program for speech pathology.

Seibold is a 2003 graduate of Southern Idaho's registered nursing program. He served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He attends the College of Southern Idaho and will transfer to ISU for the spring semester to pursue a degree in dental lab technology.



Rachel Long and Chad Seibold

The wedding is planned for Friday, Dec. 15, in the Bountiful Temple in Bountiful, Utah. A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, at the Jerome 5th Ward LDS Church, 50 E. 100 S.

SANCHEZ-DELEON

TWIN FALLS — Jose and Mary Sanchez of Twin Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Yvette Benita Sanchez, to Rudy DeLeon Jr., son of Rudy Sr. and Sonia DeLeon of Twin Falls.

Sanchez is a 2001 graduate of Twin Falls High School and a 2006 graduate of the College of Southern Idaho's registered nursing program.

DeLeon is a 2001 graduate of Twin Falls High School and a 2005 graduate of CSI with an associate's degree in science. He attends Idaho State University, pursuing a pharmacy degree.



Yvette Sanchez and Rudy DeLeon Jr.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, Dec. 23, at Calvary Chapel in Twin Falls. A reception and dance will follow at the Shoshone Room in Twin Falls.

STORK REPORT

Cassia Regional Medical Center

Meysa Jazmine Cordova, daughter of Soyla and Tini Cordova of Burley, was born Nov. 1, 2006.

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center

Keira Jade Kay, daughter of Patrick and Marcia Kay of Jerome, was born Nov. 28, 2006.

Carson Wynn Conner, son of Nick and Melissa Conner of Jerome, was born Nov. 28, 2006.

Weston Scott Cook, son of Scott and Jackie Cook of Jerome, was born Nov. 29, 2006.

St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center

Bennett William Woberts, son of Nick and Melissa Woberts and Jonathan Woberts of Hailley, was born Nov. 16, 2006.

Emily Carmina Morales, daughter of Rosalba Villaseor and Antonio Morales of Shoshone, was born Nov. 17, 2006.

Lillian Grace Marie Whitesell, daughter of Ashley and Brently Whitesell of Bellevue, was born Nov. 22, 2006.

St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Yaritza Crystal Martinez and Samantha Louise Martinez, twin daughters of Tina Louise and Jose Guadalupe Martinez of Twin Falls, were born Nov. 16, 2006.

Matix Donovan Hacking, son of Megan Gabrielle and Christopher Chad Hacking of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 20, 2006.

Destray Nicole Ramirez, daughter of Jessica Marie Naranjo of Jerome, was born Nov. 24, 2006.

Adrian Emanuel Mendoza, son of Griselda and Hugo Mendoza of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 27, 2006.

Avery Lynn McBride, daughter of Amy Lynn and Lance Dean McBride of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 27, 2006.

Steven Ragnar Skollingsberg, son of Jessica Evelyn and Karl Jacob

Skollingsberg of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 28, 2006.

Isaac Bruce Patterson, son of Amy Lynn and Zachary Arnold Patterson of Paul, was born Nov. 28, 2006.

Kiley Madison Barnes, daughter of Kandice Marie and Dustin Lee Barnes of Jerome, was born Nov. 28, 2006.

Teague Jonathon Gunnell, son of Joanna Lynn and Ryan Kenny Gunnell of Hansen, was born Nov. 28, 2006.

Afon May Nebeker, daughter of Jill Anderson and Tracy Reese Nebeker of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 29, 2006.

Lake Brian Preston, son of Jaclyn and Michael Jeff of Preston of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 29, 2006.

Alexia Marie Huetig, daughter of Andrea and Brian James Huetig of Hazelton, was born Nov. 30, 2006.

Isabelle Lena Bates, daughter of Emily Mortalena Xavier and John Bates of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 30, 2006.

Emly Grace Bethke, daughter of Tonia Haase Collins and Gary Mark Bethke of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 1, 2006.

Zarla Sue Burton, daughter of Brian Leigh Burton and Grant Richie Mosson of Gooding, was born Dec. 1, 2006.

Berkley Dawn Dille, daughter of Rachelle Daven and Jackson Robert Dille of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 1, 2006.

Joanle Marie Lewis, daughter of Beckie and Thomas Troy Lewis of Hazelton, was born Dec. 1, 2006.

Keira May Trease, daughter of Karly Joy and Chans Reid Trease of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 1, 2006.

Gavin Joseph McConnell, son of Jennifer Marie and Matthew Lee McConnell of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 2, 2006.

Raymond Allen Boyd, son of Chad Marie and Robert Joseph Boyd of Shoshone, was born Dec. 2, 2006.

Chet Earl Maki, son of Janet Louise and Craig Earl Maki of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 3, 2006.

Levi Benjamin Lybrand, daughter of Amanda Suzanne-Nicole and Wayne Martin Lybrand of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 3, 2006.

ANNIVERSARIES



Robert and Nell Taylor

JEROME — Robert and Nell Taylor celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 6.

They were married Oct. 6, 1956, in California. They have resided in Jerome for 27 years.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and later retired from the U.S. Postal Service. She worked

at Moss Greenhouses for 17 years. The Taylors celebrated at their new home in Murphy Hot Springs with their children, Tressie Taylor of Jerome, Ken Taylor of Wendell and Sherri (Rick) Martin of Tagerman; her mother, Dorothy Clark of Jerome; and two grandsons.

