



BEAR-CAT INVITE

Minico in third after Day 1

SEE SPORTS, B1



THE GIVING SEASON

Putting presents under other people's trees

SEE RELIGION, B6



SATURDAY

December 16, 2006

50 cents

Times-News

MagickValley.com

Mystery solved?

Northwest storms

Investigators suspect fungal infection in duck deaths

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

OAKLEY — Wildlife experts are one step closer to determining what's killed about 2,500 ducks along Land Creek Springs, a waterway near Oakley.

Lab results and toxicology reports from labs in Wisconsin, Washington and Idaho show a viral infection was present in tissue samples taken from dead ducks gathered near the stream.

Aspergillosis, an infection caused by the Aspergillus fungus, likely killed the birds, said Kelson Hatch, a conservation educator for Fish and Game.

The fungus probably came from moldy corn or grain ingested by the ducks at a nearby farm. He said investigators are trying to locate the feed before more ducks are affected.

"Basically, this stuff gets in their lungs and destroys their lung capacity and causes hemorrhaging around the heart," Hatch said. "That's what's killing them."

Conservation officers found only 20 dead ducks near the stream Friday. Earlier in the week, they were finding as many as 500 dead ducks a day.

Hatch said he thinks the infection is isolated to mallards because the department has not found dead birds from any other species. He said other species of birds were feeding on duck carcasses before the department



Randy Smith, Idaho Fish and Game Regional wildlife manager, examines one of the ducks found dead in Land Creek Springs. Conservation Officer Tim Ferguson, right, watches.

Please see DUCKS, Page A3

Sheriff: County should have been in on duck investigation

By Renee Wells
For The Times-News

BURLEY — Some Cassia County officials were a little miffed that they weren't notified immediately of the recent duck deaths near Oakley and the subsequent investigation.

"I couldn't get anybody to return my phone calls," said Sheriff Jim Higness, who is also the county's Homeland Security coordinator. "Everything I knew, I learned from the local newspaper."

Higness said it upset him that offi-

cials issued a press release Wednesday saying Homeland Security was involved in the investigation, but he had been left out of the loop.

"It's the responsibility of elected officials in this county to let the citizens know what's going on," Higness said. "We couldn't give our citizens any good advice because we simply didn't know anything."

Higness said that while he was waiting Thursday morning for a call from Homeland Security officials, he received an e-mail inviting him to participate in the afternoon

conference call. Cassia County Commissioner Paul Christensen also expressed concern that the county had not been apprised of what was going on. But he said he was certain if there had been an immediate health or safety threat to local citizens, commissioners would have been contacted.

"I'm concerned, but I have confidence in the agencies that are doing the investigation," Christensen said.

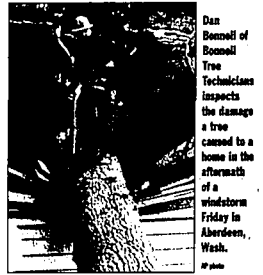
Regional officials at Idaho Fish and Game said that when they got the call, they contacted State

Communications.

"They are the coordinating agency," said Regional Supervisor Dave Parish. "I can't tell you who they contacted or why, but they are the ones who have been coordinating the investigation."

Bill Allred with the Department of Environmental Quality said he did not think there was a conspiracy or planned effort to leave anyone out of the loop intentionally.

"I think we just each took care of what we felt was our own issue and didn't think about who was or was not included," Allred said.



Dan Bonnell of Bonnell Tree Technicians inspects the damage a tree caused to a house in the aftermath of a windstorm Friday in Aberdeen, Wash.

Four dead as storm slams Pacific area with wind, rain

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Howling windstorms and heavy rains caused at least four deaths, closed bridges and highways and cut power to about 1.5 million homes and businesses in Washington and Oregon, authorities said Friday.

One of the concourses at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport lost power, and an airport spokesman said some flights were canceled. About 30 flights were scratched at Portland International Airport, a spokesman said, and Amtrak canceled service between Portland and Seattle.

A 41-year-old Seattle woman died Thursday after she became trapped in her basement while it flooded. Neighbors had called for help after they heard screaming.

Please see STORMS, Page A3



In this Dec. 7 photo, reviewed by a U.S. Dept. of Defense official, U.S. soldiers patrol in a hallway in front of the perimeter of Camp Delta detention center, Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base, Cuba.

Guantanamo investigation

Detainees from Guantanamo Bay routinely freed by other countries

By Andrew G. Salley
Associated Press writer

The Pentagon called them "among the most dangerous, best-trained, vicious killers on the face of the earth," sweeping them up after Sept. 11 and hauling them in chains to a U.S. military prison in southeastern Cuba.

Since then, hundreds of the men have been transferred from Guantanamo Bay to other countries, many of them for "continued detention."

And then set free. Decisions by more than a dozen countries to release the former Guantanamo detainees raise questions about whether they were really as dangerous as the United States claimed, or whether some of America's staunchest allies have set terrorists and militants free.

The United States does not systematically track what happens to detainees once they leave Guantanamo, the U.S. State Department says. Defense lawyers and human rights groups say they know of no centralized database, although

Please see GUANTANAMO, Page A3

Good vibrations:

The energy behind strong belief

By Louis Sahagun
Los Angeles Times

If there was ever someone in need of good vibrations, it was Pat Eklund. The psychology professor at the University of California, San Francisco was as gnarly as an old oak, hardened by a lifelong struggle with impulsive anger.

All that changed one spring day in 2000 after a brief exchange with the Dalai Lama.

Please see BELIEF, Page A3



Appearances by the Dalai Lama, who visited Pasadena, Calif., in September, attract throngs who believe he can bestow blessings in this life and the next.

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TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tonight, Sunday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High 29, Low 20, 32/14).

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Cold with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs near 30. Tonight: A cold breeze developing. Dry and partly cloudy otherwise. Lows under teens. Tomorrow: Cooling further with mostly dry weather expected. Highs under 20s.

Complete weather report: See page B12

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Singing Christmas Tree, 'Light of the World, A Christmas Musical', 7 p.m., First Assembly of God, 189 Locust St. N., Twin Falls, bring canned food and paper goods, 733-5349. 'Fuster at the Prom,' the 9th annual Dinner Theatre production presented by the Buhl 8th School Drama Department, 7 p.m., West End Senior Citizens' Center, Buhl, \$28 a couple or \$15 a single, 490-1992 or 543-8262. A Tafetta Christmas, a '50s Christmas Remoulade, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., the King Fine Arts Center, at 2100 Parke Ave., Burley, 88, 878-5464. William Ingo's 'Bus Stop,' presented by the Company of Fools, 8 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, \$25 reserved seats and \$18 for senior citizens and students, (208) 578-9122. The Dance Center's 1st Winter Show, featuring the Top Hat Tappers, 4:30 p.m., the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Auditorium, Twin Falls, \$5 (no cost for children age three and under), 736-3998.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Raffle drawing for uniquely designed quilt, to raise matching funds for a LIBRA grant for Kimberly Public Library, 2 p.m., at the library, 120 W. Madison St., Kimberly, 423-4556.

CHURCH EVENTS

'Rejoice in His Coming' Christmas Cantata, performed by the Gooding Community Choral, 7 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1228 Main St., Gooding, free admission (free-will offering), 934-8227.

EXHIBITS

The 3rd annual Procrastinators Exhibit and Sale, with featured artist Janie Mack, other professional artists and craftsmen, spinning demonstrations, food and refreshments (served from 1 to 4 p.m.), 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Lion's Gate Gallery, old Odd Fellows Building, 219 Main Street, Filer, free admission, 469-9090.

'The Circle' by Amber Secon, former College of Southern Idaho art instructor, 1 to 9 p.m., Jean B. King Gallery, Herrert Center for Arts and Science, C.S.I. campus, Twin Falls, no cost, 732-6655.

'Discontinuity,' contemporary abstract paintings of local artist Ben Browne in the Galleria Pequena and new works by member-artists in the Full Moon Gallery, 11a.m. to 3 p.m., Main Street Plaza, 132 Main Ave. S., downtown Twin Falls, no cost, 734-ARTS.

FAMILY

Airport Christmas party 'for the kids,' Santa Claus will arrive via helicopter to visit and share candy with children, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Magic Valley Regional Airport, Twin Falls, no cost, 733-5215, ext. 0.

MUSEUMS

Faultliner Planetarium, 'Far Out Space Places' at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., 'The Christmas Stars' at 7 p.m. and 'Steamrolling' at 8:15 p.m., Herrert Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families (children under age 4 not admitted), 732-6655.

SPORTS

Charlot racing, sponsored by the Silver Creek Charlot Racing Association beginning with aged team races, 1:30 p.m., Richfield race-track (located along Hwy 26 just west of Richfield), 934-8667.

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 e-mail at sbrowne@magicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.

To have an event (including on-going events) listed in the January monthly calendar, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number by noon Dec. 22 to Suzanne Browne by e-mail at sbrowne@magicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

Want to submit a Mini Editorial for publication on this page? Send it by e-mail to mini@magicvalley.com. Submissions must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Mini Editorials can be up to 50 words in length. They will be subjected to the same verification process as letters to the editor. Writers may publish both one Mini Editorial and one letter per month.

OPINION MINI EDITORIAL. That didn't take long. A merchant nuclear plant is planned for Brunson, Idaho. Our legislators are refusing to hold any public hearings on their energy plan that encourages merchant nuclear and coal plants to build in Idaho. These merchant plants sell to the highest bidder states like California, Jerry Christmas. — DR. PETER RICHARDS Twin Falls

YOUR MORNING BREEFING

MAGIC VALLEY



Giving away Christmas: Lock, stock and holly

Some Magic Valley Christians, wary of the materialization of Christmas, are simply giving it away. SEE PAGE B6

Fungus implicated in Oakley duck deaths

OAKLEY — Wildlife experts are one step closer to determining what's killed about 2,500 ducks along Land Creek Springs, a waterway near Oakley. SEE PAGE A1

Cassia officials miffed at state over investigation

BURLEY — Some Cassia County officials were a little miffed that they weren't notified immediately of the recent duck deaths near Oakley and the subsequent investigation. SEE PAGE A1

Mini-Cassia mild on vote by mail change

BURLEY — While statewide results show most voters think voting by mail would be a good idea, voters in Mini-Cassia have evened mixed opinions about the issue. SEE PAGE A4

Tutor program aims at training for careers

TWIN FALLS — Students who fall in to be teachers will have the opportunity to sample the profession while still in high school. SEE PAGE A4

Filer student ropes his major senior project

FILER — Andrew 'Drew' Taylor's roots in the world of rodeo extend back four generations. So, last summer when his Filer High School senior started considering options for a graduation project, the decision to organize a team roping competition came easy. SEE PAGE A4

Burley program making kids into avid readers

BURLEY — Eleven-year-old Arianna used to hate books — but not anymore. Arianna is dyslexic and has struggled with reading since the second grade, but in October she and her 8-year-old brother, Kurtis, enrolled in former teacher Kimberly Otley's 'Dysexia Solutions' Reading Clinic. SEE PAGE A4

OBITUARIES

Juanita A. Romero, 93 Grant B. Humphries, 80 Sherry Lynn McDrummond Pratt, 40 Muriel J. Brown, 69 SEE PAGE A5

CORRECTION

Name misspelled Don McFarland's first name was misspelled in a story on Dec. 8, and again Friday in an editorial. The editorial also made in incorrect reference to the land-use proposal being made to the Jerome County commissioners. McFarland has submitted a proposal on behalf of Big Sky Farms Unlimited Partnership for an 18,555-acre unit live-stock confinement operation in Jerome County. If approved, it would be a heifer and calf operation and not a dairy where cows are milked. The Times-News regrets the errors.

IDAHO/WEST



Jefferies case goes to trial, but with limits

ST. GEORGE, Utah — For the judge who ordered a polygamist sect leader to stand trial on charges of rape as an accomplice, it all came down to a wedding ceremony in a Nevada motel. Standing before Warren Jeffs in her wedding dress, the 14-year-old girl said she refused to utter 'I do,' hold hands or kiss the groom. SEE PAGE A6

Waste shipments from Idaho on hold again

CARLSBAD, N.M. — Shipments of certain radioactive waste from Idaho National Laboratory to the federal government's underground dump in southeastern New Mexico are again on hold. SEE PAGE A6

New groups push for probe of mercury

RENO, Nev. — The nation's largest gold producing state has been asked to investigate whether mercury emissions from the mines are contaminating area fisheries. Citing a recent study by the University of Nevada, Reno, a coalition of environmentalists, health care advocates, sportsmen and American Indians said Thursday that a fish consumption advisory for mercury should be issued for on-range reservoir in north-east Nevada and perhaps other fisheries 'downwind from mining operations.' SEE PAGE A7

Arizona ranchers, farmers fight drought

PHOENIX — The tawny flats of Washington Ranch shivered as a stiff wind rumbled through grass coaxed from the ground by summer rain. The grass and the rain, scant though they were, bought Larry Todd another season, maybe two. And on the parched ranges of south-east Arizona in the middle of a drought, a rancher and his cattle cant ask for much more. Unless it's just more. SEE PAGE C1

NATION/WORLD



Rumsfeld gets big Pentagon sendoff

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, the public face of an unpopular war, bid farewell to the Pentagon on Friday in a splashy sendoff featuring lavish praise from President Bush. Rumsfeld defended to the end the mission that led to his ouster. SEE PAGE A9

Florida, California suspend executions

OCALA, Fla. — Gov. Jeb Bush suspended all executions in Florida after a medical examiner said Friday that prison officials botched the insertion of the needles when a convicted killer was put to death earlier this week. Separately, a federal judge in California issued a moratorium on executions in the nation's most populous state, declaring that the state's method of lethal injection runs the risk of violating the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. SEE PAGE B12

Europe on edge as holidays approach

MADRID, Spain — Western intelligence and security officials say the threat of a terror attack by Islamic militants over the Christmas and New Year's holiday travel season is extremely high, with the greatest concern focusing on a possible plot targeting Europe. SEE PAGE B12

Students, teachers give tips on making grades

Getting good grades in college these days is supposed to be easier than ever. But there are signs of grade deflation in the future. Princeton announced in spring 2005 that it planned to limit the number of As awarded in any course to 35 percent of all grades, down from the old 50 percent rate in some courses. Even in grade-inflated times, many students find that success in this part of the learning process is a mystery. SEE PAGE A11

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Wells signs huge contract with Blue Jays

TORONTO — All-Star center fielder Vernon Wells agreed Friday night to a \$126 million, seven-year contract extension through 2014, the sixth-largest deal in baseball history. SEE PAGE B4

Minico in third after Day 1 of invitational

JEROME — After the first day of the Bear-Gate Invitational at Jerome High School, the Minico Spartans are sitting in third place in the team standings with 53 points. The defending Class 4A champions are behind Pocatello (60 points) and Highland (59.5). Host Jerome is seventh with 26 points, while Twin Falls and Buhl are eighth and ninth, respectively. SEE PAGE B1

Kramer withdraws from Vandals search

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Montana State football coach Mike Kramer said Friday he has withdrawn his name from consideration for the head coaching job at the University of Idaho, and acknowledged the drug-related arrests of one player and two former players played a role in the decision. SEE PAGE B1

COMING-TOMORROW



COCKTAILS ON SUNDAY Is it a blunder, or is it about time? Page one



HOLIDAY HOMES Our photographer tours local light displays. Family Life



OFFICE PARTY Keeping your professionalism intact during the holidays. Money

Times-News

Publication information including publisher (Brad Hunt), circulation (13,091), advertising rates, and subscription information.

Guantanamo

Continued from page A1

one group is attempting to compile one.

When the Pentagon announces a detainee has been moved from Guantanamo, it gives his nationality but not his name, making it difficult to track the roughly 360 men released since the detention center opened in January 2002. The Pentagon says detainees have been sent to 26 countries.

But through interviews with justice and police officials, detainees and their families, and using reports from human rights groups and local media, The Associated Press was able to track 245 of those formerly held at Guantanamo. The investigation, which spanned 17 countries, found:

- Once the detainees arrived in other countries, 205 of the 245 were either freed without being charged or were cleared of charges related to their detention at Guantanamo. Forty either stand charged with

crimes or continue to be detained.

- Only a tiny fraction of transferred detainees have been put on trial. The AP identified 14 trials, in which eight men were acquitted and six are awaiting verdicts.

- The Afghan government has freed every one of the more than 83 Afghans sent home. Lawmaker Silbhatullah Mujahid, the head of Afghanistan's reconciliation commission, said many were innocent and wound up at Guantanamo because of tribal or personal rivalries.

- At least 67 of 70 repatriated Pakistanis are free after spending a year in Adiala Jail. A senior Pakistani Interior Ministry official said investigators determined that most had been "sold" for bounties to U.S. forces by Afghan warlords.

- All 21 detainees who were repatriated to Britain, Spain, Germany, Russia, Australia, Turkey, Denmark, Bahrain and

the Maldives were freed, some within hours after being sent home for "continued detention."

Some former detainees say they never intended to harm the United States and are bitter. "I can't wish the three long years of pain, trouble and humiliation from my memory," said Badarzzaman Badar, an Afghan who was freed in Pakistan. "It is like a cancer in my mind that makes me disturbed every time I think of those terrible days."

Overall, about 165 Guantanamo detainees have been transferred from Guantanamo for "continued detention," while about 200 were designated for immediate release. Some 420 detainees remain at the U.S. base in Cuba. Clive Stafford Smith, a British-American attorney representing several detainees, said the AP's findings indicate that innocent men were jailed and that the term "continued deten-

tion" is part of "a politically motivated farce."

The United States insists that the fact that so many of the former detainees have been freed by other countries doesn't mean they weren't dangerous. "They were part of Taliban, al-Qaida, or associated forces that are engaged in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners," said Navy Cmdr. Jeffrey Gordon, a Pentagon spokesman.

Detainees are held at Guantanamo Bay because a military panel classifies them as an "enemy combatant," which refers not only to armed fighters but to anyone who aids enemy forces. Every year, each gets a hearing to determine whether he remains a security threat to the United States or has intelligence value.

Using those hearings as guidance, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England decides whether to keep the detainee at Guantanamo.

Transferred Gitmo detainees set free

According to the Pentagon, roughly 360 Guantanamo detainees have been sent to 26 countries, almost half for "continued detention." The Associated Press found that 205 of 245 detainees it tracked were either freed or cleared of charges.

Status of prisoners transferred from Guantanamo Bay

Country	Number
Afghanistan	83
Pakistan	71
Saudi Arabia	29
Spain	9
Jordan	9
Kuwait	6/2
Russia	7
France	1/6
Bahrain	4
Turkey	3
Mexico	3
Germany	3
Spain	2
Australia	1
Maldives	1
Denmark	1
Germany	1

NOTE: The Pentagon said an unclassified number were transferred to the United States. However, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom say they did not receive any detainees.

SOURCES: AP reporting, AP

Belief

Continued from page A1

"He held my hands while we talked," Ekman recalled, "and I was filled with a sense of goodness and a unique total body sensation that I have no words to describe."

The Dalai Lama prefers not to talk of such things. "I have no extraordinary energy," he says with a dismissive wave his hand. "I'm just a Buddhist monk."

But some familiar with the Dalai Lama, and those who study religious figures, agree that every so often, people emerge who are perceived to offer proof of a higher authority, understanding or wisdom.

"It — whatever it is — can't be defined and is not to be confused with stardom or fame," suggested someone who knows a lot about both, Maria Shriver. "I think the Dalai Lama would say look within because it's in you, not someone else, it all comes down to whether you're open to being touched in your heart."

Shriver, a member of the Kennedy clan and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's wife, appeared onstage with the Dalai Lama in September at a conference in Long Beach, Calif., on women's issues. She also saw Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II and said they too projected an aura.

In India, one of the most popular spiritual leaders is Mata Amritnandamayi, a Hindu woman who is said to impart divine energy with a hug. Over the years, according

to her followers, the "Mother of Divine Bliss" has hugged more than 20 million people.