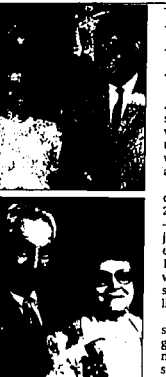
THE BALLARDS

SHOSHONE — Bob and Arlene Ballard of Shoshone will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Friday, Dec. 15.

They were married Dec. 15, 1956, at the United Methodist Church in Gooding. They have lived in Shoshone all their married life.

He worked for the American Falls Canal Co. for 46 years and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on the USS Cortland in the Pacific Theater. She worked at the Shoshone saw yard. They are active in the Shoshone United Methodist Church and enjoy traveling.

Their son, Ralph (Monica) Ballard of Minneapolis, is hosting a trip to Hawaii to celebrate their anniversary. The couple has two granddaughters.



Bob and Arlene Ballard

Weekly deadline

To submit an announcement, stop by the office at 132 Fairfield St. W. in Twin Falls and fill out a form. The announcement also can be sent by e-mail to news@timesnews.com. If e-mailed, the photo needs to be sent in jpeg format as an attachment. The deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday for publication the following Sunday. If you miss that deadline, your news might not be published in advance of the event.

Earth's speedometer reads nearly a million miles an hour

Because we don't feel it, it's easy to forget that we're all flying through space at breakneck speeds. A variety of motions contribute to our velocity, each with a different magnitude and direction.

For starters, there's Earth's daily rotation. The Earth — 2,549,922 miles in circumference — completes one rotation in just under 24 hours. Thus the equator spins around at over 1,000 mph. Here in Idaho, we're a bit closer to the axis, so our speed is less — more like 770 mph.

Then there's Earth's orbital speed. Its annual circumnavigation of the sun covers 585 million miles at an average speed of nearly 67,000 mph.

That's about 24 times faster than a rifle bullet, enough to give Superman a run for his money.

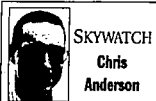
Next, the solar system moves through the galaxy toward a point in space known as the solar apex. The solar apex is near Vega, the brightest star currently visible in the east-northeast after dark. The sun speed toward it is around half a million

Sky calendar through Saturday

- Planets: One hour before sunrise: Saturn, SW, high. One hour after sunset: None visible.
- Moon: Third quarter 7:32 a.m. Tuesday. Extremely close to Saturn 4:30 a.m. today.

Of course, the Milky Way itself is moving. It's flying at about 825,000 mph toward a huge, largely unseen supergalactic mass called the "Great Attractor." (The Great Attractor's sky location never comes above Idaho's horizon.)

It's about this time of year that the Earth achieves its greatest total speed (with its changing orbital direction is closest to aligning with the larger motions), moving about 890,000 mph in the direction of the faint constellation Crater, about 40 degrees (two hand spans at



SKYWATCH Chris Anderson

arm's length) above the horizon at 6:30 a.m. You might wonder what we're moving relative to. The answer is the Cosmic Microwave Background, a



Gordon and Eola Luke

THE LUKES

MURTAUGH — Gordon and Eola Luke of Murtaugh will be honored at an open house for their 50th wedding anniversary. Friends and relatives are invited from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Murtaugh LDS Church, 23707 U.S. Highway 30. The couple requests no gifts.

Gordon Luke and Eola Dunham were married in 1956, in the Logan LDS Temple in Utah. They have spent most of their lives in Cassia County, engaged in farming operations and raising their six children: Rann

(Kirk) Bailey, Pamela (Chris) Johnson, Glen Luke, Gary (Susan) Luke, David (Jody) Luke and Susan (Matt) Bellston.

**Bridal Registry**

Emily Coats & Kristoffer Sperry December 16th	Breanna Webb & Jacob Brown December 22nd
Lindsay Reed & Ryan Bailey December 27th	Hayley McBride & Jeremy Bates December 30th
Lindsay Johansen & Luke Coats January 6th	Brittany Rammell & Everett Crane January 6th

faint glow of cold radio energy left over from the Big Bang, which permeates the universe and thus provides a convenient universal reference frame.

Next week: Venus' return to the evening sky.

Chris Anderson is production specialist and observational manager at Fowler Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho.

**ACE Bridal Registry**

Emily Coats & Kristoffer Sperry  
December 16th

Breanna Webb & Jacob Brown  
December 22nd

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## Bang your drum!

### Steel drum program leads to success

 By Lystra Laskley  
 Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — At first glance, the connection between drumming on a steel pan and doing well on a science project might not seem clear. But 10-year-old Gordon Marshall is sure the two are linked.

Gordon spends his Saturdays at the Cultural Academy for Excellence (called CAFE) in Hyattsville, Md. There, he and 60 other kids ages 7 to 18 learn about the art and music of the West Indies and Africa, and hopefully are challenged to do well in school the rest of the week.

Like most CAFE kids, Gordon plays the steel pan, an instrument invented in the 1930s on the Caribbean island of Trinidad (now part of the country Trinidad and Tobago). The discipline required for music has carried over to his other studies: "I won first place in the science fair at Paint Branch Elementary School," he says proudly, also crediting CAFE with improving "my language and math skills."

That, in short, is CAFE's mission. The program began 10 years ago with the motto "Dare to Dream — Prepare to Succeed."

Sherylene Grice, 14, has attended CAFE for nearly three years. An expert in steel pan music, she specializes in the cellos, one of 11 instruments in the pan family. She, too, has noticed a carry-over into the rest of her life. "I benefited from CAFE in so many ways," she says. "It gives me the support I need in building my self-esteem."

So what exactly is this instrument that helps kids feel better about themselves and do better in school?



Maya Lara, front, and Renee Stinson prepare their steel pans before a performance at the University of Maryland in October. Kids at the Cultural Academy for Excellence in Hyattsville, Md., learn about the art and music of the West Indies and Africa.

The steel pan (sometimes called a steel drum) is the only non-electric musical instrument invented in the 20th century.

Drums, long popular in Trinidad, were banned in 1883 by British colonial rulers who feared they would be

used to send secret messages encouraging a revolt. By the late 1930s drums were no longer prohibited, and islanders began making music using empty biscuit tins, paint cans and, eventually, big steel drums. There were lots of 55-gallon shipping drums

around because of the island's oil industry and the large U.S. Navy presence during World War II.

It takes a lot of time and patience to make a steel drum. First, a designer pounds the drum's bottom into a bowl-like shape, called a pan. This



Foluke French, 11, drums on steel pans, invented in the 1930s in Trinidad. The discipline required for music has carried over to his other studies.

"I benefited from CAFE in so many ways. It gives me the support I need in building my self-esteem."

— Sherylene Grice, 14

process, called sinking, can last several hours. Notes are then marked and grooved in the pan in various sizes and depths.

Drums are cut into different lengths (or skirts). The result is a range of sound from the lowest bass to the highest treble. The metal is heated then cooled. The pan is now ready to be fine-tuned. As a last step, it's covered with zinc or another material to prevent rust.

A steel drum costs around \$1,000; the CAFE orchestra has about 40 of them, executive director Lorna Green says. It's one of the easier instruments to learn, so the kids get a real sense of accomplishment as they begin to play Afro-Caribbean, jazz, pop and classical music. They also learn music theory and take exams from the London-based Associate Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

"We're very strong on discipline," says Green. "You let them know that, to be successful, you have to have discipline."

## BOOK REVIEW

### 'London Calling'

The Washington Post

By Edward Bloor, for ages 11 and older

If you could go back in time to any period in history, what would it be?

Seventh-grader Martin Conway gets to time-travel (although not to a time of his choosing) in this beautifully written story of an unusual friendship that grows between Martin, an unhappy boy in modern-day New Jersey, and Jimmy Harker, a British boy living through the bombing of London by German airplanes in World War II. The bombing lasted for nine months in 1940-41 and was called the Blitz, short for the German word blitzkrieg, meaning "lightning war." More than 40,000 people died during the Blitz, and more than a million homes were destroyed.

There's a little bit of history and a little bit of fantasy in this book. And there's a lot to think about as Martin struggles with his sometimes rocky relationship with his father, and Jimmy struggles with life in a war zone.

Read the first three pages and then see if you can put this book down.

## Smoking scenes shown in many movies made for kids

 By Susan Levine  
 The Washington Post

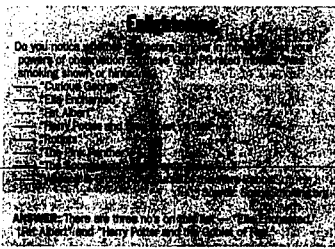
As a bunch of movies opens in theaters this holiday season, will you be watching what the stars are wearing? How they're acting? Whether they're smoking?

Groups who work to keep young people from smoking certainly will be watching. "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "Akeelah and the Bee." Research of top movies since the mid-1990s found that lots of films geared toward kids showed tobacco use. In fact, from 1999 through 2005, tobacco scenes appeared in 40 percent of live-action G and PG-rated films, and in three-fourths of PG-13 movies.

Two recent PG examples: "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "Akeelah and the Bee."

You might think you're not influenced by what's in a movie.

But people opposed to smoking say that seeing it over and over on the screen — from the "trailers" that publicize movies before they come out to the DVDs that



circulate afterward — is a big reason why many kids take their first puff.

Studies have shown that watching characters smoke in movies — whether it's the heroine or a bad guy — can increase your chances of smoking, says Cheryl Heaton, of the American Legacy Foundation.

Her group, which focuses on the bad health effects of tobacco use, has been pushing Hollywood to break its smoking habit in films rated G, PG and PG-13. Exceptions would be made

for historical accuracy. For example, a movie about President Franklin D. Roosevelt could show him with the cigarette holder he often carried. But the same would not be true for a fictional character such as dog-napper Cruella DeVil.