"Personally, I don't know what it is she has, but I don't think it's a scam," said Dara Meyers, who has written about her travels with the woman guru. "It reminded me a little of a quality I've seen in some performers and politicians like Bill Clinton, who is famous for making the focus of his attention feel like the only other person in the room."

What these special figures have in common is their effect on others. They are perceived as being able to bring people to a higher state of being through their example, teachings, sufferings or touch.

"These people are operating at a level most of us are not, and they're not limited by denominations. The spirit blows where it will," said Thomas Craughwell, a devoted Catholic and author of several books on saints. "We don't run into them very often but when we do, we're rattled because it's like a brush with the divine and because we want a piece of what they have."

That was the case with two visits in September to the Los Angeles area by the Dalai Lama. Hundreds of Tibetans and Buddhists gathered at a Pasadena hotel to receive a personal blessing that some believed would protect them in this life and ensure them a place in heaven.

The Dalai Lama is leader of the world's Buddhists, born in

a cowshed in a remote Tibetan village and chosen by a search party of monks to be head of his people at the age of 2.

Years ago, stories about the Dalai Lama's healing presence spread. One day he placed his square in Ekman's "Oh, give me a break" camp.

Now, Ekman desperately wants to know how the Dalai Lama cured him literally overnight of the temper that had him in psychoanalysis for years.

Ekman recently interviewed eight people who say they experienced similar transformations after meeting the Dalai Lama. All had telling things in common, including emotionally traumatic childhoods, Ekman said. In addition, each individual was facing a major turning point around the time of the meeting.

"In my case, my mother took her own life when I was 14," Ekman said. "And I have been craving retirement after monomaniacally pursuing a career in the psychology of emotion."

In May, Ekman crossed paths again with the Dalai Lama at a conference in Illinois and posed the question: What is it?

Without accepting credit for Ekman's case, "The Dalai Lama smiled and said the things science can't explain, but that doesn't mean it shouldn't try to," he said. "The Dalai Lama also said, 'Maybe science will figure these things out, which would be very nice. Maybe it won't.'"

Storms

Continued from page A1

A 28-year-old man was killed while he slept when the top of a tree snapped off and crashed into his home in a trailer park in McCleary, 18 miles west of Olympia.

Elsewhere in Washington, two people died in traffic accidents involving windblown trees. In Edmonds, north of Seattle, about 50 residents of an assisted living facility were evacuated after a tree crashed through the third floor, flooding the building. Snohomish County emergency management officials said. No injuries were reported, and residents were sent to other facilities.

In King County, which includes Seattle, drenching rain slowed commuters to a crawl. Colder temperatures moved in Friday as the storm passed and winds calmed, bringing heavy snow to lower elevations.

Some Puget Sound Energy customers won't have their lights back on for days, spokeswoman Roger Thompson said.

The Evergreen Point floating bridge, which links Seattle and its eastern suburbs, remained closed early Friday and numerous other highways were blocked because of high water or windblown trees. The Hood Canal floating bridge, which links Washington's Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas, and the Tacoma Narrows Bridge were reopened early Friday after being closed Thursday evening because of wind gusts up to 74 mph.

The Oregon Department of

Transportation closed three major highways crossing the Cascade Range because of fallen trees or downed power lines, and winds gusting past 90 mph on the Oregon coast.

The National Weather Service said rainfall was expected to be as high as 8 inches on the coast and 5 inches in the Cascade Range, with snow at higher elevations.

Rain drenched Oweeth Field in Seattle just before kickoff of the NFL game between the Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers. The rain left standing water on the field, and about 30 minutes before kickoff, a power surfer briefly knocked out the large video screens at both ends of the stadium.

Seattle public schools were closed Friday, as were numerous smaller school systems and The Evergreen State College in Olympia.

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Ducks

Continued from page A1

removed the ducks but does not think the infection can be spread from bird to bird.

Hunters discovered a few dead ducks late last week and alerted Fish and Game. Biologists from the department responded that day and found

12 dead mallards. Two days later they returned and found 500 more. At last count, the death toll was about 2,500 animals — all mallards, all found dead in a radius of only a few miles.

An investigation is under way that includes Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Agriculture and South Central District Health.

According to a statement issued by Fish and Game, waterfowl die-offs are common. In just the past six months, there have been 16 events across the nation in which more than 1,000 birds died.

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Christmas in the City Downtown Boise - Thru Dec. 23 Saturdays noon to 6pm, 383-7000 or www.downtownboise.org

Idaho Steelheads Hockey Qwest Arena - Dec. 9, 28, 29 & 30 7:10pm, 383-0080 or www.klahnsteelheads.com

Holiday Lights Tour Throughout Boise - Dec. 9-27 426-1494 tickets at Select-a-Seat or www.boisechristmas.com

The Nutcracker Morrison Center - Dec. 15-17 343-9550 or www.boiseidaho.org

Idaho Stampede Basketball Qwest Arena - Dec. 22, 23 & 27 7:00pm, 388-4667 or www.klahnstampede.com

Hondo's Messiah St. John's Cathedral - Dec. 23 7:30pm, 345-1346 or www.boisemasterchorale.org

MPC Computers Bowl Bronco Stadium - Dec. 31 5:30pm, 428-4737 or www.mpccomputersbowl.com

Winter Garden Aglow Idaho Botanical Garden - Thru Jan. 7 6-9pm, for schedule 343-0949 or www.klahnbotanicalgarden.org

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Students tutoring students

Twin Falls School District to start student-tutoring program as dual-credit course through CSIs education department

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Students who aspire to be teachers will have the opportunity to sample the profession while still in high school.

In an effort to help students meet higher academic standards next school year, Twin Falls High School will offer dual-credit courses where students can tutor their peers.

The dual-credit courses will be offered through the College of Southern Idaho, and will allow students to begin earning credit towards a degree in education.

Students who participate in the course will be required to take online classes through CSI, which will introduce them to the basics of teaching. They will also be required to tutor students who are not passing core classes such as math, science, and language arts.

"We are hoping to provide this for students who may want to teach," said Mary LaBarry, director of secondary programs for the Twin Falls School District. "And we certainly have enough students for them to teach right now. We just need to have students to do the tutoring."

In October, the Twin Falls School Board approved recommendations from the district's Athletics Advisory Committee to increase academic requirements for eligibility in school-sponsored activities. Beginning in the 2007-08 school year, students will have to maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average — about a C average — in order to participate in school activities.

The district had been following the Idaho High School Activities Association's minimum requirement of a 0.75 GPA, which is about a D average. Fewer than five school dis-

tricts in Idaho exceed the state's minimum requirements, which are enforced by the IHSAA.

But Twin Falls will continue to follow the Idaho State Board of Education's minimum graduation requirements, which allow high school seniors to graduate with a 0.75 GPA and a passing score on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test.

"I don't think that this should only be available for students in school activities," said Ben Allen, principal of Twin Falls High School. "So this will be available for all students, and I think it will be strongly recommended for any students who have problems in core subjects."

Allen also said that high school staff hope to incorporate the tutoring program into the Teaching Small Learning Community, which works with students who have an interest in teaching careers.

School officials said the tutoring program will be offered this year, however, it will not be fully operational until the beginning of the coming school year. The number of students who enroll in the tutoring program will be critical to its success because the district hopes to maintain a ratio of one tutor for every four or six students.

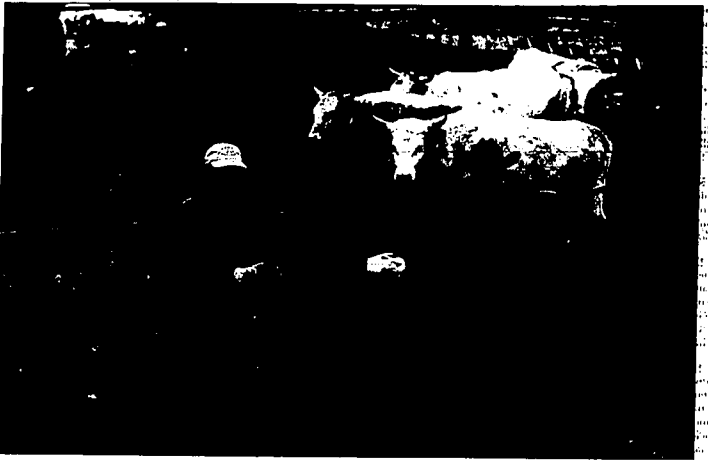
"I think the fact that CSI is offering this as a dual-credit will benefit us because it will encourage some students who may be thinking about pursuing teaching careers," Allen said. "And CSI really wants to do this to introduce those students to their education classes."

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

"A 32-foot horse trailer with living quarters was his first home, and his first rodeo was the Cow Palace in San Francisco."

— Dottie Taylor said of her son, Drew Taylor

Roots & rope



Drew Taylor, at center, poses with friends and fellow ropers Tyler Stradley, left, and Chisum Hughes at the Triple H Arena in Filer. Taylor is organizing a team roping event for his senior project at Filer High School.

High school student behind Sunday's roping competition

By John E. Swayne
Times-News correspondent

FILER — Andrew "Drew" Taylor's roots in the world of rodeo extend back four generations. So last summer when this Filer High School senior started consulting options for a graduation project, the decision to organize a team roping competition came easy.

"Just as far back as our history can go, my family's been involved in ranching and rodeo," Taylor said. "It's a lot of work, but I know people who put them on and could get help from them."

Before selecting a project, each senior is required to find someone willing to monitor their progress and share knowledge. Taylor's mentor is 32-year-old Filer resident Kent Champneys.

"I've helped with or been part of many of these competitions," Champneys said. "He (Drew) has a lot of talent and gives more than 110 percent in everything he does."

The \$750 Jackpot Team Roping Competition is scheduled for noon Sunday at the Triple H Arena, 2065 East 4400 North in Filer. The competition will be divided into two segments. A 5-hand roped-down and a 4.5-hand roped-down. Based on an individual cowboy's earnings and roping record, the handicap numbers determine who will be eligible to participate.

"The more money you've won or the

Team roping

What: \$750 Jackpot Team Roping Competition
Where: Triple H Arena, 2065 East 4400 North
When: Noon Sunday
Cost: Free to spectators

better you rope, the higher your number's going to be, and the combined numbers of both the header and heeler can't be higher than a five," Taylor said.

A header is the team member who ropes a steer's horns or neck while the heeler is responsible for roping the hind legs. Stock sponsors for the team roping are Kathy Church of KC Calves and Butch and Heather Shields' Balfers 45 Arena.

"The biggest attraction for cowboys at any rodeo is going to be money, so they're going to go where there's the most money and not have to hit little ropings or rodeos like this one that don't pay as much," Taylor said.

Prize money sponsors include Latham Motors, Premier Insurance, Westera Real Estate, Hertz of Magic Valley and Charmac Trailers.

Money generated from ride-in fees will benefit the Filer High School Rodeo Team, the team, which receives no money from the Filer School District, holds from eight to 10 fundraisers each year and attends about 18 high school

rodeo competitions between March and July.

Two weeks after his birth in Crowley, Texas, Taylor and his mother, Dottie, hit the road following his father, a professional rodeo clown, along the circuit.

"A 32-foot horse trailer with living quarters was his first home, and his first rodeo was the Cow Palace in San Francisco," Dottie Taylor said. "He never saw the same town or even state two weeks in a row."

Taylor grew up learning the skills of a cowboy from mutton-busting to steer riding, in the arena and on the ranch. His family moved to Filer in 1994 from the Sutton Brothers' 44,000-acre ranch in Onida, S.D., where his father was working.

At age 13 he took up bull riding but injured his right arm three times in less than a year and decided to change focus.

"I kind of chickened out on bull riding and now mainly what I do is rope calves, team rope and steer wrestle," Tyler said.

After graduation this spring, he plans to attend Ranger College in Ranger, Texas, to study welding. But his dream is to one day become a rodeo stock contractor.

"Stock contractors basically organize and put on rodeos," Taylor said. "Some of them just supply stock anymore, but I think a project like this team roping is important because I'm involved in all of it."

Clinic helps end reading struggles

Ottley's Dyslexia Solutions Reading Clinic the first of its kind in Mini-Cassia

By Larin Wick
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Eleven-year-old Arianna used to hate books — not anymore.

"I have seen a huge change in her attitude, now she is not intimidated by reading," said Melanée Walters, Arianna's mother. "Arianna has always been so frustrated by reading and now she is picking out three and four books a week at the library."

Arianna is dyslexic and has struggled with reading since the second grade, but in October she and her 8-year-old brother, Kurtis, enrolled in former teacher Kimberly Ottley's Dyslexia Solutions Reading Clinic.

"She is just flying, she has really blossomed," Ottley said. "But, Walters said, the biggest change occurred in Kurtis, who consistently confused the letters p and b and before starting the program."

"We have seen a huge difference in him," she said. "He

"You can't believe the look on these kids' faces when I tell them there is a reason they can't read and that they are not lazy."

— Kimberly Ottley, teacher

is gaining more confidence and he has been able to deal with his letter issues."

At first, Walters said, she felt skeptical of the program.

"The program works. I think Kimberly is going to do great things for the kids in our area, I'm just glad she is in our area," Walters said.

When a *South Idaho Press* article about the clinic came out in October, Ottley says her phone rang off the hook.

Many parents and teachers recognize the specific Mini-Cassia students who struggle with dyslexia. One teacher even called the parent of a student she previously taught, after reading the article to tell her that her child might have the condition.

Dyslexia is caused by a

genetic difference in one out of five people's brains. It causes them to process language through the right side of their brain, rather than the left. Often people with dyslexia are very gifted in areas covered by the right side of the brain such as music, art, global thinking, spatial relations and athletics.

Ottley's for-profit reading clinic is the first of its type in Mini-Cassia. The tutoring costs an average of \$2,400 a year, and typically takes two years to get students up to grade level. Ottley said 95 percent of this type of reading difficulty can be prevented if caught early enough, and dyslexia can be diagnosed before a child begins to read.

But an official diagnosis is

difficult to obtain. Schools do not test for dyslexia and neither can a medical or eye doctor. A diagnosis must be made by someone who is certified in the field and only two people are certified in Idaho. The cost for the testing usually runs between \$500 and \$800. If a child is diagnosed with dyslexia, the school must provide appropriate help. But if the condition remains undiagnosed, students are lumped into the learning disabled category, without the specialized help they need.

Ottley said it is important not to let these children slip through the cracks.

"You can't believe the look on these kids' faces when I tell them there is a reason they can't read and that they are not lazy," Ottley said. "They deal with so much ridicule."

Editor's note: Kimberly Ottley also works as a correspondent and weekly columnist for the *South Idaho Press*.

Pasture fence taken out by crash again

By Renee Wills
For the Times-News

PAUL — Minidoka County sheriff's officers and an Idaho State Police trooper monitor traffic Thursday at 400 W. 100 S. and United Electric officials were able to re-erect a pole that was sheared off when this tractor-trailer rig hauling sugar beets overturned about 5 p.m. near Paul.

The driver, Justin Wenkroper, 23, of American Falls, was not injured, but property owner Oliver LaRoque said he lost his pasture fence for the fourth time in a year.

He said although insurance has always covered the damage, having to repair his fence and replace pasture that gets



United Electric workers repair a pole sheared off when a semi-truck hauling overturned near Paul Thursday.

ruined when the factory sends a loader to pick up the spilled beets is costly and time-consuming.

Snowpack	% season		% season		
	% of Avg. peak**	21%	% of Avg. peak**	22%	
Watershed Salmon	94%	21%	Watershed Horro's Fork/Teton	87%	22%
Big Wood	91%	27%	Upper Snake Basin	87%	27%
Little Wood	76%	22%	Ogley	132%	35%
Big Lost	76%	22%	Salmon Falls	97%	27%
Little Lost	81%	25%			As of Dec. 15, 2006

* A comparison of basin snowpack, on the day with a 20-year average. ** An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in spring.

SERVICES

Helen Elizabeth Askew of Bellevue, Wash., and formerly of Twin Falls, died at 10:30 a.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls; friends may call one hour before the funeral today at the mortuary.

Myrna Halverson of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Rupert LDS Stake Center, 324 E. 18th St.; friends and family may call one hour before the funeral today at the church (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

William Otis Baker of Declo, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley, 1350 E. 16th St.

Paul Lorenzo Wilkison of Gooding, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the Gooding LDS Church (Demary Funeral Chapel in Gooding).

Ruth Fern Nielsen of Filer, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome; friends may call from 9 to 10:45 a.m. today at the mortuary.

Mark Harvey Brown of Twin Falls, graveside service at 1 p.m. today at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Dennis Paul McDermott of Mayday and formerly of Twin Falls, memorial service at 1 p.m. today at the Mackay High School auditorium (Salmon River Funeral Chapel in Challis).

Hilda E. Wilson of Burley, funeral at 2 p.m. today at the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel, 321 E. Main St.; friends and family may call one hour before the funeral at the mortuary.

Roberta Louise Holgate DeHart of Boise, memorial service at 2 p.m. today at the Alden-Waggoner Funeral Chapel in Boise and at a later date in Denton, Mont.

Merle Huey of Jerome.

memorial service at 2 p.m. today at the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome; inurnment at 1 p.m. Monday at Sunset Memorial Park, Twin Falls.

Willie Sapten of Heyburn, funeral at 3 p.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.; friends and family may call one hour before the funeral at the mortuary.

Chester Melvin Phillips of Rupert, funeral will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Rupert LDS 3rd Ward Church, 526 F St.; friends and family may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St., and one hour before the funeral Monday at church.

LaTee Stephens of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at the Hazelton LDS Church; friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Monday at the church (Payne Mortuary in Burley).

Jack Presnell of Wendell, memorial service at 2 p.m. Monday at the Wendell United Methodist Church (Demary's Funeral Chapel).

Sund Dorothy Kobayashi of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Rupert United Methodist Church, 605 H St.; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 16th St.; and one hour before the funeral Tuesday at the church.

Shirley Rebecca Clark of Twin Falls, private family service at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church on State Street, Boise (Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls, and Summers Funeral Home, Boise).

Roxanne Martin of Bellevue, memorial service at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the St. Charles Catholic Church in Halley (Wood River Chapel in Halley).

and caring for her children.

She is survived by her parents, Ronnie Medlock of Buhl and Marilyn Medlock of Twin Falls; husband, Donnie Pratt of Twin Falls; children, Levi Pratt and Hayden Lee Pratt, both of Twin Falls; three older children, Jonathan Michael McDermott, Wayne Marshall McDermott and Nathaniel Seth McDermott, all of Washington; brother, Douglas Wayne Medlock, and sister, Crystal Gale Medlock, both of Twin Falls; along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. A celebration of Sherry's life will be Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls, Idaho. The family requests memorial contributions be made to the Levi and Hayden Pratt Education Fund, in care of Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301.

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Viola V. Hodges MALIA — Viola V. Hodges, 80, of Malia, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at her home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Carol Warren BURLEY — Carol Warren, 62, of Burley, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at her home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Crystal H. Neal JEROME — Crystal Harral Neal, 42, of Jerome, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, in Twin Falls. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome, with Father Ron Waker officiating. Friends may call from 6 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel.

Vernon A. Hansen BURLEY — Vernon A. Hansen, 76, of Burley and formerly of Rupert, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at his home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Jesus Aberasturi HEYBURN — Jesus Aberasturi, 73, of Heyburn, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, at his home. The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at the

Grant B. Humphries JEROME — Grant B. Humphries, our beloved husband, father and grandfather, returned to his heavenly home on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, at the age of 80 years. Grant was born on July 26, 1926, to B. A. and M. A. Humphries and Dora V. Johnson Humphries in Jerome, Idaho. He had a great love for the town of Jerome and the people here; most of his treasured memories occurred here. Grant learned the value of hard work at an early age while doing various jobs around town. At the age of 14, he began working for the Safeway store in Jerome and continued to work there for the next 48 years.