Soon, the Weinstein Co. will become the first moviemaker to put anti-smoking public service announcements on DVDs that show smoking. Harvey Weinstein, one of the two brothers running the studio, which produced "Ella

### Smoking in the U.S.: The hard facts

- About 45 million adults smoke. (That's about one in five.) Smoking-related illnesses kill more than 400,000 people annually.
- In a one-year study, 95 percent of kids saw tobacco use in movie previews shown on TV. Kids ages 12 to 17 saw an average of 111 such ads.
- About 23 percent of high school students and 8 percent of middle-schoolers smoke cigarettes. More than 4.5 million kids smoke regularly.
- Every day, about 3,900 kids ages 12 to 17 try their first cigarette.
- Starting smoking when young increases the risk of lung cancer.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Legacy Foundation

Enchanted," smoked his last cigarette in 2005.

"It's slow, but it's happening," Stanton Glantz says of the effort to include anti-smoking messages with movies.

Glantz is a professor at the University of California, San Francisco, who directs a project called Smoke Free Movies. Each week, its Web site, www.smokefreemovies.ucsf.edu, lists the top movies at the box office and on DVD and notes whether they promote smoking.

The latest listing includes

"Flushed Away" (promotes smoking) and "Nacho Libre" (smoke-free). Both are rated PG.

Though the movie industry says that directors and actors should be free to tell a story the way they want, it agrees that young people should stay away from tobacco. "Smoking is bad for you," says Gayle Osterberg, of the Motion Picture Association of America Inc. "It's not healthy. It's not glamorous."

But as long as there's smoke in so many movies, there will be fire in this issue.

## Talking with Animal Planet TV host Annmarie Lucas

 By Eric Bork, Carly Moltzen and Valerie Stank  
 Kidsday reporters, Newsday

We spoke with Annmarie Lucas, who stars in Animal Planet's "Animal Precinct," at the ASPCA Hospital in New York recently.

**Question:** As a humane law enforcement special investigator for the ASPCA (the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), what exactly do you do?

**Answer:** People call the ASPCA to report when some-

one is neglecting or physically abusing an animal, and either I or my fellow agents will investigate to find out if that's true.

**Q:** What kind of background does someone need to have a job like yours?

**A:** We prefer that you have either experience working with animals or law-enforcement experience, but you don't need that. I graduated from the University of Connecticut and studied fine arts and English, but I worked in an animal shelter, so I had experience working with ani-

mals. Really, it's about having a love and compassion for animals and for protecting them.

**Q:** About how many animals have you rescued?

**A:** Oh my gosh, I'd say thousands. Ninety-nine percent of our job is rescuing dogs and cats.

**Q:** How do you overcome any sadness you feel when you see a sick, injured or abused animal?

**A:** I never overcome it. I've learned to deal with it. I've been doing this for 10 years, and I remember every single animal I've rescued and the

look on their faces when you take them out of that horrible situation... I've learned I'm no use to the animal if I'm upset and can't concentrate on that animal and the situation it's in.

**Q:** How often have you been in a situation where an animal hasn't been able to be rescued?

**A:** More often than I'd like to see on "Animal Precinct," because it likes to focus on more happy endings. When we don't have time, most often that happens because an animal hasn't been fed in weeks and that's really hard to see.

**Q:** What can kids do to help animals?

**A:** Be educated about any animals you bring into your home and make sure you are committed to taking care of them for many years. Animals never grow up and become independent like people. They always are going to need you to feed and walk them, give them hugs and kisses and take them to the vet. Also, if you ever hear kids talking about hurting an animal, you should definitely let an adult, such as your parent or a police officer, know.



# SKIING Europe



## For the best in European skiing, head for the Alps

By Erica Bulman  
Associated Press writer

**GENEVA** — Whether you're a hard-core speed demon in search of a new skiing rush, a ski bunny seeking janky shops but wild nights, or simply an aficionado looking for an affordable place to take the family, Europe's Alps have what you're looking for.

The Alps span the Mediterranean coast of France through Switzerland, Northern Italy, Austria and into Slovenia. The peaks are bigger than most in North America, meaning long, endless runs, lengthy seasons, dramatic scenery and plenty of diverse terrain. The relaxed European lifestyle rounds out the experience with good food, long lunches and an animated night life.

Austria offers affordability and animated apres-ski. Think old-world chalet villages, lift-linked resorts and friendly hospitality.

In France, it's all about drama, diversity and dizzying altitude, with naturally sculpted ski terrain, unrivaled beauty and a long season with loads of virgin powder.

Switzerland is efficiency and elegance, combining well-organized tourist offices, state-of-the-art lifts and snowmaking systems with charming villages and stunning scenery.

In Italy, it's as much about the holiday as the skiing. Socializing, fashion, fine dining and group breaks mid-slope are as important as swooshing down the mountain.

There is a list of what some of Europe's ski resorts are best-known for. The list does not pretend to be definitive; it's based on reputation, personal experiences and other sources. Finally, there's one thing you'll need to know if you're heading to the Alps: "Piste" refers to an established ski run; "off-piste" refers to areas that are unmarked and un groomed.

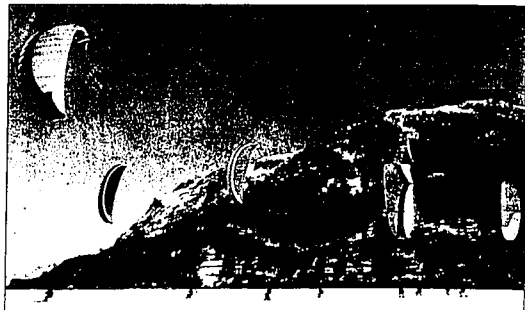
### BEST EXTREME SKIING

**La Grave, France.** For experts only. A proving ground for the world's hardest-core skiers, here even the most experienced should hire a guide initially to help uncover dangers lurking among the cornice drops and crevasses. Avalanche beacons and rescue harnesses are a must. A charming, quiet little village with few bars and restaurants, La Grave is definitely not a party town, though you'd probably be too exhausted anyway.

### BEST EXTREME TERRAIN

**Chamonix, France.** Home to Europe's highest peak, the beautiful 15,771-foot Mont Blanc, this testosterone-charged resort offers some of the world's most challenging skiing. Its reputation as a global off-piste capital attracts adrenaline junkies from everywhere.

**St. Anton, Austria.** An ideal destination for con-



**ABOVE:** Snowkilers use parachutes to capture wind to propel their skis or snowboards across the frozen lake Silvaplana near the ski resort of St. Moritz in Switzerland, March 2, 2005. St. Moritz has 117 miles of trails meandering through the famous Engadine valley and along the resplendent, glittery shores of St. Moritz Lake.

**TOP:** Olivier Meynet of France speeds down a slope during the men's ski Xtreme freeride contest in Verbier, Switzerland, March 17. Verbier boasts some of the steepest and deepest off-piste skiing in Europe.

TRAVEL

Skiing

Continued from page F1  
 filament intermediate and advanced skiers, the resort has a rocky 160 miles of groomed runs and another 114 miles of off-piste.

Verbier, Switzerland. Boasts some of the steepest and deepest off-piste skiing in Europe.

BEST INTERMEDIATE SKING

St. Moritz, Switzerland. About 70 percent of this glam resort caters to intermediates.

BEST BEGINNER SLOPES

Lech, Austria. Plenty of easy runs and an excellent ski school.

Val d'Isere, France. Plenty of well-linked, wide and easy "motorway runs" up above to give neophytes an authentic experience of skiing in the high Alps. Nursery slopes (for children and other beginners) at Val are free, so wait to buy your ski pass after you've tested them out.

BEST UNDER-THE-RADAR

Livigno, Italy. Young and carefree, this unpretentious Italian resort has a long season, over 62 miles of perfectly groomed runs and lots of sun. A tax-free shopping haven at 5,905 feet above sea level, Livigno has terrific restaurants and accommodations for all budgets.

Saas Fee, Switzerland. The "Pearl of the Alps," Saas Fee is a romantic Swiss village with traditional old chalets and narrow, cobbled cobblestone roads. The traffic-free resort is encircled by glaciers and majestic mountains soaring over 13,123 feet high.

Sainte Foy, France. A wee, unspoiled alpine village nestled in the Ecrins Valley, this is where ski instructors from the neighboring resorts of Tignes, Val d'Isere and Les Arcs head to during their off-days.

BEST CROSS COUNTRY

St. Moritz, Switzerland. Has 117 miles of trails meandering through the famous Engadine

valley and along the resplendent, glittery shores of St. Moritz Lake. The station provides illuminated night trails, heated dressing rooms and a top-notch ski school.

The Seefeld Plateau, Austria. With over 310 miles of groomed and marked trails, this Tyrolean resort is conveniently located just 30 minutes from Innsbruck's airport.

BEST SNOWBOARDING

Davos, Switzerland. This snowboarding haven possesses three snowboarding schools, a couple of boardercross circuits, funparks, two minner pipes, a quarterpipe and even some night riding, all on exceptional terrain with deep powder, wooded runs and big natural hits.

BEST APRES SKI

St. Anton, Austria. St. Anton's pulsating apres-ski scene is as fast and furious as the skiing itself. Many start the day's revels at wild on-slope watering holes such as the Crazy Kangaroo or the record-breaking beer-dispensing Mooserswirt before heading back into town for dinner. Head to the Schmutzite for schnappars, beer and dancing in ski boots on tables to Austrian techno-pomp and Euro techno-pop. Note: Be careful when skiing back down to town in the dark!

BEST SINGLES SCENE

Kitzbuehel, Austria. Hip, cosmopolitan and just 90 minutes from St. Moritz, Kitzbuehel draws an international crowd and has a jolly, boisterous night life. "Kitz" has some 410 bars and restaurants, ranging from noisy pubs to quiet local watering holes, chic clubs to a casino with dress-code.

MOST FASHIONABLE

Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Known as the "Queen of the Dolomites," Cortina is the most stylish and upscale resort in Italy, and was the location for a number of movies, including



Tourists enjoy a carriage ride in the snow covered mountain landscape near Klosters, Switzerland, Dec 18, 2005. Refined, sophisticated, Klosters is where the British royal family comes for holiday fun.

the James Bond film "For Your Eyes Only" and the original "Pink Panther."

St. Moritz, Switzerland. One of the most extravagantly fashionable mountain resorts in Skidom, its unusual blend of romantic ski village ambience and cosmopolitan flair, its curative Health Spa, horse races and polo matches, upmarket boutiques and luxury jewelers, all in the wildly beautiful setting of Alpine lakes, mountains and forests make it the destination of the smart-set.

Klosters, Switzerland. Refined, sophisticated, Klosters is where the British royal family comes for holiday fun.