Grant attended Jerome city schools and was just short of high school graduation when he joined the Navy. After completing his military service, Grant returned to Jerome High School and, while working full time, graduated with high marks. It was during this time that he met his eternal companion, LaRue Pearce, and they married on April 5, 1947. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Logan, Utah, LDS temple. From that moment on, Grant and LaRue have been inseparable sweethearts.

Grant was an avid sports fan. He had an impact on the lives of many young men in Jerome while serving as their Little League baseball coach. Grant was also the president of the Jerome Baseball Association.

He was an experienced fisherman and spent many hours fishing with his wife, daughter, Patty, his sons, grandsons, and his best friend, Don Weeks.

Grant had a deep and abiding testimony of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and faithfully served in numerous callings, which included being bishop of the Jerome 1st Ward for eight years. Always eager to learn, Grant was grateful for the opportunity he had to acquire an associate of arts degree at the College of Southern Idaho and was a member of the first graduating class at the Twin Falls site. He was also a talented public speaker. However, of all of Grant's accomplishments, he was most proud of his family. He was the father of six wonderful children, and he delighted in spending time with his family. Grant and LaRue rarely missed a recital, a sports event or a wedding in which their children or grand-

children were involved. From him, his children learned to respect their leaders, to develop their faith in Christ and to work diligently. Grant is survived by his wife, LaRue, and by his children, Grant B. Jr. of Golden Valley, Ariz., Carol Sue of Burley, Idaho, of Taft, Calif., Michael of Anchorage, Alaska; Patty (Jeff) Ward of Jerome; Kathy (Arlen) Jensen of Logan, Utah; and Marty (Sonja) Humphries of Jerome; a sister, Maxine Vanvagner of Mapleton, Utah; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Kenneth; and his sister, Shirley Weeks. Grant's family would like to thank the members of the Jerome 1st Ward, Dr. Irwin and the staff of Alpha House for their compassion and caring during Grant's illness. The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the Jerome LDS 1st Ward Chapel, 825 E. Ave. D in Jerome, with Bishop Maxine Dixon officiating. A visitation will be held Monday evening, Dec. 18, at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome, where family and friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m., and again Tuesday at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment to follow in the Jerome Cemetery.

DEATH NOTICES

Hansen Mortuary — Rupert Chapel. Viewing will be one hour before the funeral at the mortuary. Burial will follow in the Riverside Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

Elmer L. Young NAMPA — Elmer L. Young, 88, of Nampa, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006. A celebration of life will be from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at his daughter's home, 9237 W. Beachside Lane in Garden City. Arrangements are under the direction of the Alisp & Persons Funeral Chapel in Nampa.

Burbage R. Justice TWIN FALLS — Burbage "Bob" Rush Justice, 76, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. A celebration of life will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with Pastor David M. Brown of the First Baptist Church officiating and military honors by the area veterans and auxiliary. Friends may call from noon to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls. A full obituary will appear in Sunday's newspaper.

Jerry Demain GOODING — Jerry Demain, 73, of Gooding, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at the Mountain Care Center in Kimberly. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demary's Gooding Chapel.

Richard E. Shacklett KIMBERLY — Richard "Rick" E. Shacklett, 59, of Kimberly, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with Pastor Gary Gilman of the First Baptist Church officiating.

Walter B. Haffner TWIN FALLS — Walter B. Haffner, 78, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home & Crematory in Twin Falls.

Richard E. Shacklett KIMBERLY — Richard "Rick" E. Shacklett, 59, of Kimberly, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with Pastor Gary Gilman of the First Baptist Church officiating.

Janita A. Romero GOODING — Juanita A. Romero, 93, a resident of Gooding and formerly of California, died Monday, Dec. 11, 2006, at the Gooding County Memorial Hospital in Gooding. Juanita was born Aug. 9, 1913, in Maui, Hawaii, the daughter of Pedro and Antonia Ortega. She married Antonio Romero on March 11, 1944, in Santa Clara, Calif. She worked at the San Francisco Lithographer.

Juanita is survived by her daughter, Judith Ann (Jimmie) Glaves, of Gooding and grandchildren, Jayme McDonald and Todd Glaves. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Friday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. at Demary's Gooding Chapel by Deacon John McKinley. Inurnment will take place on a later date in the Madrona Cemetery in Saratoga, Calif.

Juanita is survived by her daughter, Judith Ann (Jimmie) Glaves, of Gooding and grandchildren, Jayme McDonald and Todd Glaves. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Friday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m. at Demary's Gooding Chapel by Deacon John McKinley. Inurnment will take place on a later date in the Madrona Cemetery in Saratoga, Calif.

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Bernice DaSogio RUPERT — Lillith Bernice DaSogio, 95, of Rupert, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at the Warren House in Burley. The funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 802 F St. in Rupert, with Rev. Father Mike S. Marie as celebrant. Burial will be in the Rupert Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and one hour before the funeral Mass on Tuesday at the church. A complete obituary will appear in Sunday's newspaper.

Esther Whiting RUPERT — Esther Whiting, 90, of Rupert, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, at the Mindok Memorial Hospital. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. Burial will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the church. Friends and family may call one hour prior to the funeral and the rosary. Burial will follow in the Rupert Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

Richard E. Shacklett KIMBERLY — Richard "Rick" E. Shacklett, 59, of Kimberly, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with Pastor Gary Gilman of the First Baptist Church officiating.

Walter B. Haffner TWIN FALLS — Walter B. Haffner, 78, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 15, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home & Crematory in Twin Falls.

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Sherry Lynn McDrummond Pratt

TWIN FALLS — Sherry Lynn McDrummond Pratt, 46, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday night, Dec. 13, 2006, near her home as the result of an auto accident.

She was born June 2, 1960, in Twin Falls, Idaho, the daughter of Ronnie and Marilyn Medlock.

Throughout her life, Sherry enjoyed drawing, painting and crocheting. She also enjoyed the outdoors, camping, hiking, flowers and being close to nature was where she felt the most comfortable.

Sherry was married young to John McDrummond; to this union were born three children.

After her separation, she met Donnie Pratt in 1991. They shared a great love together to this loving union were born two children.

Sherry very much enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom

Muriel J. Brown

JEROME — Muriel J. Brown, 69, of Jerome, died Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, in Twin Falls. She was born Jan. 24, 1937, in Fergus Falls, Minn., the daughter of Robert and Martha A. Hober.

She was a beloved wife, mother of five, grandmother of seven and sister to 10. Muriel married Kenneth H. Brown on Sept. 25, 1965. Muriel was a beloved wife, loving mother, homemaker and was loved by many close friends.

She enjoyed crafting, cooking, gardening, shopping, camping and providing loving care to her immediate family. Muriel loved to prepare special celebrations on holidays and for each family member on their birthday. She had a smile and a laugh that could light up a room and was a joy and blessing to many. Christmas was her favorite time of year.

Muriel J. Brown

Muriel is survived by her husband, Kenneth H. Brown of Jerome; her daughters, Donna Romani of Antioch, Ill., Shirley Kleemann of Carlton, Ore., Sandie Davers of Twin Falls, and Karen Gillman of Plant City, Fla.; her son, Kenneth W. Brown of Jerome; and her grandchildren, Christopher Johnson, Joe, Matt and Andrew, Bernami, and Hallie, Brian and Bradley Davis.

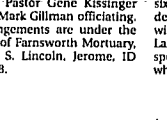
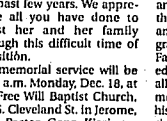
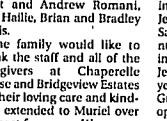
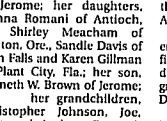
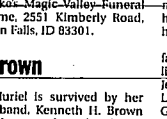
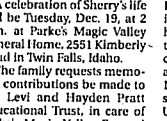
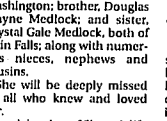
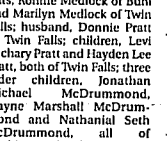
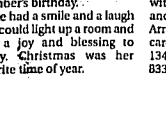
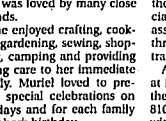
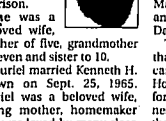
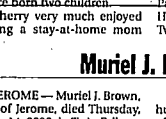
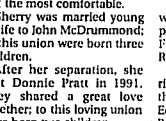
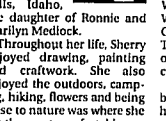
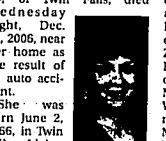
The family would like to thank the staff and all of the caregivers at Chaperelle House and Bridgeway Estates for their loving care and kindness extended to Muriel over the past few years. We appreciate all you have done to assist her and her family through this difficult time of transition.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18, at the Free Will Baptist Church, 810 S. Cleveland St. in Jerome. With Pastor G. K. Kissinger and Mark Gillman officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338.

Muriel is survived by her husband, Kenneth H. Brown of Jerome; her daughters, Donna Romani of Antioch, Ill., Shirley Kleemann of Carlton, Ore., Sandie Davers of Twin Falls, and Karen Gillman of Plant City, Fla.; her son, Kenneth W. Brown of Jerome; and her grandchildren, Christopher Johnson, Joe, Matt and Andrew, Bernami, and Hallie, Brian and Bradley Davis.

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IDAHO/WEST

WIPP waste deliveries from Idaho on hold

The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, N.M. — Shipments of certain radioactive waste from Idaho National Laboratory to the federal government's underground dump in southeastern New Mexico are again on hold.

The U.S. Department of Energy has temporarily suspended the batch of shipments while the New Mexico Environment Department reviews the situation, a DOE official said.

The DOE had halted the shipments Nov. 26 to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad after liquid was found in what was supposed to be a dry drum.

The problem was discovered while waste drums were being prepared for shipment to WIPP, which is not allowed to accept any liquid waste because of the risks of leaks or potentially explosive materials.

The DOE later authorized the lab to resume the shipments to WIPP.

But the DOE put a hold on the shipments pending a review by the state agency. Kerry Watson, senior technical adviser to the DOE's Carlsbad office, said Thursday.

The Environment Department wants assurances that no other prohibited liquid waste has been inadvertently sent to WIPP.

"We expect a thorough evaluation," state Environment Secretary Ron Curry said.

Luna fires 20 at Idaho Department of Education

BOISE (AP) — The transition staff for Tom Luna, who begins his job as superintendent of public instruction in January, has notified 20 employees at the Idaho Department of Education that they will be out of a job when he takes office.

"With any transition we are going to bring people into the department to work with, and unfortunately that necessarily means the fact that people will not be continuing on after Jan. 1," Luna told the Idaho Statesman.

Luna, a Republican, said he plans to bring his own people into the department to help make planned changes, which he didn't reveal.

He also declined to name which people were losing their jobs.

"People are understandably upset and disappointed," said Jennifer Oxley, the department's spokeswoman. "This is a sad day for a lot of people."

Oxley said that Jana Jones, the deputy to outgoing Superintendent Marilyn Howard, was not among those told her job would end. However, Oxley said Jones plans to resign before the end of the year.

Luna narrowly defeated Jones to replace Howard in November's election.

"I notified Dr. Jones that we were going to be letting these people know," Luna said. "I thought it was a professional courtesy to let them know in advance."

Luna said some of the changes he's making are in the department's administration, which has contact with lawmakers in the Legislature.

"We are going to have our groups over there explaining and promoting my agenda and obviously that is going to be different people," he said.

According to the state's Division of Human Resources, employees in state offices run by elected officials serve at the pleasure of department heads and can be dismissed without cause.

Feds to offer Wyoming a wolf compromise

The Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intends to offer the state of Wyoming a compromise aimed at ending the standoff over wolf management.

The federal agency proposes to designate a permanent area in northwestern Wyoming where the state would manage wolves as trophy game animals. The state could consider any wolves found outside of that area as predators that could be killed on sight.

Wyoming this fall sued the federal government for rejecting its proposed wolf management plan. Rather than designating a permanent trophy hunting area for the wolves, Wyoming has called for allowing the state game and fish department to change the area boundaries for trophy hunting as it sees fit to control the wolf population.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials will meet Monday with Gov. Dave Freudenthal to discuss their proposal. Lara Azar, spokeswoman for Freudenthal,

said Friday the governor's office hasn't seen specifics from the federal agency.

Ed Bangs, wolf recovery coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Helena, Mont., said Friday that the federal proposal would incorporate parts of the state's plan while designating parts of northwest Wyoming as a "permanent wolf area."

The boundary of the proposed permanent area would extend from Cody south to Moxeeville, around the western boundary of the Wind River

Reservation down the Pinedale, west to the Alpine area and then back north to Yellowstone National Park.

Bangs said his agency's proposal to designate a permanent area for the animals is biologically sound and would ensure a continuing population in the state. He said the agency will propose that the state commit to managing seven packs of wolves. Together with another eight packs in Yellowstone, he said the proposal would ensure that 15 packs survive in the state.

Wyoming's dispute with the federal government over wolf management has prevented removing the animal from Endangered Species Act protections in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Officials say Wyoming's federal lawsuit could take years to resolve through the courts.

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Judge sent Jeffs case to trial but prosecutors will have limits

By Jennifer Dober and Paul Foy Associated Press writers

ST. GEORGE, Utah — For the judge who ordered a polygamist sex leader to stand trial on charges of rape as an accomplice, it all came down to a wedding ceremony in a Nevada motel.

Standing before Warren Jeffs in her wedding dress, the 14-year-old girl said she refused to utter "I do," hold hands or kiss the groom. She reluctantly agreed to marry a 19-year-old cousin when her mother stepped in.

Then she locked herself in the bathroom and sobbed. "To say her agreement was reluctant, this court finds is very clear," 5th District Judge James Shumate ruled Thursday, noting the girl objected long after the April 2001 ceremony.

Jeffs, 51, the leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

His attorneys contend he's being prosecuted for his peculiar religion, which practices arranged marriages and polygamy in communities of about 10,000 people on the Utah-Arizona border. Prosecutors claim they can prove Jeffs twice ordered the girl to submit herself to her cousin.

If convicted, he could spend the rest of his life in prison, jury selection was set for April 23.

Besides finding probable cause for a trial, Shumate made several rulings — a few in Jeffs' favor.

He said prosecutors cannot assert the girl was a victim of incest and cannot argue that Jeffs coerced the girl to get married. She and her cousin were united in an FLDS religious ceremony and never held a marriage license.

Prosecutors can, however, ask a jury to find that Jeffs, as someone in a position of trust, enticed an unwilling girl to get married, over her reputed objections. They



Warren Jeffs listens to his attorney, Walter Bugden, give his closing argument in Jeffs' preliminary hearing, Thursday in St. George, Utah. Jeffs, leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, is charged with rape as an accomplice for his alleged role in forcing a teenager to marry her cousin.

maintain that Jeffs insisted her salvation was at stake.

Deputy Attorney Ryan Shaum said the restrictions won't tie the prosecution's hands.

Rejecting an argument by the defense, the judge also said marriage automatically implies sexual relations, even though "those words were not used" by the girl in a culture that doesn't discuss the specifics of sex.

So how will a jury see it? "It's going to be a hard battle to fight because he has

very good attorneys," said Gary Engels, an investigator for the Mohave County, Ariz., attorney's office, which has a criminal case pending against Jeffs.

Ken Driggs, an Atlanta lawyer and expert on polygamy cases, said Jeffs believes "God will protect him."

"But Jeffs not going to be in the jury box," Driggs said. "The girl in the case is now 20, out of the sect, married to another man and mother of a new baby."

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IDAHO/WEST

Groups push probe of Nev. mercury emissions

By Scott Soren
Associated Press writer

RENO, Nev. — The nation's largest gold producing state has been asked to investigate whether mercury emissions from the mines are contaminating area fisheries.

Citing a recent study by the University of Nevada, Reno, a coalition of environmentalists, health care advocates, sportsmen and American Indians said Thursday that a fish consumption advisory for mercury should be issued for one large reservoir in northeast Nevada and perhaps other fisheries downwind from mining operations.

Fish tissue samples collected by university researchers at Wild Horse Reservoir 60 miles north of Elko found mercury concentrations that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers a public health risk, especially to children and pregnant women, the groups said.

"We believe that an investigation into the public health risks from fish consumption from reservoirs, lakes and rivers in northern Nevada is warranted," they said in a letter to the state health administrator.

"It is important that Nevada families and visiting tourists have accurate information to determine which fish are safe to eat and how many fish are safe to eat."

The letter was written by Dan Randolph, executive director of the Great Basin Mine Watch, a nonprofit environmental watchdog group based in Reno. It was signed by representatives of the Nevada Nurses Association, Ormsby Sportsmen's Group, Western Shoshone Defense Project, Institute for Children's Environmental Health and Earthworks, among others.

"We're concerned because the mercury levels in these fish are roughly twice the level that triggers a fish consumption advisory in Idaho," Randolph said.

State Health Administrator Alex Fraantz will ask the state's health officer, Dr. Bradford Lee, to examine the study and the groups' request, spokeswoman Martha Framsted said.

"Keeping in mind that our mission is protecting the public health, this definitely will be reviewed by Dr. Lee and possibly others," she said.

There are about two-dozen major gold mines in Nevada. They produced 6.85 million ounces of gold in 2005 with a value of about \$3.05 billion — third in the world behind South Africa and Australia.

The coalition said the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory showed Nevada's mercury emissions totaled more than 4,605 pounds of mercury released in 2004 — more than 95 percent of it from gold mines in northern Nevada.

The Nevada mines are responsible for one-fourth of all U.S. mercury air emissions west of Texas, the mine watch said.

Scientists have reported high mercury levels in fish and waterfowl in Idaho and Utah downwind of the Nevada mines, the groups said.

"Yet very little monitoring has been done to determine the extent of mercury contamination in fish and waterfowl in northern Nevada," they said.

The mining watchdog group has criticized new state regulations adopted last year because they don't include a cap.

Environmental protection division spokesman Danie Pistone said the agency is implementing the new rules, which he said are the first of their kind in the nation and will result in "an aggressive, comprehensive, robust regulatory program for mercury emissions."

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EPA orders cleanup of capped pond in Pocatello

POCATELLO (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the owners of a now-defunct phosphorous plant northwest of Pocatello to install a gas treatment system after tests showed the presence of a toxic and flammable gas building up inside a capped waste pond.

Testing done Nov. 20 and 21 by the EPA at the FMC Idaho LLC plant found high levels of phosphine, hydrogen sulfide and hydrogen cyanide. The Pocatello-based company must submit a plan to the EPA in January on how it plans to draw down the levels of the gases.

"The danger is that you continue to build up high levels of explosive and toxic gases that create a threat of release and exposure to onsite workers and others in the vicinity of the pond," Greg Weigel, a coordinator with the EPA in Boise, told The Associated Press on Friday.

Hydrogen sulfide has the odor of rotten eggs, is highly toxic and flammable.

At the concentrations we were measuring it, we thought we would have been able to smell it," Weigel told the Idaho State Journal.

Phosphine gas can harm respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Weigel said the capped pond, called Pond 16S, is about 10 acres in size. The company ceased production of phosphorous from raw ore at the plant in 2001. The area is now part of the Eastern Michaud Flats Superfund site.

Weigel said more tests are planned next week.

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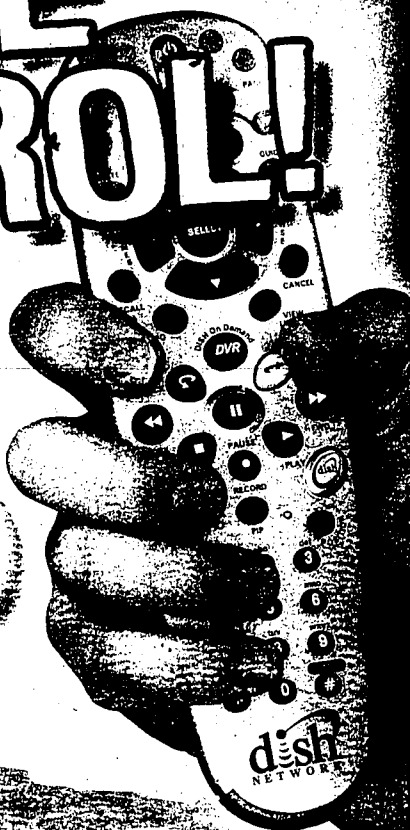
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Texas official's report ignites a new border conflict

By Darryl Fears
The Washington Post

It is a Texas showdown, a war of words over illegal immigration at the border.
State Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn fired the first shot with a recent report that, for some, says the unthinkable: Illegal immigrants not only pay their fair share in taxes, but are also good for the economy.
"The absence of 1.4 million

undocumented immigrants in Texas ... would have been a loss to our gross state product of \$17.7 billion," Strayhorn said in a statement.
Strayhorn billed the report as the first ever by a state finance official, a crucial step forward. But for Texans who believe hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are overrunning their state, the report is a misstep.
State Rep. Leo Berman, R-

Tyler, who introduced legislation that would bar Texas from recognizing children born to illegal immigrants in American hospitals as U.S. citizens, called the report "outrageous."
Dan Stein, a spokesman for the Washington-based Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), which supports measures to deter illegal immigration, ripped the report as a composite of "design flaws, assump-

tions and conclusions in direct contrast to our years of exhaustive studies on this issue, and to our most recent Texas report, which shows illegal aliens cost Texas taxpayers \$3.7 billion annually."
Supporters of illegal immigrants embraced the report. John Passina, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, said it "confirms what MALDEF and immigration experts have

long known — we all benefit from the contributions of immigrants."
The Texas study may be the first by a state, but it is hardly the first of its kind.
A report by the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors reduced immigration, said that illegal-immigrant households imposed \$26 billion in costs on the federal government while paying \$16 billion in taxes.



President Bush, left, Vice President Dick Cheney, center, and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld arrive at a farewell ceremony for Rumsfeld at the Pentagon Friday.

Rumsfeld gets big sendoff

By Jennifer Love and Robert Barnes
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, the public face of an unpopular war bid farewell to the Pentagon on Friday in a splashy sendoff featuring lavish praise from President Bush. Rumsfeld defended to the end the mission that led to his ouster.

Combative to the last, Rumsfeld took a slap at advocates of withdrawing U.S. troops from the war.

"It may well be comforting to some to consider graceful exits from the agonies and, indeed, the ugliness of combat," Rumsfeld said, choking up slightly as he capped a roster of speakers at his pomp-filled goodbye ceremony. "But the enemy thinks differently."

Rumsfeld's service to the country over five decades and for four presidents was saluted in an hour-long honor review.

Admiration marked the ceremonial entrance of Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, and Rumsfeld to a grassy field outside the Pentagon. Troops fired a cannon salute of 19 rounds.

On Monday, Robert Gates took over from Rumsfeld, who will stay in 10 days of surpassing Vietnam-era Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara as the longest-serving Pentagon chief ever.

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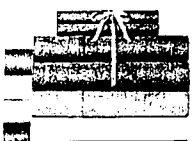
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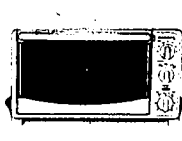
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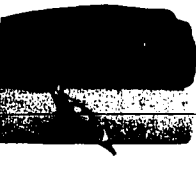
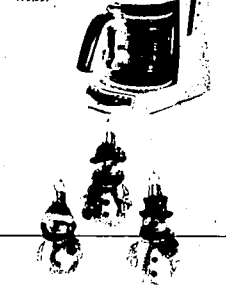


SPECIAL 17.99 SHARK GENTLE GLIDE IRON
H. Stainless steel soleplate, auto shut-off. #18420.** Reg. \$40, sale 24.99.



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J. Large, 6-slice capacity. #T0317.** Reg. \$60, sale 39.99.

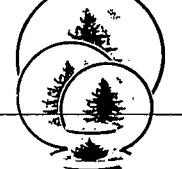
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K. Entire stock already-reduced models.** Orig.* \$9.99-\$99.99, then \$9.99-\$99.99, special 2.99-\$179.99.



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P. Only at Macy's. By Waterford. Reg. \$30, sale 19.99.

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REGORIC PRICES REFLECT OFFERING PRICES IN EFFECT DURING THE 90 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THIS SALE EVENT, BUT NOT NECESSARILY DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS. SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIGINAL PRICES MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. INTERMEDIATE MARRIDOWNS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN. Selection varies by store. Quantities limited on some specials; available only while supplies last. Sleepwear Special excludes Everyday Values, DKNY, Minkie, Minkie, Cruz, Lauren, Eileen West, Karen Neuburger, Halley, Diamond Tea, Vera Wang, Tara, Forever New and Kenzie. **Products carry manufacturer's warranty. If you would like to read the warranty at no charge before purchasing, the warranty may be seen at our store or you may write to: Macy's, P.O. Box 12310, Seattle, WA 98111-9975, via Warranty Office. Apparel shown is imported. Prices, promotions and selection differ on macys.com. ††Restrictions apply to extra 10% off; see store for details. Gift List Sale ends Monday, December 18, 2006. Morning Specials end at 1pm Saturday.

EXTENDED HOURS: AREA STORES
SATURDAY 8am-10pm, SUNDAY 10am-7pm
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- Movie-Style Amusement Inc.**
December 16, 17, 2006
- OPHELM**
The Holiday (13) Day 7:00 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 10:30 - 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30
- HERO 4**
Charlotte's Web (10)
In Stereo Surround Sound Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
The Nativity Story (10)
In Digital Surround Sound Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
Happy Feet (10)
In Stereo Surround Sound Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:15
Unaccompanied Minors (10)
In Stereo Surround Sound Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
- Toin 12**
Apocalypse (10) Day 6:45 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 3:30 - 8:45 - 9:30
Santa Clause: Escape Clause (10)
Day 7:15 - 9:15
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:15
James Bond 007: Casino Royale (12)
Daily 7:45 Sat/Sun 12:30 - 3:30 - 7:45
Charlotte's Web (10)
Day 7:00 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
Stranger Than Fiction (10)
Day 7:30 - 9:45
Sat/Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45
Unaccompanied Minors (10)
Day 7:15 - 9:15
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:15
Deck the Halls (10)
Day 7:30 - 9:45
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Deja Vu (13) Day 6:45 - 9:30
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Eragon (10) Day 7:30 - 9:45
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Flushed Away (10) Day 7:15 - 9:15
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Happy Feet (10) Day 7:00 - 9:30
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The Nativity Story (10)
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- ODYSSEY 6**
The Pursuit of Happiness (13)
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Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
Tennessee Diner (10) Day 7:15 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
The Fountain (13) Day 7:00 - 9:15
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:15
Van Wilder: Duetz: Rise of the (10)
(10) Day 7:15 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30
Turtles (10) Day 7:15 - 9:30
Sat/Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Erickson leaves to ruin another team

IEERS to Dennis Erickson, for leaving the University of Idaho football program.

Erickson, 59, has fled Moscow after 10 months. He left for the greener pastures of Arizona State University. 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, and has been head coach at Wyoming, Washington State and Oregon State and for Seattle and San Francisco in the NFL. He has a 149-61-1 record, but his career has its share of scandal, including NCAA violations and a drunken driving arrest while at Seattle.

Spear has 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," he said.

To that we say, step back naive. If you're going to sleep with dogs, you should expect to catch some fleas. And when you hired a much-traveled college football coach, you shouldn't be surprised when he suddenly leaves for what he views as a better opportunity.

CHEERS to the Idaho High School Activities Association board for at least considering suggestions for reclassifying high school sports divisions.

In September, Preston athletic director Coy Pratt submitted to the IHSAA a five-page proposal that would take Idaho from five conferences to four. The document states that the 5A classification, reserved for schools with the highest enrollment, would be dropped and the cutoff numbers for student enrollment would also be redefined.

The state would not go back to the old A-1 through A-4 system (in which A-1 was the highest division), but keep with the current system, in which 4A would be the highest.

Among some of the reasons for a reclassification include addressing travel costs for geographically spread-out conferences. Proponents of the change argue that long road trips are not suitable for student-athletes when games are held on school nights, and that if more local teams are part of the same conference, attendance and gate receipts would benefit.

The concerns could be more selfish — for example, what would hap-



pen in Twin Falls if the proposal is approved? With the expected opening in 2009 of Canyon Ridge High School, Twin Falls will likely have two high schools with about 1,000 students each. That could make both schools among the smallest in the new 4A class, which, as proposed, would include any school with at least 1,000 students.

Local fans may worry how competitive either high school's athletic team would be under such a scenario. But that's a flawed reason to avoid considering the proposal. Saving time and expense of shuttling teams long distances is more than enough reason to give a cheer to the activities association.

CHEERS to Grace Johnson and Jay Johnson for Wednesday rescue of DecAnn Niska and two of her chil-

dren, 3-year-old Noah and 5-year-old Hannah.

Jay Johnson was working at Keyline Automotive Washers Inc. when he heard screams. The sounds came from across the street and he knew someone was in trouble. As he raced up the stairs, a co-worker, Grace Johnson (no relation), entered the store hollering. At first, he couldn't make out what she was saying. Then he heard it: "Fire."

He rushed outside to find the family trapped on the balcony of a burning building. Amid the screams and chaos, Johnson found a ladder in the burning warehouse below the trapped family, whom he then rescued one at a time.

In the *Times-News*, many of us are proud to say we know Jay Johnson. His heroics show what good people are capable of doing in extreme situations.

IEERS to some pouty Pocatello prima donnas.

"The Nutcracker" has been put on by the Pocatello Rotary for the past 25 years. The group used to hire an Oregon professional ballet company, which incorporated local talent. This year decided there was enough

local talent to stage the show without outside help. So the Rotarians hired the local Brindusa-Moore Ballet Academy, run by professional dancers Sergu Brindusa and Beth Moore, who are married.

Brindusa and Beth Moore, who in past years already had been putting on "Nutcracker" performances, were a cross-section open to the entire community, according to Rick Phillips, the Rotary president.

But the community — or, at least its other ballet companies — boycotted the auditions. Those companies now want everyone else to boycott the performances.

"Change is always difficult and we didn't realize there was such fierce competitiveness between the different studios," Phillips told the *Idaho State Journal*.

Dana Smith, director of the Dana Smith Dance Studio, said she didn't think the Pocatello Rotary should have selected one studio to put on the "Nutcracker." "We don't want to be bitter, but our feelings are hurt," Smith said. "We just couldn't believe they'd do that to us."

That sort of behavior deserves a lump of coal in the Christmas stockings of the sulking dance troupes.

From Russia with love — the deadly kind

The KGB and its predecessors liquidated people abroad just regularly in the 1920s and '30s and even after World War II. But after two embarrassing and highly publicized defections of assassins, in 1957 and 1959, these activities ceased. Nikita Khrushchev, Leonid Brezhnev and later Yuri Andropov all avoided political killings when they led the Soviet Union.



OLEG GORDIEVSKY

(Of course, this did not prevent the assassination in London of Georgi Markov in 1978, when the Bulgarian dictator Todor Zhivkov persuaded Andropov to allow the KGB to help carry out such an operation.)

There were no secret assassinations under Mikhail Gorbachev or Boris Yeltsin. But under Vladimir Putin, the militainmentment of the KGB (now known as the FSB) slowly began working to persuade the leadership to carry out such killings, according to my sources. "Too many enemies," they said.

Those members of the FSB have a different style than in the past, however. The Communist Party was crucial, but it had its rules. The current members are like bandits — no code, no rules, hard to distinguish from the Mafia. The gangster mentality started to spread after 2000; there were thousands of mothers abandoned in the country, of enemies of the regime. But there were so

many contract killings at the time under Putin that it was difficult to tell which were the work of the FSB and which were not. In that atmosphere, it was easy to disguise an assassination.

The FSB has also become a protection racket. Some of those in business who are willing to go along with the FSB report everything to its operatives and also give 10 percent of their profits to the KGB's successor agency. And everyone is happy.

So in a way it's a big criminal state. The FSB has become like the Mafia in its methods and goals.

In 2003 the journalist and reformist politician Yuri Shekotskiin was murdered in Russia. It was obvious from the way his "illness" developed that he was poisoned.

Anna Politkovskaya, a courageous journalist, honest and intelligent, was shot two months ago. Well before that

— in 2004 — she was poisoned on a flight to the Caucasus. It was, I am certain, the work of the FSB.

Afterward, the Putin-controlled media put out the usual propaganda to cover up the act. After Politkovskaya's death this year, many Russians said — because she was Jewish and had American citizenship — Oh, just as well someone shot her; she was probably an American spy."

In July Russia's parliament passed a law, introduced by Putin, to permit the assassination of "enemies of the Russian regime" abroad. As a result, overzealous — perhaps chauvinistic, anti-Semite or xenophobic — factions within the FSB may suggest someone to kill. But there is no paper trail. (By the way, I don't think the recent illness of Yegor Galdar — a man whom nobody reads, whose importance is entirely in the past — is due to poison. He is too insignificant to be killed by the regime.)

Here, too, the FSB has learned from the example of Joseph Stalin. Documents proving Stalin's atrocities continue to surface. To prevent such disclosures, orders for assassinations no longer have names or signatures on them, according to what I am told by my connections. Directives such as the one to assassinate Alexander Litvinenko are written to say, for example, "Request permission to carry out incoming diplomatic mission" with no mention of the target. The document goes to an archive with nothing tying those involved to an assassination.

The first such killing took place three years ago, in Qatar. Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, a former president of the Chechen republic, lived there as a pensioner, and was with his son and bodyguard when his car exploded. The two Russian intelligence agents who carried out the killing were caught, tried and imprisoned. But another Qatar wanted to avoid trouble with Russia — the prisoners were released to their home country after five months, to serve their sentences there. Once home, however, they were decorated rather than jailed.

Now, with Litvinenko, they have dared to kill a citizen of Britain on the soil of that country. Yandarbiyev, Rivera, whose 16-month-old baby boy has to compete for attention with the demons that followed his mother home from Iraq. Rivera is seeing a therapist weekly, but says she'll never recover the time lost with her son as she deals with treatment and detachment.

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Oleg Gordievsky, who was once a colonel in the Soviet KGB, defected to Britain in 1985.

LETTERS

Taxpayer should review his numbers on tax switch

Regarding the letter from Gary L. Welch of Butte, who stated he has a yearly income of \$34,500 and, with the 1 percent increase in sales tax, now pays an additional \$345 per year in sales tax, while his property taxes only decreased \$250 — leaving him with a net loss of \$80.46 per year.

Mr. Welch forgot to figure in that, if he's an average person, he pays out approximately 20 percent of his income on income taxes, Social Security and Medicare. He probably pays out another 25 percent per month on house payments and utility bills, which would not be affected by the sales tax unless he's planning to buy a new home. Probably 10 percent of his is spent on health, car and homeowner's insurance not affected by the sales tax. Medical bills, prescriptions, hair cuts and other services do not require sales tax.

By the time he pays all these expenses, I would guess he probably doesn't have more than \$1,000 per month to spend in food, clothing, house hold items, etc., on which he does have to pay the additional sales tax. This would make his additional sales tax about \$120 per year, not \$345. If his property taxes were down \$264.57, he actually does not have a yearly loss of \$80.46 but instead has a yearly gain of around \$144.

JOYCE CONLEY
Kimberly

Albion wages its fight against foreigners

In a recent meeting of the Albion City Council, news was presented that a foreigner had set up a shop in town. Quickly springing to action, they would alert the need to alert the Deer Creek of Homeland Security.

In brief: After several encounters with city officer personnel, arrangements were made to rent a vacant café for three months. Plans discussed were to place a full-service concession trailer or trailer to the café (as the trail was set up to expedite the sales) to serve local patrons, skiers and other recreationalists (on weekends).

Notice was presented to the renter that regulations in their previously mentioned time delays and daily permit fees would be, from here on, enforced (fees that rival some and dwarf others — those charges at this region's special events and festivals).

I must apologize to the landlord. These restrictions make revenue-generating activities an uncommercial property unrealistic.

Special thanks to my customers and return customers for your patronage. Please disregard all notices except those of our service to Albion.

TONY BARNES
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Tony Barnes is the owner of Teriyaki Chickens.)

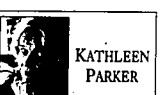
Pentagon complicit in helping mothers put their children last

In a world of uncertainty and mayhem, the single parent constant about which we thought we could be reasonably confident has been that mothers would nurture their children.

"We have been disabused of that quaint notion in myriad ways, but nowhere so vividly as in today's military. As a spate of recent news stories reveals, the Pentagon has become complicit in helping thousands of mothers abandon and potentially make orphans of their children.

Since 2002, about 16,000 single mothers have served in Afghanistan and Iraq. What kind of country sends mothers of young children, especially single mothers, to war?

We pretend to nobler notions, of course. Single parents aren't supposed to be accepted for enlistment. But there are ways around inconvenient rules. Single parents can sign up as long as they're



KATHLEEN PARKER

willing to sign away their children.

That is, they can enlist if they give up custody to someone else.

Stories about mothers leaving their children for war — in which fathers are almost never mentioned — are both heart-breaking and pathetic.

Heart-breaking because the children suffer immensely; pathetic because women have been sold a bill of goods. A recent Washington Post story featured Sgt. Leann Nishimura, a single mom who left her three children for Iraq. Although she returned eight months ago, her oldest — a 9-

year-old boy — still suffers separation anxiety and fears from her deployment. When Nishimura's name was called at a recent ceremony to accept an award for service, the boy clung to her leg and cried.

Said Nishimura: "He went from having one parent to having no parents, basically. People have said, 'Thank you so much for your sacrifice.' But it's the children who have had more of a sacrifice."

Not only do children suffer feelings of abandonment, the consequences of which can be long-term and life-altering, but they live with the daily terror of someone killing their mother. We even have a name for the phenomenon — pediatric postwar syndrome.

While children suffer, some military mothers can't offer much help.

Women returning from Iraq are reporting post-traumatic stress disorder in numbers

comparable to men, according to the Veterans Administration. One of the reasons cited by analysts is that women are being exposed to combat as never before.

Another recent story — this one in *The Hartford (Conn.) Courant* — told of Daiana Rivera, whose 16-month-old baby boy has to compete for attention with the demons that followed his mother home from Iraq. Rivera is seeing a therapist weekly, but says she'll never recover the time lost with her son as she deals with treatment and detachment.

In a sane world, mothers do not goventing by analysis is and governments understand that the most important line of defense in the struggle for civilization is the family. Thus, it is urgent that we ask why our government is so busy in doing in child abandonment and putting mothers at unnecessary risk.

Women volunteer on their own accord, certainly. But many never anticipated being placed in combat situations, which increasingly has been the case in Iraq. By assigning support personnel to or near combat units, the Pentagon effectively has placed women where, by law and sense, they don't belong.

Otherwise, feminism has succeeded in shaping and presenting the military as just another career option. Young women, barely out of high school — or single mothers looking to support their families — are vigorously recruited with promises of money, travel and benefits. The military has become "a particular Mecca for single parents," as feminist author Linda Bird Francke put it.

More to the point, the military has become a magnet for radical feminists, for whom equality won't be complete until the chairman

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has breasts. Putting women into combat is the Maginot Line of the gender wars, which, once crossed, opens the military's glass ceiling to the highest promotion levels.

In the distorted logic of feminist gender theorist, getting women killed in combat is viewed as "proof" that they're suitable for combat — a sign of progress rather than a tragedy of political ideology.

But what these trends really prove is that we're lost sight of what matters, not to mention what we fight for. Children need mothers more than wars do, and nations need healthy, well-adjusted children.

If we're willing to sacrifice mothers and abandon the next generation, what sort of civilization, exactly, are we trying to preserve?

Kathleen Parker's e-mail address is kparker@kparker.com.