BEST SPA

Stubaai, Austria. Nestled at the foot of the Stubaai Glacier, just 20 minutes from Innsbruck, the five-star Spa Hotel Jaglhof boasts an award winning spa and well-being center. The 21,526-square-foot "World of Vitality" has a relaxation area with water beds, a saltwater inhalation grotto, a live fountain, an amethyst

steam bath grotto, a "Poachers Sauna" with open fire place, and an outdoor Jacuzzi from which you can enjoy a stunning panoramic view of starry skies twinkling above the glacier.

BEST EAT AND SKI

Courchevel, France. One of the few ski resorts with multiple Michelin star restaurants, the Chabichou and Le Baron here have two stars apiece. For some French country atmosphere, local specialties and top-notch fine gas, book a table at the Le Bistrot du Praiz in Courchevel. 1300. La Fromagerie serves the best fondue in town, while La Cendrier is one of the best Italian wine cellars in the region.

Cortina, Italy. Some visitors don't even bother skiing at this high-end resort and simply go for the dynamic dining. The Tivoli is a sophisticated one-star Michelin restaurant specializing in wild game and mountain dishes. Make reservations well ahead. El Tivola, a remodeled barn considered the most posh restaurant in

town, was awarded three Michelin forks (almost a star). The Rifugio Scotoni, once a mountain refuge, is located on the Lagazuoi trail and has excellent grilled meats and local specialties. Da Beppe Sella, Baita Fraima and Lago Sein all have two Michelin forks.

BEST SKI DESTINATIONS

Zermatt, Switzerland. From its towering height of 14,182 feet, the crooked spire of the Matterhorn overlooks a bustling old-fashioned town with horse-drawn sleighs winding down picture-postcard snowy cobbled streets. The sculpted high-mountain terrain can be tricky for beginners but there are plenty of other snow-sure slopes suited to skiers of all skill levels.

Zell am See, Austria. Founded by monks in the middle of the eighth century, this pretty medieval town lies on the shores of the lovely Zeller See, a deep, clear blue glacial lake. The resort has over 93 miles of ski runs, a bounty of apres-ski activities and numer-

ous kiddie ski schools (and babysitting services). There is ice skating and curling when the lake freezes over.

BEST SCENERY: Cortina, Italy. Surrounded by the spiny Dolomites near Italy's northeast corner, the steep limestone walls plunge straight down to the narrow Ampezzo valley floor, creating some of the most mind-boggling scenery in Europe. Sunset transforms the spiky chiseled monoliths into pink-tinged fairy-tale spires.

BEST HONEYMOONER'S HIDEOUT

Wengen, Switzerland. Stepping off the quaint cog train in this intimate Alpine village is like stepping back in time. The steep, slow cog-rail is the only way to reach Wengen, where you'll be quickly swept to your bliss. The snugly tucked under a blanket on the back of a small open-air electric carriage. Children still get around on their toboggans in this magical, unspoiled village. Wengen is set amid the Jungfrau mountain range, the Jungfrau mountain park, and Jungfrau acting as spectacular backdrops. The ski resort also has natural ice-skating, mountaineering and snow-shoeing. Apres-ski is laid-back, consisting of folklike evenings, dining or hobnobbing at a small selection of bars and restaurants.

Megève, France. One of the oldest ski villages in the Alps, this quaint and chic medieval Haute Savoie village with its cobbled streets, horse and buggies, and picturesque wooden chalets was first developed as a ski resort in the 1920s.

BEST INDOOR SLOPES

Buttopf, Germany. The Prosperstrasse heip, open 365 days a year, is billed as the world's longest indoor ski slope, with a 2,100-foot run. Complete the experience with apres ski outings in the beer garden on the sun deck, or entertainment, dining and a discotheque indoors.

Avast, me hearties, thar she blows

By Maggie Barnett  
 Los Angeles Times

Have a whale of a time on a nine-day sea expedition along the Baja coast sponsored by the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, Calif.

The trip, which begins Feb. 25, is aboard the 113-foot Royal Palatris fishing boat. It will embark from San Diego, sailing to San Ignacio lagoon in southern Baja.

"I tell people if you want a cruise, don't come on this trip," Larry Fukuhara said. "If you're looking for a little naut on your pillow, you're not going to get it. What you will get is the experience of a lifetime. We get up close to the whales."

The itinerary includes Todos Santos, San Benito, Cedros and San Martin islands.

Naturalists from the museum will lead excursions to investigate the geological formations and native flora and fauna of the islands.

Participants can expect to see marine animals including Pacific gray whales, dolphins, sea lions, elephant seals and many bird species, such as the osprey.

Cost: \$2,195 per person, double occupancy (plus \$150 crew gratuity), including accommodations, meals, lectures, excursions and transportation from San Pedro to San Diego.

Contact: Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, San Pedro; (310) 548-7562, www.cabrilloaq.org.

Island hop  
 Feel the wind at your back sailing the windward isles of the Caribbean Sea aboard a tall ship.

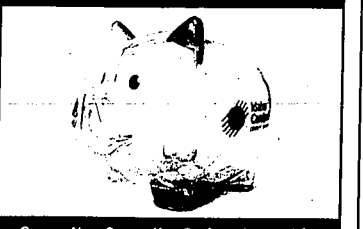
The 384-foot windjammer Sea Cloud II, under nearly 30,000 feet of sails, embarks Jan. 7 from Antigua for eight days of island hopping.