LETTERS OF THANKS

Gardeners Symposium grows wide support

A special thank you to the following sponsors who so generously donated items for the Magic Valley and Mini-Cassia Master Gardeners Symposium held on Nov. 4: Burley, Co. Ranch, Pizza Hut, Western Stockmen, Sears, Skages Furniture, Evergreen Nursery, Albertsons, Key Bank, Reminder, Wells Fargo Bank.

Paul, Vickie's Country Garden, Key Bank, Shirley Benz, Amalgamated Sugar Co., Swensens Market.

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Shoshone, D.L. Evans Bank, Jerry McAffee, Mary Davis.

Magic Valley: Sav-mor, Rudy's "A Cooks Paradise, Pleasant Surprise, Garden Cafe, Tony Brandt, Jagger, Shounon Buckle, ZamZaws, Kelley Garden Center, Classic Cuttings, D&B, Lizzy's and many anonymous donors.

We appreciate your support!
KARL BROWN
 LINDA RENZ
 Magic Valley and Mini-Cassia Master Gardeners
 Twin Falls

Crime Stopper event helped reward tips

Mini-Cassia Crime Stoppers would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 20th annual Crime Stoppers dance and raffle. Your generous donations helped raise money that in turn will be used to reward crime tippers for their anonymous tips.

We would like to especially thank Bev Lauman for her 20 years of dedication to our organization. Her fundraising throughout the years has been nothing short of incredible.

We would like to thank the Rupert Elks for the use of their facility and to Triple Shot for a wonderful night of music.

We would also like to thank everyone from the community who shared their time and showed their support. We appreciate you very much.

It's the community's support that keeps Mini-Cassia Crime Stoppers going strong after 20 years. This was again, everyone!

JODIE JOHNSON
 President, Mini-Cassia Crime Stoppers
 Heyburn

Experts made difference for Citizens Academy

We wish to say thank you to all the special guest speakers who shared their expertise with the Citizens Academy class.

Li, Randy Kidd (Drug Recognition and Identification), Sgt. Robert Taylor and Cpl. Jason Roberts (Marine Deputy Patrol Procedures and Tour), Investigator Dan Renz (Homicide Investigation), Cpl. Chris Jensen and partner, Nevada (K-9 Usage and Deployment), Sgt. Peggy Marizza (DUI Investigations), Sgt. Russ Rasmussen (Jail Procedures and Tour), Juvenile Probation Officer Mario Umuna (Gang Identification and Problems within Mini-Cassia area), Cpl. Wayne Winder (SWAT Deployment), and Cpl. Tony Bernad (Traffic Patrol Tactics).

Special thanks to dispatchers Donna Headley and Jennifer Gee for allowing us to be with them for four hours one Friday night and Deputy Norma Talamantes for a four-

hour night patrol. Also included was going to the range and the shoot department issued weapons under the supervision of Cpls. Wayne Winder and Tony Bernad.

STEVE LYNCH
MARCIA LYNCH
 Burley

Charity overflows for Safe Harbor meals

An average of 65 people per week are attending our Saturday lunches. However, on the weekend after Thanksgiving, we fed around 100 people. Many businesses, churches and individuals have helped to make Safe Harbor's annual program a success.

Those who have already donated include the following: Ace Printing, attorney Jeff Sioker, Intermountain Gas, Moser Machine Shop, Shepherd Construction, Siren Insurance, Star Corp., The Depot Grill, Timothy and Lynda Schlund and Vintage Point.

A special word of thanks is extended to each of those donors from Safe Harbor's board.

PHYLLIS BERG
 President, Safe Harbor
 Jerome

An act of generosity for those in line

I wanted to thank the woman from the Burley area who made my son's Christmas come early.

He had worked hard and was waiting anxiously to purchase the new Wii game system. The day it was released, we got in line early at Best Buy, waiting in the wind and dark. Finally the store employees began handing out tickets, but just as they reached my son, they ran out. He was devastated.

Then without hesitation, the lady in front of us turned around and handed her ticket to my son. What generosity! She could have sold the item and doubled her investment but instead made a wonderful gesture that we will never forget.

I wanted to let her know how much this meant to us. It was such a selfless and wonderful thing she did and I wish her happy holidays!

TERESA A. SHANK
 Filer

Doctors helped pet in his final hours

When a loved one dies, we always thank the doctors, hospitals and everyone else that has been taking care of them. But people often forget to thank the ones who take care of our pets.

We lost our little Chihuahua, "Missy," at the age of 13 on Oct. 10. From the time she was 3 months old, Dr. Becker at Green Acres Pet Center took wonderful care of her. When times got tough, he was always there, caring and helping day and night. When Dr. Becker was out of town, Dr. Morgan was there for us.

So thank you all — Dr. Becker, Dr. Morgan and the girls up front, Amanda and Kristen.

SUE JACKSON
 Twin Falls

The Letters of Thanks column will publish letters of up to 150 words from:

Organizations thanking contributors or supporters.

Individuals thanking public agencies and businesses for extraordinary service.

If you would like to purchase a classified to express gratitude of a personal rather than public nature, call The Times-News Customer Service department at 733-0931, ext. 267.

OPINION/NATION

College tips on making the grade

By Jay Mathews
 The Washington Post

Getting good grades in college these days is supposed to be easier than ever. But there are signs of grade deflation in the textbooks.

Pricetown announced in spring 2005 that it planned to limit the number of A's awarded in any course to 35 percent of all grades, down from the old 50 percent rate in some courses.

Even in grade-inflated times, many students find that success in this part of the learning process is a mystery.

What is the secret? Experts say good time management, careful selection of courses, avoiding wasted effort and inquiring into what the professor really wants. Here are 10 ways to get college A's, as suggested by professors and former students who consider grade-grubbing an unfortunate label for the honorable effort to master the material. They say many of these methods will also work in a growing number of high school classes that aim for college-level rigor.

1. Go to class and take notes yourself

This seems obvious, except there are so many ways these days to avoid class and still get some idea of what went on: a friend's e-mail, lecture notes left at the campus store, a look at the textbook. Lynn F. Jacobs and Jeremy S. Hyman, authors of "The Professors' Guide to Getting Good Grades in College," warn that professional notes or the notes your roommate gave you in exchange for doing her laundry often leave out important material. They write: "Knowing you'll have to take notes is one of the main things that gets you to go to the lecture in the first place," which is important for other reasons.

2. Don't major in engineering

Alexander Astin of UCLA and Leticia Osegura of the University of California at Irvine examined the graduation rates of 56,818 students at 262 colleges and found several things, such as smoking, that did not correlate with college success. Among them was picking unusually demanding and precision-loving majors, particularly engineering, with exams that require the exact answer and not some lively written analysis of why exactly it is no longer applicable in a post-modern age. Of course, if you want to be an engineer and love precision, go for it.

3. Make a big event out of most-feared academic tasks

Cal Newport, a Phi Beta

Grade-grubbing is good, authors say

Authors Lynn F. Jacobs and Jeremy S. Hyman explain in "The Professors' Guide to Getting Good Grades in College" why it is not bad to be a grade-grubber.

"Let's face it, grades are the currency of college. They're the money, they're what counts. No one should feel apologetic about wanting to get good grades. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (and hey, these guys would know), a college diploma can cash in at \$1 million in increased lifetime income compared with a high school diploma. A high GPA can get you into top professional schools and higher-paying jobs. ... So why should you be embarrassed about wanting good grades — the measure of success at your job?"

Kappa graduate of Dartmouth College seeking a computer science doctorate at MIT, wrote "How to Become a Straight-A Student." He says a major barrier to good grades is the human instinct to delay big challenges, such as a major paper or a foot-high stack of reading.

He recommends turning the chore into an important occasion, a big date with yourself. Pick a place a long way from where you live, so you won't be tempted to go home.

"You are sitting alone at a table in a public place, surrounded by strangers," Newport writes, "and if you don't start doing something soon, people will begin to wonder: Who is that odd student sitting alone and staring into space?"

4. Speak to your professors

At most campuses, professors and teaching assistants must have office hours during which they are available for questions. Jacobs and Hyman, professors themselves, say they find it a sign of interest — not incompetence — if a student shows up.

Newport recommends making a habit of chatting with professors during the five or 10 minutes they hang around the podium after their lectures, which can happen only if you go to class. To get a good grade, and to enjoy the oft-overlooked byproduct of actually learning something, regular conversations with the people who are teaching the course and grading your work are very useful.

5. Don't shy from courses with lots of papers

Some students don't like to write papers and prefer courses that rely on exams. But writing is an important life skill, and practice is essential. Also, Jacobs and Hyman write, "Taking courses that include papers will allow you the freedom to stagger your workload

writes that there are not enough hours in the day to cover all the reading that professors assign.

Instead, focus on the reading that appears to be most important — material written by sources the professor mentions often, material that makes an argument (crucial for exams) and material that can clear up points you find confusing in the lectures.

9. Before you start a paper, do the analysis in your head

College students have a tendency to think they have to go to the library before they do any thinking about a paper topic, but the best papers tend to be those that grow from personal thoughts.

Reflect on experiences you have had that relate to the topic. Kick it around with friends at dinner. Explore views you have heard on the topic that make no sense to you. Graders often give A's for original takes on old issues. The only place to find such, fresh thinking is in your head.

10. Let experts look at drafts of a major paper

First show the draft to your professor, and if he forbids that practice as too likely to overload his schedule, make sure to discuss the shape of your argument and your choice of sources during office hours. You can do this more than once with the same paper. If you have developed a rapport with the professor, who, keep in mind, likes you because you always come to class.

Also show your draft to smart friends.

It would be best if they are in the same course, but if you have no friends there, pick people with some expertise in the subject and listen to what they say.

6. Study early, in an isolated place with hourly breaks

People who save study for nighttime find Newport writes, that "by the time you finish dinner, gather your materials, and finally begin your work, you really have only a few hours left before it becomes too late and your desire to sleep hijacks your concentration."

7. Use meetings for more than getting dates

The discussions are very helpful in understanding the course and raising your grades. Stay on topic, talk less if you are talking all the time and prepare for sections — but apologize and pass if asked a question about which you have no clue. Jacobs and Hyman advise not to ask questions for the sake of it, and don't announce that you are not prepared.

8. Don't do all of your reading

This is Newport's most shocking piece of advice. He

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INSIDE: Jeff Bagwell's 16-year career with the Houston Astros came to a close Friday, B4



INSIDE: Local Roundup, B2 | NBA & Golf, B4 | Football, B5 | Religion, B6-9 | Comics, B10-11 | Weather, B12

Idaho State tabs Zamberlin as head football coach

By Mark Liptak
Times-News correspondent

POCATELLO — After 60 applications and six on-campus interviews, Idaho State University named the man it feels will lead the football program back to respectability and beyond.

Athletic director Paul Bubb announced Friday that former NFL linebacker and Central Washington coach John Zamberlin earned the job and named him the 17th head football coach in school history.

Zamberlin replaces Larry Lewis who was fired after the team's 2-9 season.

"The players who met and spoke with him told me they felt more comfortable with him than any of the other candidates," said Bubb. "The players didn't have final say on the

matter but I listened very closely to their opinions."

Zamberlin went 63-41 over the past 10 years at the Division II program which has played and actually beaten Big Sky teams in the past. His other coaching stops included the University of Richmond and the University of Massachusetts. He got into the coaching profession in 1967.

Zamberlin played six years in the NFL (1979-1984) with the New England Patriots and the Kansas City Chiefs as a linebacker. In addition he was drafted as a center fielder by the Seattle Mariners after a standout athletic career at Pacific Lutheran University.



Zamberlin

"There's talent here," Zamberlin said at Friday's well-attended press conference. "I think the players are looking to be led, they want discipline. They just need to learn how to win."

After the press conference, Zamberlin outlined a little more of what Bengal fans will see on the field starting in 2007. "Defensively we base everything out of a four down lineman set. We'll have multiple looks and we'll send our linebackers when we need to. Offensively I like to go with a three-receiver, one-back set. I prefer to have a balanced offensive attack but we'll certainly throw the ball around."

That was good news for the guy expected to be the starting quarterback next season, local product Luke Butler. "I liked what I heard from Coach Zamberlin. I know that when I and some of the other guys spoke with him, he was very straightforward. He told us the off-season conditioning program was going to be painful. He seems to be the kind of guy that you can go to not only to talk about football. I get the sense that you can go to him to talk about school, your girlfriend, whatever."

That no-nonsense approach was reinforced during the press conference with some of the comments Zamberlin made.

"Football is only for four years. I want these guys to realize that there's life after football. That means graduating, and being a good person. We're going to have a structured, disciplined football team that plays hard,

plays clean and plays to the end of every whistle."

Zamberlin was asked about putting together a staff and said he does have some people in mind but it's also going to speak with members of Lewis' staff to see if some of them will fit in. When asked his timetable adding assistants, he said, "fast; nothing he has to get going on recruiting with national signing day slated for Feb. 1."

He elaborated on the recruiting theme by saying that he's recruited "everywhere ... on the East Coast, in Pennsylvania," but that he's going to concentrate on "Idaho, Utah, California and the state of Washington." The latter he referred to as an "untapped resource."

Zamberlin was given a multi-year contract according to Bubb, which still has to be approved by the state board of education.

MSU's Kramer won't be new Vandals coach

The Associated Press

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Montana State football coach Mike Kramer said Friday he has withdrawn his name from consideration for the head coaching job at the University of Idaho, and acknowledged the drug-related arrests of one player and two former players played a role in the decision.

"This is simply not the time for me to leave Montana State," Kramer said in a written statement. "We are at a point in time where our current players deserve to know whether I'll remain, and where the recruits we've spent months trying to bring into the Bobcat program need to know Idaho is a special place to me, but my heart is here."

Kramer, who grew up in Colton, Wash., and played football at Idaho, spoke with Idaho athletic director Rob Spear by telephone on Tuesday and interviewed with him Thursday.

Kramer, 52, said he made the decision to stay at MSU on the drive home from Moscow, Idaho.

"And I called Mr. Spear last night at 10:30 and said, 'I will not be a candidate for the head coaching position at your university,'" Kramer said at a press conference Friday morning.

Spear, in an e-mail to the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, wrote: "We discussed the position and had a very good visit. At the end of the day, we mutually agreed it was not the right move for Mike or for the University of Idaho."

Kramer acknowledged this week's arrest of current player Andre Fuller and former players Eddie Sullivan and Derrick Davis on drug-related charges had a role in him not getting the Idaho job.

Another former player, John Lebrun, was arrested in June along with former Bobcat basketball player Brandon Miller and charged with murder in the shooting death of Jason Wright.

"I told Rob that this situation at Montana State requires my leadership," Kramer said. "I'm talking about the arrest and the ongoing legal situation of Andre Fuller, and even our ex-players, because the last thing I want to do is leave a program with the feeling that there's some work undone. I want to get this issue resolved."

Please see **KRAMER**, Page B2

BEAR-CAT INVITATIONAL



Jerome's Kyle Norris defeats Twin Falls' Sterren Fields during their 189-pound match Friday in Jerome.

Minico in third at Bear-Cat

Pocatello, Highland lead; Jerome, Twin Falls sitting seventh and eighth after Day 1

Times-News

JEROME — Pocatello holds a narrow lead over cross-town rival Highland, after the first day of the two-day Bear-Cat Invitational at Jerome High School.

Pocatello has 60 points to Highland's 59.5. Defending Class 4A champion Minico is third with 53 points.

Jerome (26 points) is seventh and Twin Falls (20 points) is eighth. Buhl and Kimberly are tied in ninth place with 18 points, while Gooding, Wood River, and Burley all follow in at 12th, 13th and 14th, respectively.

Blair Gerratt (125 pounds) of Gooding advanced to the championship quarterfinals by defeating Justin Baker of Challis in a 7-2 decision and pinning Tyler Hash of Twin Falls.

In disappointing news for Gooding, Chris Poole (171) suffered an injured ankle, and is out for the remainder of the tourney. Poole placed second in the tourney last year.

Other local notables include Tucker Mulberry (130) of Kimberly who won twice to advance to the quarterfinals, along with Vaughn Sobotta (135) of Buhl, and Jordan Vert (160) of Wood River.

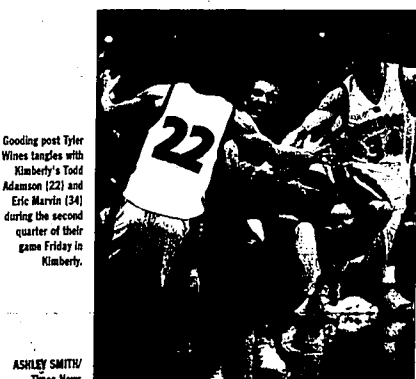
The consolation matches begin at 10 a.m., and the championship matches are slated to start around 2 p.m.

Bear-Cat Invitational Day 1 results

Championship Bracket, Quarterfinal matches — 103 Jerome (184) (Norris) vs. Chad Curry (Wood River) (Lulu) George Crawford (Sheridan) vs. Jonathan Torga (Baker) (Dow) 112 Twin Falls (160) vs. Tanner Gendler (Highland) (Neville) Robinson (Challis) vs. Colton Heenan (Pocatello) 119 Twin Falls (160) vs. Jason Jones (Gooding) (Neville) Armstrong (Pocatello) vs. Josh Hall (Highland) 125 Chris Poole (Gooding) vs. Derrick Smith (Highland) Bryan Cole (Pocatello) vs. Josh Latta (J) 130 Blair Gerratt (Gooding) vs. Jake Hrus (Jerome) Tucker Mulberry (Kimberly) vs. Taylor Johnson (J) 135 Lower Gooding (Pocatello) vs. Vaughn Sobotta (Buhl) Josh Vert (Highland) vs. Mike Cornejo (Jerome) 140 Brandon Miller (J) vs. Sterren Whitting (Highland) Brett Green (Pocatello) vs. Josh Hammond (Burley) 145 Josh Cooper (Burley) vs. Jason Adams (Highland) Station Smith (J) vs. Kaden Price (Challis) 150 Josh Wilson (Highland) vs. Kyle Bernard (J) Ryan Hanson (J) vs. Tyler Coker (Challis)

Consolation Bracket, Quarterfinal matches — 103 Joe Hamilton (TJ) vs. senior of Jason Hocking and Brent Schwab (Highland) Gary Cummings (Jerome) vs. Eddie Wheeler (Pocatello) 112 Derek Grant (Gooding) vs. senior of Connor Moody (Challis) and Josh Donohue (J) Josh Jones (Dow) vs. Jason Allen (Jerome) 119 Will Rector (TJ) vs. senior of Matt Crowland (Highland) and Tate Whitworth (Minico) James Allen (Sher) vs. Corbin Pratt (Jerome) 125 Rob Goff (Challis) vs. senior of Tyler Hise (TJ) and Cole Bault (Lulu) Zach Cooper (Dow) vs. Jensen Holter (Jerome) 130 Jason Baker (Challis) vs. senior of Tyler Hise (TJ) and Billy Porter (Challis) 135 Zach Peterson (Highland) vs. senior of Josh Jones (TJ) and Luke Van (J)

Please see **BEAR-CAT**, Page B2



Gooding post Tyler Hines fouls Kimberly's Todd Adamson (21) and Eric Marvin (34) during the second quarter of their game Friday in Kimberly.

ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Senators hold on to edge Bulldogs

By Diane Pflizin
Times-News writer

KIMBERLY — Gooding coach Joe Messick wanted his players to continue their play from the first half, which meant executing, handling the pressure and keeping their composure.

The Bulldogs executed that game plan in the second half and were able to hold on for a thrilling 50-47 Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference road victory on Friday.

"The first half, the kids played hard and intense," said Messick. "We had great rotation and moved the ball well on offense. We were very patient and took good shots."

Until the final buzzer, Kimberly made runs at the Senators. But as Kimberly coach Roger Keller put it, "we just didn't finish."

Gooding held a 23-18 halftime

lead. The Bulldogs outscored the Senators by three points in the third quarter and trailed by only two points, 37-35, as the quarter ended.

Kimberly was able to pull to within three points at 45-42 on a pair of free throws by Cody Wadsworth as he was fouled on a drive to the basket with 3:03 remaining.

At 1:49, Gooding junior guard Tyler Allred answered with two free throws and was answered by a layup by Wadsworth leaving Gooding with a 47-45 lead.

After a Gooding timeout, Kimberly's Jason Mumm intercepted the inbound pass but was called for a travel. With a minute remaining, Justin Rogers drove in for a short jumper giving the Senators a 49-45 lead.

A Bulldog shot with 50 seconds remaining went out of bounds with possession to Gooding. The Senators

had trouble inbounding the ball and turned it back over to Kimberly.

Mumm hit a short jumper with 30 seconds remaining, pulling Kimberly within a bucket at 49-47.

Gooding's Justin Rogers was intentionally fouled with 18 seconds and made 1-of-2. Rogers was fouled again with 11 seconds remaining and missed the front end of the one and one.

Kimberly called a timeout and senator Mitch Dame took the final Kimberly attempt with 2 seconds remaining. The shot bounced off the rim and Gooding had the win.

"What a great spectator game," said Messick.

Rogers scored 16 points for Gooding and Allred followed with 10. "We only had two shots in the paint in the second half," said Keller.

Please see **GOODING**, Page B2

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Remaining Three Agents

NEW YORK — The Yankees' top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

BALTIMORE — The Orioles' top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

BOSTON — The Red Sox's top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

Baseball News

DETROIT — The Tigers' top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

MINNESOTA — The Twins' top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

ST. LOUIS — The Cardinals' top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

Baseball News

PHILADELPHIA — The Phillies' top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

PITTSBURGH — The Pirates' top three agents are expected to be announced in the next few days, according to sources familiar with the situation.

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BASKETBALL

NBA

Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	9	11	.450
New Jersey	9	11	.450
Charlotte	8	12	.400
New York	8	12	.400
Philadelphia	7	13	.350

Western Conference

Team	W	L	Pct
Portland	15	10	.600
Oklahoma City	11	14	.438
San Antonio	11	14	.438
Utah	11	14	.438
Phoenix	10	15	.400

NBA

Team	W	L	Pct
Cleveland	14	8	.636
Chicago	13	10	.565
Indiana	13	10	.565
Memphis	9	14	.391

NBA

Team	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	18	8	.692
Dallas	16	7	.692
New Orleans	11	11	.500
Phoenix	10	12	.455

NBA

Team	W	L	Pct
Utah	16	7	.692
Memphis	15	10	.600
San Antonio	14	11	.560
Sacramento	13	11	.545

NBA

Team	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	10	9	.524
L.A. Lakers	10	9	.524
Phoenix	10	9	.524
Sacramento	10	9	.524

NBA

Team	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	10	9	.524
L.A. Lakers	10	9	.524
Phoenix	10	9	.524
Sacramento	10	9	.524

NBA

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San Antonio	10	9	.524
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San Antonio	10	9	.524
L.A. Lakers	10	9	.524
Phoenix	10	9	.524
Sacramento	10	9	.524

GAME PLAN

LOCAL

High School

Decatur at Buford, 7:30 p.m.
Kimberly at American Falls, 7:30 p.m.
Monroeville at Murtagh, 7:30 p.m.
Hagman at Rich River, 7:30 p.m.
Buhl at Glenn Ferry, 7:30 p.m.
Shoshone at Valley, 7:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball

WCH — Johnson at Buhl, 2:30 p.m.
Camden County at Detroit, 2:30 p.m.
Rehoboth at Garden Valley, 5 p.m.

Wrestling

Twining (Kimberly, Bul, Minico, Twin Falls) at Bear Cat Tournament, Jerome, 10 a.m.

TV SCHEDULE

BOXING

HBO — Kestonovics, Jason Lott (20-0) vs. Jose Hernandez (23-0); md
elevenp, ESPN/Midnight
2:05-10 p.m. Wives Gals (20-1-0), Al Miami

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ESPN2 — NCAA Division II championship game, Grand Rapids, 11:30 a.m.
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GOALS

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SPORTS

Tiger takes control of his tournament

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) Tiger Woods is still struggling to figure out the pace on the greens at Sherwood Country Club. What helped him Friday in the Target World Challenge was the hole kept getting in the way.

Woods holed two long birdie putts on consecutive holes on his way to a 4-under 68, that turned a four-shot deficit into a one-shot lead over Henrik Stenson of Sweden going into the weekend of the final tournament of the year.



Tiger Woods reacts as he sinks a long birdie putt on the ninth hole during the second round of the Target World Challenge golf tournament Friday in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

"Two lucky breaks," said Woods, who led by 13 and 136 and in position to win his tournament for the third time in eight years.

Stenson had four birdies and one good hop that set up an eagle, but he then dropped him to a 71 that left him at 7 under. U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy (70) and Chris DiMarco (68) were another shot behind.

Trailing by four shots as he approached the turn, Woods hammered a 40-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole that looked as though it might go off the green and it banged into the back of the cup, went airborne and disappeared for birdie. One hole later, a birdie putt even longer was picking up steam when it found the bottom of the cup.

Fanny Stenson, the caddy for Stenson, turned her back and smiled in disbelief when the putt on No. 10 dropped into the cup. Stenson is more stoic but having two birdies and a dozen times with Woods, he wasn't terribly surprised.

"I think the putting and his trouble shots are probably the two things I admire the most in his game, and I know there's always going to be one or two long ones finding the right line," Stenson said. "The three

both at nine and 10. It's no surprise anymore that he makes this kind of putts."

Nor was it terribly surprising to see Woods in the lead in this 16-man field competing for \$5.75 million.

He has won the Target World Challenge twice since it began eight years ago, and he has not finished worse than second in a stroke-play event since missing the cut at the U.S. Open in June.

Stenson doubled his lead to four shots after only two holes on another mild, sunny day at Sherwood. He hit wedge into 4 feet on the first hole and two-putted from 20 feet on the par-5 second, while Woods had to scramble for par and three-putted the second.

On the par-3 third, Stenson hit his tee shot into 6 feet to apply even more pressure, but Woods followed with a shot to 2 1/2 feet for birdie to slow the Swede's momentum.

Kings rally in fourth to stun Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY — Shafer Abdul-Rahim scored 21 points, including a 3-pointer in the final minute, and the Sacramento Kings rallied from a 16-point deficit to beat the Utah Jazz 97-97 Friday night.

The Kings overcame a 13-point third quarter by scoring 32 in the fourth and winning when Utah's Derek Fisher and Deron Williams bounced shots off the rim in the final few seconds.

Mike Bibby ended Sacramento through its lowest-scoring period of the season with seven in the third, helping the Kings stay within range of coming back and evening the season series with Utah at 1-1.

It was just the second home loss of the season for the Jazz, who open a five-game trip Sunday at Indiana.

Williams had 15 points and nine assists and Carlos Boozer finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds for his 17th double-double of the season.

The Jazz rallied from 21 points down to win 110-101 in Sacramento on Nov. 22. Utah led by nearly that much, but this time the Jazz were the home team that blew the big lead.



Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest, right, goes to the basket for a layup against Utah Jazz forward Carlos Boozer, left, during the first half Friday in Salt Lake City.

Wizards 106, Heat 95

WASHINGTON — Washington took advantage of a depleted lineup to blow the game open in the first quarter and beat Miami ending 3½ years of frustration.

Never mind that the Heat didn't have Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal, The Wizards were more than relieved under any circumstances to end a 16-game losing streak to their Southeast Division rivals and get their first win in the series since Michael Jordan led a 91-87 victory in Miami on April 11, 2003.

Caron Butler scored a season-high 30 points and had nine rebounds. Gilbert Arenas had 27 points, and Antawn Jamison added 22 points and a career-high five blocked shots for the Wizards. "Washington led 40-17 after a first quarter in which it shot 76 percent and held a 26-0 advantage in fast-break points," James Posey was 7-of-11 on 3-pointers and scored a season-high 26 points for Miami.

Pacers 112, Knicks 96

INDIANAPOLIS — Danny Granger scored a career-high 25 points and Indiana hit a season-high 12 3-pointers.

The Pacers were 12-of-23 from long range, including three each for Granger, Stephen Jackson and Al Harrington. The second of two 3-pointers by Darrell Armstrong, the final basket of the third quarter, was the Pacers' 12th of the game from behind the arc, topping the previous season high of 11 at Milwaukee last month.

Jackson added 19 points. Harrington finished with 17 and Jermaine O'Neal and Jamaal Tinsley had 11 apiece for the Pacers.

Jamal Crawford led New York with 29 points.

Cavaliers 106, SuperSonics 84

CLEVELAND — Larry Hughes scored 25 points and LeBron James flirted with his first triple-double this season for

Cleveland.

Hughes, making his second straight start after missing 10 games with a sprained ankle, went 11-of-16 from the floor. The Cavaliers shot a blistering 65 percent in the first half.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 17 points and Anderson Varejao 13 rebounds as the Cavaliers improved to 11-2 at home and 22-2 in Quicken Loans Arena since March 5. James finished with 22 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Chris Wilcox scored 20 points to lead Seattle, which dropped its third straight on a five-game trip. Rookie Mickael Gelabale added a season-high 16 and Rashard Lewis had 10.

Raptors 105, Nets 78

TORONTO — T.J. Ford had 17 points, nine rebounds and eight assists to lead Toronto to its second straight victory without Chris Bosh.

Ford had 10 points in the fourth quarter for the Raptors, who put six players in double figures while improving to 2-2 without their leading scorer, who has an injured left knee.

Former Raptor Vince Carter was booed every time he touched the ball. Carter was in for just the field and 4-for-8 from the line for just 12 points.

Mavericks 93, 76ers 79

DALLAS — Jason Terry scored 18 points and the Mavericks built a big early lead against Philadelphia, which was without Allen Iverson and Chris Webber and lost its 10th straight.

Philadelphia has lost the last five games since Iverson, the 2001 NBA MVP and the face of the franchise for 11 seasons, demanded a trade and was sent home by the 76ers while they try to fulfill his request.

It is the longest losing streak for the 76ers since they dropped 13 games in a row from Dec. 28, 1995, through Jan. 20, 1997, during Iverson's rookie year.

Andre Igoudala led Philadelphia with 17 points, and Willie Green and Samuel Dalembert each had 16.

Hawks 97, Grizzlies 88

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Zaza Pachulia scored 22 points, Speedy Claxton added 19 points and 11 assists, and Atlanta ruined Pau Gasol's season debut by beating Memphis.

Josh Smith finished with 16 points, hitting 7-of-9 from the field, and grabbed 10 rebounds for Atlanta.

The Hawks snapped a four-game losing streak and won for the first time without leading scorer Joe Johnson, who is out with a right calf strain. Memphis lost its fifth straight.

Gasol missed the season's first 22 games with a broken left foot. He started and played 17 minutes, scoring four points and grabbing three rebounds.

Celtics 119, Nuggets 114

BOSTON — Paul Pierce scored 38 points and Tony Allen added a career-high 30 to help Boston extend its winning streak to four.

Al Jefferson had 28 points and 10 rebounds, while Wally Szczerbiak grabbed 16 points off the bench for the Celtics (9-13), who moved into a first-place tie with the New Jersey Nets in the lowly Atlantic Division. New Jersey lost to Toronto 90-78 earlier Friday.

The Celtics led by as many as 19 and never trailed, although Denver turned it into a close game thanks to Carmelo Anthony and Andre Miller.

Anthony scored a season-high 42 and Miller added 18 for the Nuggets (9-9).

Bulls 117, Bucks 111

CHICAGO — Ben Wallace grabbed a season-high 27 rebounds and added 10 points to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 117-111 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Friday night.

Kirk Hinrich scored 21 points and Chris Duhon had 19 for Chicago, who has won 10 of its last 11 games.

Ruben Patterson had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Bucks, finishing three assists shy of his first career triple-double. Michael Redd led the Bucks with 32 points, after only scoring a season-low nine in a loss to New Jersey on Wednesday.

Suns 105, Warriors 101

PHOENIX — Boris Diaw's fifth career triple-double helped the Phoenix Suns run their winning streak to 13 games — one shy of the club record — with a 105-101 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Friday night.

The Suns, far from their best after a five-game road trip, led by 25 early in the second quarter, but blew most of it by halftime and trailed by as many as eight in the third quarter.

Diaw had 21 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists in his first triple-double after four in his breakout season a year ago. Amaré Stoudemire had 25 points, including a three-point play that put Phoenix ahead for good 97-96 with 3:46 to play.

— The Associated Press

Appalachian St. wins title

CHAITANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Kevin Richardson led Appalachian State to its second straight Division I-AA national championship, running for 179 yards and four touchdowns in the Mountaineers' 28-17 victory over Massachusetts on Friday.

Richardson's third touchdown — his 14-1 — ahead 21-14 at the beginning of the fourth quarter. He added another for 2 yards with 1:11 left that gave him a 1-1A record for rushing touchdowns in a season with 30.

Appalachian State is the first team to win consecutive crowns in six years, and the Mountaineers relied heavily on Richardson.

The Mountaineers (13-2), hoping to win their first title since 1998, cut it to 21-17 on Chris Koeppel's 42-yard field goal with 3:46 left. UMass got the ball back, but Appalachian State's Corey Lynch got an interception to seal it.

Appalachian State is the first team to take home the newly named NCAA Division I Football Championship.

Retirement: Bagwell helped put Astros among MLB's elite

HOUSTON (AP) — When Jeff Bagwell joined the Houston Astros in 1991, they were a last-place team having lost the draw to a stadium that had seen its better days.

Bagwell's enormous popularity helped triple the team's annual attendance in the 1990s and his slugging helped lift the team from mediocrity to perennial pennant contention.

Bagwell's 16-year career with the Astros came to a close Friday, ending his time as one of Houston's best-loved athletes. Along with his teammate and friend, Craig Biggio, Bagwell helped convert Houston to a far more savvy baseball city.

Ultimately, his arbitrary right shoulder forced him off the field.

"Physically, I can not do it anymore," the 38-year-old Bagwell said in announcing his retirement. "I wish I could. I wish I could continue to play and try to win a World Series in Houston. But I'm just not physically able to do that anymore. . . I feel very blessed to have part of all of you, to be part of the Houston Astros for 15, 16 years."

When Bagwell joined the Astros as a relatively scrawny 22-year-old, the team finished 29 games out of first place and drew just over 1.2 million fans to the cavernous Astrodome. By the time he left, the Astros had defended their first-ever NL pennant before 3 million fans at Minute Maid Park.

Astros owner Drayton McLane acknowledged Bagwell's importance, telling him, "In the 15 years you have played here, you have been the person that has lifted this franchise, and we thank you for that."

"A lot of great things have gone on here, and championships were won, to the World Series, and we got a new stadium. And Jeff Bagwell has been an integral part. And I have said for many



Houston Astros longtime first baseman and four-time All-Star Jeff Bagwell announces his retirement in Houston Friday. Bagwell will continue with the Astros on a personal services contract.

years that Jeff has been really the heartbeat of the Houston Astros."

Everett Houston Mayor Bill White weighed in on Bagwell's retirement.

"The greatest hitter in Astros history may have hung in his spikes, but his home run trot keeps replaying in our best baseball memories," he said in a statement. "As a ballplayer, a team leader and a great community-minded Houstonian, we all appreciate having been witness to his career here. We look forward to his continued presence with our team, in our city and in the Hall of Fame."

Bagwell said he was grateful that he was able to spend his entire major league career with one team.

"This always been a big thing for me, and always meant a lot for me," he said. "I feel very proud of the fact that I spent my entire career with this organization. And that was something that

Craig and I both have talked about for years. That was something that was very important to us — to give the fans some identity of, at least you knew every single day that Biggio and Bagwell would be out on the right side of infield."

Along with Biggio, Bagwell led the Astros to four division titles and the team's first NL pennant in 2005.

Bagwell retired as Houston's leader in homers (449), RBIs (1,529), walks (1,401) and extra-base hits (969). He finished with a .287 career average.

Using an unusual smizer that featured a wide crouch, Bagwell finished three homers behind his childhood idol, Carl Yastrzemski.

Bagwell, the 1991 NL rookie of the year and 1994 NL MVP, will remain with the Astros as part of a personal-services agreement struck with the team this week. He is expected to work

Wells and Blue Jays agree to \$126 million, 7-year extension

TORONTO (AP) — All-Star center fielder Vernon Wells and the Toronto Blue Jays agreed Friday night to a

seven-year contract extension through 2014, the sixth-largest deal in baseball history.

"How can you not be happy?" Wells said during a telephone interview with The Associated Press several hours before terms of the deal were finalized. "Like I said, my family comes first. Obviously this gives me an opportunity to set my family up for a couple of generations. That's the biggest part of this thing. And this gives me a chance to do something special in Toronto that hasn't been done in awhile."

The contract value trails only those of Alex Rodriguez (\$252 million), Derek Jeter (\$189 million), Manny Ramirez (\$160 million), Todd Helton (\$141.5 million) and Alfonso

Soriano (\$136 million).

Wells is due \$5.6 million next season in the final year of his old contract. The extension calls for a \$25.5 million signing bonus, payable in three \$8.5 million installments each March 1 in 2008, 2009 and 2010. He will receive a salary of \$500,000 in 2009 and \$1.5 million in 2010, but his salary jumps to \$12.5 million in 2010 and \$22 million in 2011. Wells receives \$21 million in each of the final three seasons.

Under the extension, Wells has the right to terminate his agreement after the 2011 season and become eligible for free agency. He gets a full no-trade clause and could earn bonuses of \$250,000 for MVP, \$200,000 for World Series MVP, \$150,000 for league championship series MVP and \$100,000 for receiving the most votes in his league in All-Star game balloting.

Wells and Blue Jays agreed to a seven-year contract extension worth more than \$120 million.

he earned last year. Details of the agreement were not revealed.

Former teammates and colleagues described Bagwell as a "blue-collar guy" — "a 7-foot 'guy'" who accepted the fame and celebrity of his career only reluctantly.

Falcons aren't sure if this is a good time to face Cowboys

ATLANTA (AP) — Maybe this is the good time to be facing the Dallas Cowboys: Maybe not.

The Atlanta Falcons aren't so sure. Granted, the Cowboys hardly looked like a playoff contender in last weekend's 42-17 loss to New Orleans. Surely their confidence was shaken a bit, their *hawaiki* taken down a notch or two after such a crushing hit to a run of four straight wins.

Then again, there are times when a blowout loss serves as a wake-up call, the sort of slap in the face a talented team needs to regain its focus. Maybe the Cowboys will be in the mood for payback against the next team on the schedule.

That just happens to be the Falcons (7-6), who are hosting Dallas (8-5) on Saturday night in a game that will have major impact on the NFC playoff race.

"When a team puts 42 points on you in a national TV game, a little bit of doubt starts to creep in," Falcons linebacker like Reese said. "To lose like that before they come in here is not necessarily a bad thing."

Terrence Delgado Hall looks at it differently. "That just makes them more dangerous," he said. "I wish they had won, to tell you the truth."

Both teams have reached that must-win stage of the season. The Cowboys are clinging to a one-game lead in the NFC East over Philadelphia and the New York Giants. The Falcons are part of a three-way dead-end lock for two wild-card spots, with two other teams just a game behind.

Led by quarterback Tony Stewart, the Cowboys had won five of six games until they got steamrolled by New Orleans.

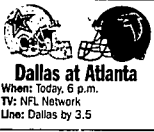
"That was pretty difficult to take," Dallas coach Bill Parcells said. "I don't think any coach can see something like that coming. We played very poorly across the board. We had played pretty good football for six weeks up to that. But we just didn't give ourselves a chance to win."

The pass-happy Saints repeatedly went deep on the Cowboys, whose secondary took much of the heat for letting things get out of hand. Drew Brees threw for 384 yards and five touchdowns, including a 61-yarder to Reggie Bush and a 42-yarder to Dariusz Henderson.