Part of the cruise includes Dominica, St. Lucia and Tobago.  
 Passengers can snorkel in Tobago, visit a turtle sanctuary in the Grenadines, stroll the town of Soufriere, Guiana, or go birding or horseback riding on Dominica.  
 Cost: \$5,210 to \$7,730 per

person, double occupancy (\$1,310 to \$1,970 single surcharge), including accommodations, meals and excursions.

Contact: Smithsonian Journeys, Washington D.C.; (877) 338-8687, www.smithsonianjourneys.org.

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# Taking the family to Romania — to care for babies

By Maria Sudekum Fisher  
Associated Press writer

TUTOVA, Romania — My teenage daughters, Emma and Lilly, are both surrounded by babies.

Lilly, the 15-year-old who will only baby-sit back home in Kansas City, Mo., is she's desperate for cash, has 4-month-old Vlad in one arm, and Mihaela, about nine months, in another. Little Abel is still feeble, making gurgling noises. Everybody's smiling.

Emma, 17, vowed years ago (when she was 12) that she would never have kids and that little girls especially bugged her. Today she's helping supervise the toddler room, supervising Dumitru into the air while two other young ones howl because now they want a turn on this new carnival ride called Emma.

"Wait a minute," she tells them all. "I only have two arms. I'll get to you, don't worry. Just chill a minute."

Two weeks earlier we were home in Missouri getting ready for Christmas. Now the whole Fisher family — my husband, Hal, Emma, Lilly and I — are in Romania, at Tutova Hospital's failure to Thrive Clinic with seven other people from Global Volunteers. We're one of the largest Global Volunteer teams to make the trip to the hospital in Tutova, a tiny town in northeast Romania.

Our purpose is to help the staff care for 42 infants and toddlers ages 1 to 4, from four months to 4-years-old. We bring a lot of enthusiasm, but no special expertise, though our team does include one pediatric nurse whose pockets are filled with twizzlers and cherries.

Although my daughters' loving nurturing instincts might have pointed us in another direction — say building houses or picking trash off the streets — we signed on with Global Volunteers' Romanian program after surfing the Internet looking for family volunteering opportunities. Our criteria were pretty straightforward: It had to be the first week of January — because that was the week the kids had off from school, post-Christmas. It had to be affordable and something we could all do.

I was initially hesitant about the Romania program even though it was the only one that had dates that worked for us.



In this photo released by Global Volunteers, Lilly Fisher gives a kiss to a boy named Abel while volunteering at Tutova Hospital's failure to Thrive Clinic in Tutova, Romania in January 2006.

baby-sit. Most of the children at Tutova have been brought to the clinic because they were severely underweight or their families were simply too poor to adequately care for them. They typically stay until they are 3 years old or until they can either return to their families, get adopted or move on to another facility.

We spent our days, starting about 9 a.m., snuggly in children. We all held, played with, fed, soothed children until lunch. Emma and Lilly pitched in like the other volunteers. They rose to the task of dealing with babies begging to be taken out of their cribs, even though their arms were already filled with other children needing to be held.

They patted their backs, held their bottles, and ran around the halls with them, even when

they were exhausted and could have used a break.

On our last day, Emma stood over tiny Ana Maria's crib and cried: I told Emma that the babies would be cared for and

some would find good homes. I wanted to mean it.

I told Lilly the same thing on the train to Bucharest as she cried quietly with her head in her hands.

Not only did taking care of a lot of children seem like less than a natural fit for my daughters, but I also remembered the horror stories about Romanian orphanages in the 1990s.

And then I mentioned the idea to Emma and Lilly.

"Are you kidding? Yes!" was the way Emma, who doesn't really care for kids, put it.

"That would be so amazing," said Lilly, who groans out loud when someone asks her to

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Sat. Sun. 12:30-2:45 / 4:45-7:00-9:15  
The Nativity Story (po) Day 7:15-9:30  
Sat. Sun. 12:30-2:45 / 4:45-7:15-9:30  
Happy Feet (po) Day 7:00-9:15  
Sat. Sun. 12:30-2:30 / 4:45-7:00-9:15  
Unaccompanied Minors (po) Day 7:00-9:15  
Sat. Sun. 12:30-2:45 / 5:00-7:15-9:30  
**Twin 12**  
Apocalypse (po) Day 6:45-9:30  
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Santa Clause: Escape Clause (po) Day 7:15-9:15  
Sat. Sun. 12:30-2:45 / 5:00-7:15-9:15  
James Bond 007: Casino Royale (po) Day 7:45 Sat. Sun. 12:00-3:30-7:45  
Mane Antoinette Day 6:45-9:30  
Sat. Sun. 12:00-3:30 / 6:45-9:30  
Stranger Than Fiction Day 7:30-9:45  
Sat. Sun. 12:45-3:00 / 5:15-7:30-9:45  
Unaccompanied Minors (po) Day 7:15-9:15  
Sat. Sun. 12:30-2:45 / 5:00-7:15-9:15  
Deck the Halls (po) Day 7:30-9:45  
Sat. Sun. 12:30-2:45 / 5:00-7:30-9:45  
Deja Vu (po) Day 6:45-9:30  
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Flushed Away (po) Day 7:15-9:15  
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The Fountain (po) Day 7:00-9:15  
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# When Good Gifts Go Bad

Times-News advertising supplement



By Lisa Bertagnoli  
CTV FEATURES

A pricey box of Belgian milk chocolate — presented with a flourish to a dark-chocolate lover. A pink cashmere sweater lovingly set under the tree for a woman who adores luxury — and loathes pastels. A boxed set of every recording the Beatles ever made — wrapped and ready for a music lover who swears by the Stones.