"He gave us up five touchdowns passes," Parcells said, essentially pointing a finger at the defensive backs. "We were in position two times on long passes. We were right there to make the play, but in both



Dallas Cowboys coach Bill Parcells, right, shakes hands with New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton after the Saints defeated the Cowboys 42-17 in an NFL football game in Irving, Texas, Sunday. The Cowboys face the Atlanta Falcons at 6 p.m. today.



Dallas at Atlanta
When: Today, 6 p.m.
TV: NFL Network
Live: Dallas by 3.5

cases we didn't." Safety Roy Williams got a bit defensive when the spotlight was turned on the leaky coverage.

"Everybody knows that whatever goes wrong with the defense, it's going to be the secondary's fault," he moaned. "That is what it is. You've got to have a short-term memory in football."

In fact, he's tired of talking about the Saints. He's only worried about the Falcons, who have won two in a row after a four-game losing streak imperiled their playoff hopes.

"That's in the past. We don't dwell in the past," Williams said. "The only people talking about the last game are the media, trying to throw it in our face. But we're not worried about the last game."

The Falcons, the NFL's top rushing team, don't present nearly as big a threat through the air as the Saints. And Atlanta's dynamic ground game could be short-stuffed if its top two runners, Warrick Dunn and Jerious Norwood, aren't able to play.

Both went down with injuries in last week's victory at Tampa Bay and were questionable for the prime-time game. Together, they have rushed for 1,547 yards.

But the Falcons still have Michael Vick, who is on the verge of a season record for most yards rushing by a quarterback. He is 34 behind Bobby Douglass, who rushed for 958 with the Bears in 1972, and just 66 away from becoming the first quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards.

He's not the only Atlanta player with a shot at a major record. Kicker Morten Andersen is one point away from tying Gary Anderson as the most prolific scorer in NFL history.

Struggling off his pursuit of history, Vick stressed the need to pass effectively, especially after watching what New Orleans did a week ago, and knowing that Dunn and Norwood won't be at full strength if they play.

"We definitely have to throw the football," Vick said. "We've got to get ball into the air and make some plays in the passing game. They have a good run-support defense. We're not just going to line up and run the ball against them; regardless of who we've got back there."

Romo and the Cowboys are hoping to take advantage of Atlanta's injury-depleted secondary. Keep an eye on cornerback Hall, who likely will spend most of the night covering

Terrell Owens. T.O. is just 29 yards away from his seventh 1,000-yard season, and Hall has no illusions about keeping the receiver from getting in this week.

"Oh, he's going to get his 1,000," said Hall, who kept Owens out of the end zone when the two went head-to-head in the 2005 season opener. "When you throw it as much as they do, you know he's going to get 30 yards. But there's a lot of playmakers on that team."

Indeed, if the Falcons devote all their attention to stopping Owens, they'll likely be burned by Terry Glenn (58 receptions, 825 yards, 6 TDs) and Jason Witten (49 receptions). They also have to contend with Romo's athleticism and ability to throw on the run, though the first-year starter is coming off his worst performance.

"I don't think he could possibly keep up the pace he was at," Parcells said. "And we became a pretty one-dimensional team for the entire second half of that game."

The Falcons have played well defensively the last two weeks, getting the best of the return to form of three-time Pro Bowler John Abraham. He had a sack and forced a fumble in the 17-6 win over the Bucs.

"Granted, the last two offenses we've played (Washington and Tampa Bay) are not as good as the offense we're playing this week," Reese said. "But we're starting to get our mojo back."



Ohio State stars NFL jump to NFL

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Four of Ohio State's top underclassmen on offense are considering leaving school early to enter the NFL draft.

Junior wide receivers Ted Glenn Jr. and Anthony Gonzalez, tailback Antonio Pittman and lineman Kirk Barton filed paperwork with the NFL on Friday.

"We're just awaiting some information so that we can make good decisions," said coach Jim Tressel, whose No. 1 Buckeyes play No. 2 Florida for the national title Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz.

"NFL advisory committee estimates where, or if, a player might be taken in the draft. A player can then elect to remain in college or make himself available for the draft."

Pittman said several weeks ago he wanted to come back for his senior year and win the Heisman Trophy — just as teammate Troy Smith did this year.

"I want to come back, but like anyone else I have a family to take care of," said Pittman, who rushed for 1,171 yards and 13 touchdowns after gaining 1,331 yards and scoring seven times a year ago. "When the papers come back in, I'll sit down with my parents and coach Tress and then we'll make a decision."

Glenn led top-ranked Ohio State (12-0) with 59 receptions for 781 yards and nine touchdowns. With breakneck speed, he is also one of the nation's top return men.

Gonzalez is second on the team in receiving with 49 catches for 723 yards and eight scores. He is known as a dependable receiver with good hands and speed.

"He filled out the papers just to keep his options open. "What I want to do is come back, that's for sure," Gonzalez said. "That's easy because it's fun to play. The vast majority of the people I know in the NFL are miserable."

The 6-foot-6, 310-pound Barton started every game at right tackle as the Buckeyes averaged 35.3 points and 410 yards per game.

Three Buckeyes left early a year ago for the NFL with two taken in the first round (defensive back Donte

"I want to come back, but like anyone else I have a family to take care of. When the paperwork comes back in, I'll sit down with my parents and coach Tress and then we'll make a decision."

— Ohio State tailback Antonio Pittman

Whitner and wide receiver Santonio Holmes) and another in the third (defensive back Ashton Youtby).

Twenty-two Ohio State players have left school early to be a part of the draft since 1992. The list includes some of the most productive Buckeyes in the NFL: Dan Wilkinson, Terry Glenn, Shawn Springs, Orlando Pace, Nate Clements and Chris Gamble.

The Buckeyes are chasing their second national championship in the last five years. Glenn said his focus right now is not on the NFL, but the game.

"The papers and the NFL and all that can wait," he said. "It's going to be a decision that I'll have to make myself."

Tressel called Gonzalez to suggest that he file the paperwork. Gonzalez said he had no desire to leave but would respect judgment until after he had spoken to his parents.

"I want to come back. Now what's the right thing to do? I don't have the answer to that. Nobody does right now," he said.

Pittman is not looking forward to making the decision when the time comes.

"I don't think it's an easy decision at all," he said. "For the last three years, this is all I've known. These guys come in here as like family. To walk away from your family is a hard thing."

Longtime Air Force coach DeBerry retires

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — Fisher DeBerry retired Friday after 23 years as Air Force's head coach, finishing with three straight losing seasons and two big controversies in his final years.

The 68-year-old DeBerry guided the Falcons to three conference championships and spent 27 years at the school, including four as an assistant coach.

"There comes a time in every man's life when you have to look at the big picture and decide what's the best thing for your family," he said in a prepared statement. "After 27 exciting and wonderful years here at the academy and a total of 44 years of coaching, I am announcing my retirement from active coaching."

DeBerry, whose 169-107-1 record made him the winningest coach in Air Force history, was 35 when he joined the academy and led Air Force to 14 Commander-in-Chief's trophies awarded to the winner of the annual service academy rivalry.

DeBerry had problems off the field in recent years. In 2005, he was criticized after a 48-10 loss to TCU when he said Air Force didn't have enough "Afro-American" players, singling them out for being able to run well. DeBerry was reprimanded by top brass at the academy and offered a



Air Force Academy Football head coach Fisher DeBerry announces his resignation after more than 25 years at the Air Force Academy, Colo., Friday.

public apology. In 2004, academy officials asked him to remove a banner from the locker room that included the lines "I am a Christian first and last ... I am a member of Team Jesus Christ." DeBerry held the third-longest tenure at one school of any active college coach, after Joe Bateman (41 years at Penn State) and Bobby Bowden (31 years at Florida State).

NFL Network rejects Time Warner Cable's proposals on carrying Rutgers bowl game

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL Network has rejected two proposals from Time Warner Cable that would have allowed New York area viewers to see a much-anticipated college football game between Rutgers and Kansas State.

The NFL Network, which is owned by the NFL, is carrying the Dec. 28 game in the inaugural Texas Bowl in Houston, New Jersey-based Rutgers, long an underdog in college football, is coming off its best Big East season, and there is great local interest in seeing the game.

Carriage of the game has become an issue since it won't be on local broadcast outlets. Time Warner Cable hasn't reached a long-term carriage deal with the network, saying it's asking for too much money. Another New York-area cable provider, Cablevision Systems Corp., also doesn't carry the network.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell told the AP on Tuesday that the network would offer Time Warner Cable and Cablevision a free week of carriage from Dec. 24 to 30, which would include the Rutgers game and also the Insight Bowl between Minnesota and Texas Tech on Dec. 29.

Time Warner Cable, a unit of the media conglomerate Time Warner Inc., responded with two proposals — either carry just the Rutgers game on its basic tier, which would include all

New York area customers, or carry the network for the full week on a digital tier, which is a premium service taken by about 75 percent of customers in the area.

Steve Bornstein, the head of the NFL Network, told Glenn Britt in a letter on Thursday that neither proposal would satisfy both of the network's goals of making the Rutgers game available to local fans at no additional cost while also expanding customers to other NFL-related programming on the network.

Bornstein's letter, which Time Warner Cable provided to the AP left open the possibility of further talks, suggesting that there could be a way to figure out how to carry the network for the full week on the basic tier or to find a mutually agreeable option regarding the digital tier.

Britt, however, had told Bornstein earlier that carrying the network for the full week on the basic service was impossible because doing so would force bumping off other programming that Time Warner was contractually obligated to carry.

In an e-mail, Time Warner Cable spokesman Mark Harrod called the NFL Network's response "self-serving." "Their overriding goal is apparent," Harrod said. "It is to not do — ensure Rutgers fans see their team. But rather to ensure their Network is sampled

by the largest number of our customers in the hopes they might gain some leverage in the longer-term negotiations that have been going on for months."

The NFL Network didn't return a call or e-mail request for comment.

Rutgers' blowout record this season has attracted huge level interest in the NFL's Nov. 9 home game against Louisville, which both teams went undefeated, was watched by 4.6 million households, according to ESPN. That made it the second-most viewed Thursday night regular season college football game ever aired on ESPN, after the West Virginia vs. Louisville matchup the week before, which was seen by 4.9 million households.

There was so much fervor for the game that in New York the Empire State Building was lit red on the night of Nov. 9 in honor of the Scarlet Knights, as the Rutgers team is known.

Harrod said by phone later Friday that the two sides are still talking and that Time Warner Cable is "still hopeful of finding a way to get the Rutgers game to our customers." Cablevision has said publicly that it planned to offer just the Rutgers game, although it wasn't clear what would happen in that case. NFL Network spokesman Seth Palusky has said the network hadn't heard directly from Cablevision and wouldn't comment until it did.

The sound of Christmas is small and still

There are a bunch of new stores in the new shopping development just a few blocks away from our house, and my teenage daughter Beth and I have been anxious to check them out.

I mean, if you're going to go broke at Christmas, you might as well do it at a brand new, state-of-the-art merchandising Mecca — am I right? The way I see it, most of my money is going to end up here anyway. It might as well get comfortable with the place.

So Beth and I were cruising through the area, perusing the various stores, sampling some of the fast food cuisine, trying on some "way cool" boots when all of a sudden she stopped, her whole face alive with youthful exuberance and excitement.



VALUESPEAK
Joseph Walker

"Do you hear that?" she asked. "It sounds like Christmas!" I stopped to listen. There was plenty to hear, all right. Shoppers shopping. Cash registers registering. The department store Santa ho-ho-ho-ing. Little children crying at the department store Santa's ho-ho-ho-ing. A mechanical moose singing "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" — over and over and over again.

"I don't hear Christmas," I told Beth. "I just hear a lot of noise and confusion."

"I know!" Beth replied, her smile even broader and more jubilant. "Noise! Confusion! Christmas!"

I remember that feeling. When I was little it was as if Christmas turned me into one of those Fizzles soft drink tablets, and I bubbled and effervesced all season long. I shouted my Christmas wish list to the department store Santa — just in case he was hard of hearing. I sang Christmas carols at the top of my lungs, screaming into the night at the sight of the first Christmas fruitcake. I belted my line — "Fear not!" — during the church Christmas pageant so loud that the infant portraying the baby Jesus woke up and started crying. I bounced off the walls at home and at school from Thanksgiving to... you know...

The Big Night. By the time Christmas Eve finally arrived I was feeling so wired and excited I couldn't sleep. And if I couldn't sleep, nobody slept.

Sure, my early Christmases were noisy and confusing. But once I was a little older...

These days, however, I prefer my Christmases calmer. I still enjoy the sounds of the season, but mostly the quiet, gentle sounds. Snow falling. Yule logs crackling in the fireplace. Nat King Cole singing "The Christmas Song." A child's voice reading the Bible Christmas story. "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed..."

This change in aural preference is partly due to the fact that I am officially old and simply can't tolerate the noise and confusion any more. But it's also due to the fact that I've learned a few things through the years. And one of the things I've learned is that the sound of Christmas isn't big or bold or brassy, no matter what you may hear at the department store. The sound of Christmas, it turns out, is still and small.

It's the sound of peace. It's the sound of hope. It's the sound of love. Listen for it tonight. After everyone else has gone to bed, turn off all the lights in the house except the Christmas tree lights. Turn off the TV. Turn off the stereo.

Set aside the pressures and stresses of the season. Just sit in the stillness and listen. There... do you hear that? It sounds like Christmas!

Joseph Walker is a freelance writer from American Fork, Utah.

Giving away Christmas

Some local residents put their gifts under other people's trees

By Loretta Burkhardt
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — That it's more blessed to give than to receive became apparent to Michael Becerra years ago after giving away Christmas to the poor.

"I called food banks, asked what they needed most, grabbed two shopping carts and piled them up," Becerra recalled.

And while the season of Yuletide proved timely, the simple act of giving proved therapeutic for the clinical depression Becerra was suffering at the time.

In looking back to 1991, Becerra recalls that he was experiencing a "very fragile" state of mind.

That year — while working for the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Oregon — he had made a career move that turned out to be anything but positive.

Besides dealing with "the loneliness" he felt at being miles away from home, he was also trying to save a failed relationship attributed to that distance.

But in an attitude of considering the needs of others, things changed for the better.

Not only did a more "meaningful" mindset become a productive tool, but sharing with the needy was also "healing," Becerra said.

"I felt light, I felt happy, I had done something of value. "It was a good feeling," he said.

And it didn't stop there. In some long-distance dialogue with friends and family, Becerra made it clear that he wanted to break with the traditional exchanging of gifts and give rather "to people in need."

Today, that decision to help others — "and not just because it's Christmas" — has become a way of life for the 47-year-old husband, father and laboratory manager at the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory. The meaning behind the

Christmas season is important to Becerra, who sees this time of year as "the beginning of hope in the new year," but in terms of gift-giving, "buying stuff (only) because it's Christmas puts me off."

In his immediate household, giving consists of putting a few "meaningful gifts" in three stockings hanging above the family's fireplace. For the extended families the solution is to draw one name each — among family members — to keep the number of purchases at a minimum.

His guidelines are straightforward: Don't use credit cards, don't spend outside your means, and don't buy junk.

And his ongoing resolve to help others has had far-reaching effects.

Exchanging gifts can be "a financial stretch" for any family, but by cutting back on the number of gifts exchanged between family members "it leaves more money for year-round charities," said Michael's mother, Carol St.

While she admits that, "I wasn't quite as enthusiastic as Michael — at first," over the years the act of helping people who are really "in need" has provided more joy and greater blessings for St. Jean.

Her primary focus this year is Toys for Tots. Her other donations made locally are earmarked to help buy supplies for after-school programs.

Rondal Lang of Filer also finds it more blessed to give than to receive — particularly when it comes to giving to needy children.

During the Christmas season, his concerns for the needy extend far beyond the local area.

Retired from a 23-year career in the Army, Lang's overseas postings gave him an opportunity to witness real poverty worldwide.

To alleviate some of that suffering, he sponsors "little children" through the Christian Children's Fund throughout the year.



Three-year old Alyssa plays peek-a-boo on her father's lap, Michael Becerra, at their home in Twin Falls.

Where to give

- **Salvation Army** — Provides Christmas baskets to needy families in the greater Twin Falls area. Contact: Maj. Dallas Pedersen, 733-0569.
- **Mini-Casita Christmas Council** — Distributes food baskets to needy families in Minidoka and Cassia counties, and accepts donations of good hats, coats, gloves, food, "gently used" toys, cosmetics and jewelry — basically anything that would make a nice Christmas present. Contact: Verles Frost at 878-79490 or Dolly Freilinger at 436-4057.
- **KMYT Christmas for Kids** — Collects donations of new toys and distributes them to needy children, and cash to buy toys. Toy collection barrels will be located in selected retail stores in the Twin Falls area through this weekend. Contact: Paul Johnson, 733-1100.
- **East End Providers** — Based in Kimberly, this non-profit organization provides Christmas food and toys to needy families. Contact: Jill Griffin at 423-4486.
- **Valley Community Helpers** — Provides Christmas food baskets for Eden and Hazelton residents in need of assistance. Contact: Diane Honhorst, 829-5441.
- **Holiday Baskets Program** — Distributes food baskets to Blaine County residents in need. Contact: Janet Meza, 721-7877.

And on Christmas, he sends the CCF "extra" donations. In the past four years, Lang has sponsored Samaritan's Purse both financially and in its Christmas project of filling shoeboxes with toys. "We have so much," he

said. "They have so little." Lang, 44, who works part-time for the Postal Service in Filer and fulltime at Cactus Pete's Resort Casino, in Jackpot, picks ornaments from "angel trees" around the area to help in his gift selection.

Each angel-ornament lists clothing sizes, special needs, and a toy wish for a needy child.

This year "some child will get to select his or her own" book "or maybe a DVD" with gift cards purchased locally by Lang.

According to his wife, Rita, Rondal also donates food and money to help feed the hungry.

Rather than buying him gifts, he has asked relatives to donate money to a religious organization or a charity, in his name. The Boise Rescue Mission and the American Bible Society are a few of his suggestions.

The reward he seeks is "glorify God."

"We don't do this to bring glory or honor to ourselves, but to draw others to Christ," he said. "If so without Christ, in my life I would not be as generous."

But this year Rondal would accept one little something: A puppy from the animal shelter. "It's the only gift he has asked for," Rita Lang said.

Keeping manliness next to godliness

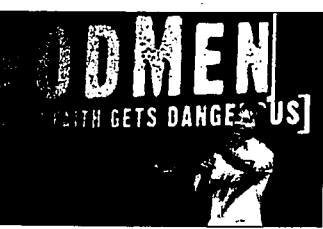
High-testosterone worship aims to help men feel comfortable at church — but is it too extreme?

Los Angeles Times

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The strobe lights pulse and the air vibrates to a killer rock beat. Giant screens show mayhem and gross-out pranks: a car wreck, a sucker punch, a flabby (and naked) red end, scented with duct tape.

Brad Stine runs onstage in ripped blue jeans, his shirt unbuttoned, his long hair shaggy. He's a stand-up comic by trade, but he's here today as an evangelist, on a mission to build up a new Christian man — one profanity at a time. "It's the wussification of America that's getting us" screeches Stine.

A moment later he adds a fervent: "Thank you, Lord, for our testosterone!" It's an apt anthem for a con-



Brad Stine's daytime revival meeting in Nashville, Tenn., which he calls 'GodMen,' is cruder than most.

trarian movement gaining momentum on the fringes of Christianity. In daybreak fraternity meetings and week-

end painball wars, in wilderness retreats and X-rated chats about lust, thousands of Christian men are reaching

for more forceful, more rugged expressions of their faith.

Stine's daytime revival meeting, which he calls "GodMen," is cruder than most. But it's built around the same theme as the other experimental forums: Traditional church worship is emasculating.