Sometimes, even the most thoughtfully chosen gift can backfire. Take, for instance, the kilt that Kate Zabriskie's husband gave her. Zabriskie, who is of Scottish descent, had dropped a few hints that she wanted a kilt. But when her husband started asking questions about her waist and hip measurements, Zabriskie didn't put two and two together, and gave him, well, less-than-truthful figures.

"You typically fudge a little bit," she says. So, imagine Zabriskie's surprise when she unwrapped a present to find the much-desired kilt, but sized to fit a person several pounds lighter than she. "If he had just told me, 'I want to get this for you but let's get the size right...' Zabriskie laments.

It happens all the time: One person drops gift clues; the other interprets them not quite accurately. "We often give gifts we perceive someone would value," says Robyn Spizman, an Atlanta-based

gift expert, author and creator of The Giftnizer, a gift-giving organizer. Danger lurks when a giver sizes on an extravagant idea for a gift without knowing all the particulars. Take, for example, the innocent instinct to give someone that they have admired. It's a sure bet they'll love the gift, right? Wrong, says Spizman. "I might compliment

**Shopper beware: Danger lurks in the quest to find the absolutely perfect holiday present. Just ask these sadder but now much wiser givers.**

you in cashmere," Spizman observes, "but it might itch like crazy."

Like the bread-making machine that Spizman, who neither bakes nor eats bread, once got as a gift from a friend, Spizman received the bread maker several years ago, when the machine first gained popularity. "It was so big I couldn't even find a closet for the thing," Spizman says.

The friend kept asking Spizman if she liked the gift,

and Spizman kept lying — until she couldn't anymore. "I wrote a poem and went and bought a loaf of bread and put it in her mailbox," Spizman recalls. Spizman eventually returned the bread maker, "but before I did, I had to be honest."

Which begs the question: If you receive the perfect present that's not so perfect, how do you react without dimming that expectant gleam in the gift-giver's eye?

"The correct response is always 'thank you so much, it's so thoughtful of you,'" says Zabriskie, an etiquette expert and founder of Port Tobacco, Md.-based Business Training Works Inc., which specializes in workplace soft skills (good manners being one of them).

However, once you thank the giver politely, you're under no obligation to use the gift, or even keep it, Zabriskie says. This is something gift-seekers should keep in mind: "Never give something to someone with the idea that they'll wear it or use it," Zabriskie says.

Indeed, most people don't keep unwanted gifts, according to a 2005 study done by Harris Interactive and News-gistics Inc., an Austin, Texas-based firm that helps retailers manage returns. Thirty-seven percent of adults said they'd give a gift to charity if they were unable to return it to the store. Twenty percent would give the gift to someone else, while 15 percent said they'd give it to their kids; 4 percent would try to sell it online. And 9 percent would simply shove

the gift in a closet and try to forget about it.

While there's not much you can do to prevent receiving thoughtfully chosen, yet inappropriate gifts, you can prevent yourself from giving such gifts. First, "step back and see what someone values," Spizman says.

For instance, say a friend positively dotes on her powder room, festooning it with delicate soaps, candles and hand towels. A perfect gift? Monogrammed soap. "Monogrammed personal items will always hit home with a person who values details," Spizman says.

Second, don't give gifts related to avocations or passionate hobbies. Wine aficionados, skilled home cooks and bakers, among others, "have very strong preferences" about what they like, Spizman says. "To give a phenomenally seasoned baker a cookbook, you're risking it," she cautions. A better bet: One of those new silicone Bundt pans or baking sheets.

Unless you know the recipient as well as you know yourself, avoid gifts of art or decorative items. Art, especially, "is a hideous gift to give someone," Zabriskie says.

"You're saying 'hang this in your house.' That's a horrible position to put someone in."

Finally, keep in mind that

the gift might be perfect, but the timing might be off. That's what happened to Jodi Hoatson of Omaha, Neb. Hoatson and her boyfriend of nine years had a week at a time-share in the Bahamas. Hoatson wanted to fly, but the boyfriend had his heart set on a cruise. Hoatson found one online for \$2,000. "I blew my Christmas budget out of the water," she says.

Hoatson had gift certificates printed and tied with a ribbon, all ready to give to her

boyfriend. But a week before their designated holiday gift exchange day, Hoatson's boyfriend broke up with her. "Turns out he had been cheating on me all along and was leaving me for another woman," she says.

Lacklily, Hoatson had purchased trip insurance. "Word to the wise," she says, "buy some sort of insurance on big gifts."

And, adds Zabriskie, "if you're not sure, get a receipt."

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