Hold hands with strangers? Sing love songs to Jesus? No wonder pewers across America hold far more women than men, Stine says. Factor in the pressure to be a "Christian nice guy" — no cussing, no confrontation, in tune with the wife's emotions — and it's amazing men keep the faith at all.

"We know men are uncomfortable in church," says the Rev. Kraig Wall, 52, who pas-

sors a small church in Franklin, Tenn. — and is at GodMen to research ways to reach the husbands of his congregation. His conclusion: "The syrup and the sticky stuff is holding us down."

John Eldredge, a seminal writer for the movement, goes further in "Wild At Heart," his bestselling "Christianity as it currently exists, has done some terrible things to men," he writes. Men "believe that God put them on earth to be a good boy."

Says Christian radio host Paul Coughlin, author of "No More Christian Nice Guy": "The idea of Jesus as meek and mild is as fictitious as anything in 'Dan Brown's The Vinci Code.'"

Please see MEN, Page B6

Christmas in Church



Twin Falls Bible Church
 Join us to
Celebrate the Birth
 of our LORD and
 Savior Jesus Christ

December 17th - 9am
 Worship by school children &
 others with the adult choir

December 24th - 9am
 Worship by the adult choir

December 24th - 4:30pm
 Candlelight Communion Service
 Built on God's Word.
 601 Shoshone St. N. • Twin Falls

Our Savior Lutheran Church
 Corner of Carriage Lane North
 and Filer Avenue East
 208-733-3774

- December 6th:
Advent Service-7:00 p.m.
- December 13th:
Advent Service-7:00 p.m.
- December 20th:
Advent Service-7:00 p.m.
- December 24th:
Sunday Worship-9:30 a.m.
Family Service-5:30 p.m.
Candlelight Service-10:00 p.m.

Crossroads United Methodist Church

Dec. 2 Annual UMW Christmas Branch and Church Adornment
 Dec. 10 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Dec. 17 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Dec. 24 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Special Children's Program: *The Nativity Story* with puppets
 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 in Murtagh Community Hall
 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
 at Crossroads UMC in Kimberly

Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

Everyone Welcome!

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

Christmas at Twin Falls Reformed Church
 (corner of Grandview N. and Pole Line Rd.)
 EASY TO GET TO ON THE NEW POLE LINE ROAD!

Christmas Eve Services
 (Note special service times)

Morning Worship
 10:00 a.m. - "Going the extra mile"
 Lessons from the three wise men... are you willing to go the extra mile?

Candlelight Service
 5:30 p.m. - "The gift that changed everything" What are your expectations this Christmas? Be sure to bring the kids. Something special for kids of all ages!

TFRC 1631 Grandview Drive North
 TWIN FALLS REFORMED CHURCH 733-6128 • www.tfrc.org

Come celebrate God's greatest gift with us

Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve - 10:00 PM

With special music by Robert Kings and a Christmas message by pastor Mike Keville

Calvary Chapel Center of Falls Ave. and road to Shoshone Falls
 773-3193 | www.calvarychapels.org

Christmas at First United Methodist Church
 360 Shoshone Street East, Twin Falls, Idaho • 733-5872
 Senior Pastor - Greg Lindsay
 Pastor Noel Morfin - Hispanic Ministries

December 24
 Contemporary Worship 8:30 am
 Sunday School 9:45 am
 Traditional Worship 11:00 am
 8:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Special Music, Carols and The Spoken Word

Berean Baptist Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:30 pm
 Pastor Paul Kroeger
 11am Service on Christmas Day
 175 2nd Ave. W. Wendell
 (Behind the Mason) 536-9769

Jerome Presbyterian Church
 will celebrate the Advent season with our

Children's Service
 December 24, 2006 • 10:30 am

The children will present "Committee of Angels" Our Advent family will light the Advent candles.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
 December 24 • 6 pm
Everyone is invited to attend!

"The King Is Coming"
 Children's Musical and Drama
 Sunday, Dec 12, 9:30am & 11am
 A Christmas celebration where kids and adults can explore their true purpose that is found in Jesus Christ.

Carols by Candlelight
 Sunday, Dec 17, 6pm
 Join us for this traditional carols of Christmas service and learn the stories behind some of these much loved songs.

Christmas Worship Service
 Sunday, Dec 25, 9:30am & 11am
 Celebrate our Savior's birth and fill this Christmas Day with meaning for your entire family.

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

Twin Falls First Church of the Nazarene (west of CSI)
 1231 Washington Street North • 733-6610

Simply Celebrating Jesus
Community Church Of The Brethren
 461 Filer Ave. West
 Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
 (208) 734-0402

Christmas Morning Worship at 11:00
 Candle Light Christmas Eve Service at 6:30
Join us in our Celebration of Jesus Savior, Redeemer and Lord

Calvary Chapel of Buhl
 invites you to
"Country Candlelight Christmas"
Christmas Eve Services
December 24 at 8:00 pm
 1004 Burley Ave.
 (old Ricley Bldg.)
 for more information call
543-9959

LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
"Worship With Us"

December 17
 ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS SERVICES
 8:00, 9:45 & 11:30AM
 259 MAIN AVE EAST

December 24
 SUNDAY MORNING 10:30AM
 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00PM
AT OUR FUTURE HOME
 960 Eastland Dr. (formerly Anderson Lumber)
 LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
 208.737.4667

RELIGION

'Interfaith' subject of talk at breakfast

TWIN FALLS — The Men's Ministry Breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. today at the Laing Hotel...

Church news

Speak on 'The Story Before Christmas'...

Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m. This service is available for morning worship.

An evening service with a study on Romans starts at 6 p.m.

Jerome pastor to speak on 'Authentic Christmas Joy'

JEROME — The First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Ave. A, will celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent with the sermon, 'Authentic Christmas Joy'...

For more information, call 324-2972.

'Rejoice' will be topic of sermon at Burley church

BURLEY — "Rejoice" will be the sermon for the Third Sunday of Advent at the First Presbyterian Church, 2100 Burton Ave.

Sunday school children will perform a pageant with readings and music at 10:45 a.m.

All are welcome. For more information, call 678-5131...

First Christian Church choir presents cantata

TWIN FALLS — The choir of the First Christian Church will present a Christmas Cantata, 'Night of Miracles'...

Directed by Verna Jean Carrico, the music will feature solos by Shirley Hazden, Jim Tubbs and Don Richards.

Mary Nelson is the accompanist.

Everyone is welcome. Now an adult of the church will present a live nativity from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday through Dec. 24 on the church lawn.

The event features people portraying those present at the birth of Jesus and includes live animals.

Bible study is held at 7 p.m. Wednesdays. The current study is on the Book of Revelations.

The church is located at 601 Shoshone St. N.

Annual Christmas program takes place in Hollister

HOLLISTER — The Hollister Community Presbyterian Church will present its annual Christmas program at 11 a.m. Sunday at the church, 2461 Center St.

Hona Henstock and Dorothy Boss will direct the program. A Christmas joy offering will be received. Gail and Roger Jones will provide tract racks.

First United Methodist Church sets open house

TWIN FALLS — The First United Methodist Church will hold an open house from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday in the Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a shut-in.

The event replaces the annual caroling party. For more information, call Dale or Pat Stewart at 733-1882 or Duke or Oralee Wiseman at 733-3160.

Sunday school students bring toys for foster children after hearing a talk by Marlene Yardley, community resource developer for Health and Welfare.

A Sunday school Christmas program featuring puppets made from broomsticks and mops will be presented at 10 a.m. Sunday in the Wesley Chapel.

Worship is at 8:30 a.m. in the Wesley Chapel and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. Christmas homeless meal will be held at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 23.

'A Quiet Christmas' takes place at Twin Falls church

TWIN FALLS — "A Quiet Christmas" will be presented at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Community Christian Church, 303 Grandview Drive.

The presentation includes a Christmas band involving musicians of all ages performing a medley of Christmas carols. Other performances include the Community Christian Quartet, instrumental and vocal offerings.

Everyone is invited to bring a candle for the candlelight service.

Light snacks will be served. For more information, call 733-2886.

Burley LDS Stake slates annual Christmas concert

BURLEY — The Burley LDS Stake will present its annual Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Sunday at the church, 2950 Normal Ave.

The program features Robert Newman and Keith Ramsey singing "Birthday of a King," Jolene Hobson and Colleen McCall will play "Silent Night" on violins, performances by The Variations and the Burley Stake Choir and Strings, and a piano and organ duet by Mayna McGill and Helen Bosworth.

Admission is free. Everyone is welcome.

The Times-News welcomes news of church events. Send information to Ellen Thomason, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303, or Treva Tegan, South Idaho Press office, 230 E. Main St., Burley, ID 83318. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday for publication on the Saturday religion page.

MISSIONARIES

Elder James Roland Gayer has been called to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Japan Tokyo North Mission.



Gayer is the son of Dennis and Nelda Gayer of Twin Falls and is in the Twin Falls 12th Ward. He graduated in 2005 from Twin Falls High School, where he was involved in the Information Technology Academy. He is an Eagle Scout and a 2nd Degree Blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do. He entered the Mission Training Center on Dec. 6.

then Brigham Young University-Provo. She is the daughter of Mike Hadlock of Jerome and the late Barbara Hadlock.

Sister Megan Murphy has returned from serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Ecuador Guayaquil South Mission.



Murphy graduated in 2002 from Minico High School and in 2005 from Brigham Young University. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She is in the Emerson 2nd Ward. Her parents are Tom and Julie Murphy of Twin Falls and formerly of Paul.

Sister Lora Hadlock has returned from serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Spain Bilbao Mission.



Hadlock plans to attend the College of Southern Idaho and

The Times-News welcomes news of church missionaries. Send information to Ellen Thomason, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303, or Treva Tegan, South Idaho Press office, 230 E. Main St., Burley, ID 83318. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday for publication on the Saturday religion page.

CHIMING IN



The Hallelujah Handbell Choir will give two performances Sunday of its second annual Holiday Concert at the First Presbyterian Church, 209 Fifth Ave. N. in Twin Falls. Concerts will be presented at 10 a.m. during worship and also at 4 p.m. Admission is free. The public is invited. For more information, call 733-7023.

Men

So what's with the standard portraits of Jesus: pale face, beatific smile, lapful of lambs? "He was domesticated," says Roland Martinson, a professor of ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

"He's portrayed now as gentle, loving, kind, rather than as a full-bodied person who kicked over tables in the temple, spent 40 days in the wilderness wrestling with his identity and with God, hung out with the guys in the street. The rough-hewn edges and courage ... got lopped off."

Martinson considers the experiments with high-testosterone worship "an important attempt to address at least one aspect of the difficulty Christianity is facing with men." He just worries it might go too far. "Too often, it turns into the man being in charge of the woman," he says. "Christianity has been there before, and we learned how wrong it was."

In fact, men taking charge is a big theme of the GodMen revival. At what he hopes will be the first of many such conferences, in a warehouse-turned-nightclub in downtown Nashville, Stine asks the men: "Are you ready to grab your sword and say, 'OK, family, I'm going to lead you?'" He also distributes a list of a real man's "rules for his woman. No. 1: Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down."

Stine's wife, Desiree, says she supports manly leadership; it seems to her the natural and God-ordained order of things.

As she puts it: "When the rubber hits the road, I want to know my husband will protect me."

But some men at the conference ran into trouble when they debut their new attitudes at home. Eric Miller, a construction worker, admits his wife is none too pleased when

he takes off, alone, on a week-end camping trip a few weeks after the GodMen conference this fall.

"She was a little bit leery of it, as we have an infant," he reports. "She said, 'I need your help around here.'"

Miller, 26, refuses to yield: "I am supposed to be the leader of the family." In-your-face aggression at first troubles Howard Stephenson, who paid \$50 for a day at GodMen in hopes of forging friendships with other Christian men. When Stine, a born-again Christian, shouts that it's OK to cuss—and then demonstrates with a defiant "bull ..."—Stephenson shifts uneasily.

"This is so extreme for me," he says.

A few weeks later, Stephenson, 43, is still not sold on profanity. But he has ditched the nice-guy reflex of always turning the other cheek. When he spots a Wal-Mart clerk writing "Happy Holidays" on a window, he boldly complains: It should say "Merry Christmas."

The clerk eases the offending greeting. Chalk one up for Christian men.

"I wouldn't have done that before," Stephenson says proudly. "I am no longer a doormat."

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Secular laws in Turkey at odds with faithful

The Boston Globe

HEYBELIADA, Turkey — Atop a pine-covered hill on this island in the Sea of Marmara, Metropolitan Apostolos, a gray-haired Greek Orthodox bishop, tended the empty, echoing halls of a seminary shuttered for 35 years by government order, dreaming of the day it will reopen to reepitaph the dwindling ranks of the clergy in Turkey.

An hour's ferry ride away, Fatma Saglam, an observant Muslim, unwrapped her headscarf every morning and walks bareheaded into her bustling Istanbul university, reluctantly choosng education over policy forbids wearing the traditional religious headcovering on campus.

Saglam and Apostolos, both Turkish citizens, each represent communities yearning for religious "expression" denied them by their government. Observant Muslims and Christian minorities feel the effects, to different degrees and in different ways, from limits on religious life, in recent months both communities have stepped up pressure for change by appealing to world opinion, to Pope Benedict XVI on his recent visit, and especially to the European Union as it weighs Turkey's membership bid.

The Turkish state was founded in 1923 on the principle of subordinating religion to secular nationalism. State policies — from banning headscarves in



The sun sets of the Ottoman-era Suleymaniye mosque in Istanbul, Turkey. Both Muslims and Christians are pressing for changes in Turkey's staunchly secular laws.

government buildings to closing private religious schools — regulate all aspects of religion in an effort to concentrate the secular government's power. For Muslims, the government trains, hires, and fires imams. For the tiny Christian and Jewish minorities, the government has used a web of regulations to close and confiscate places of worship, and doesn't allow individuals or institutions to inherit property.

To the Turkish government and many nonobservant Turks, appeals for religious freedom strike at the defining principle of the modern Turkish state, the "secularism"

imposed by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the nation's first president, who forced Turks to abandon many of their traditions as part of a campaign to Westernize the country.

Turkey doesn't define secularism the way many democracies do, as separation of church and state. Elizabeth Prodromou, a professor of international relations at Boston University who studies Turkey and serves on a US government panel that monitors religious freedom. "Instead, it's state control over religion," she said.

Turkish officials argue that with more religious liberty, the nation's Muslim majority could slide toward fundamentalism and its minuscule Christian minorities could erode Turkish identity or sovereignty. But those assertions are increasingly being challenged inside and outside the country. With Turkey under pressure from Europe to acknowledge past and present repression of Christian minorities, and facing growing domestic opposition from Islamist political parties, the state's curbs on religious freedom make it harder for Turkey to present itself as a model democracy bridging Europe and the majority-Muslim world.

was time to change the church's name. The Gwinnett Historical Society sent a letter to church deacons, asking them to reconsider the change.

Hog Mountain was the site of the county's first courthouse and jail. Its name comes from a story of men stopping in the area as they drove their pigs to market.

In November, members decided in a 21-7 vote that it

After 152 years, Georgia church drops 'Hog' from its name

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — After 152 years, Hog Mountain Baptist Church in eastern Gwinnett County has changed its name to drop the word "Hog."

Church members voted Dec. 11 to become Hamilton Mill Baptist. They picked from a handful of proposed names, including Oak View, Fort Daniel, Mill Creek and Oak Hill.

The area where the church sits was called Hog Mountain until the late 1990s when the name of Hamilton Mill

www.magicvalley.com

Ways to celebrate the holidays without offending your friends

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Courtney Kuehn went to a Hindu wedding and — surprise! — tradition dictated a toast to her old college roommate, Paul Purdy went to synagogue with a Jewish girlfriend and accidentally stood for the Mourner's Kaddish.

Such trans-cultural encounters are common in a nation under many gods, especially this time of year when celebrations often involve friends from other faiths. Questions come up. Is it OK to serve pork at a holiday party? Should my Buddhist friend get a Christmas card?

Religious etiquette guides offer some answers. The books, including "How to be a Perfect Stranger" and "Multicultural Manners," focus on issues far weightier than recognizing salad dressings. Inside, is advice on how to be sensitive to other faiths and cultures. A few examples:

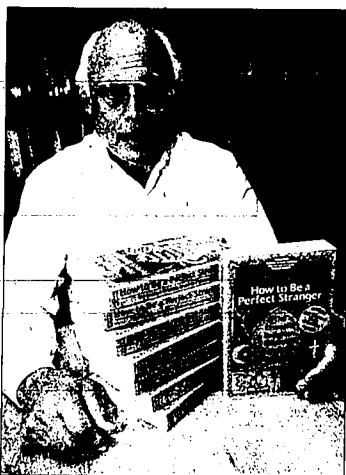
• Do wear white at a Hindu funeral. It's the faith's symbolic color of mourning.

• Don't order a beer at a Muslim wedding reception (Islamic law forbids alcohol).

• Washing of the feet, symbolizing Jesus' love for humanity, is optional for guests at a Seventh-day Adventist ceremony.

• During Hanukkah, which begins at sundown Friday, you light a shamash and eat a sufganiot (one is a candle, the other a doughnut).

The advice is especially useful in a nation becoming more diverse. Changes in U.S. immigration law during the 1990s allowed more non-Europeans into the country, increasing the presence of minority faiths.



Stuart M. Matlins, co-editor of 'How to Be a Perfect Stranger' displays copies of his religious etiquette book in his office in Woodstock, Vt.

"Clearly, there are dramatic changes that have taken place in our country in the last 50 years," said Stuart M. Matlins, a co-editor of "Perfect Stranger" and editor of companion guides for weddings and funerals.

While exact statistics are difficult to calculate, there are thought to be more than a million Hindus in the United States, at least several million Buddhists, and several million

Muslims and Jews. Even the nation's dominant faith, Christianity, is far from monolithic. Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists and Episcopalians each have distinctive practices.

Cultural collisions are unavoidable. Albany resident Purdy, raised in a Christian home, went to synagogue in October with his then-girlfriend's family for Yom Kippur, the Jewish

Day of Atonement, when he inadvertently stood for the mourning prayer. He realized his gaffe and sat down again quickly.

Purdy's interfaith philosophy is "if you're paying attention, you'll do OK." But the guides are for other people who want to make sure, or for the curious.

Kuehn, from Lakeville, Minn., was close enough to her Hindu friend to be one of those called upon to make a traditional toast around a big table at her wedding. She still wonders whether her all-English good wishes came across to the Hindu-speaking guests.

"I'm not sure if everyone understood me," she said. More Americans are seeking help to clear up the cultural confusion.

"Perfect Stranger" went into its fourth edition this year and has sold more than 75,000 copies, Matlins said. Barnes & Noble is promoting the book for the holidays on the religion-themed tables in its stores.

"Multicultural Manners" is in its second edition and has sold more than 50,000 copies, said author Norine Dresser, who more recently wrote "Come to My Aunt's" at Home with Multicultural Celebrations.

The books share retail shelf space with guides less concerned with interfaith how-to, but with explaining faiths like "Jewish Holidays, a Brief Introduction for Christians" or "Understanding Islam and the Muslims."

Authors say the books meet complementary needs — for people to understand their neighbors and for people to have their faith understood.

'Post-Christian Europe'?

Issues old, but the landscape is changing

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — In 1905 France passed a landmark law declaring a clean break between church and state. Riots erupted and a papal encyclical denounced the act as a "most pernicious error."

Such extreme passions cooled long ago, but the core questions remain as strong as ever. Debates over religion, politics and civic life — and how much they should overlap and interact — are demanding more attention across Europe than at any time in recent decades.

It's no longer just about whether to untangle or preserve the old relationships between state and religion — often only symbolic these days, but still an important stream of revenue for churches.

New fronts are emerging: Traditionalist groups seeking a closer embrace of Europe's Christian heritage, and others predicting that efforts to better integrate Muslim communities will also require new models for religion's role in public life.

"Religion — for good and bad — is reasserting itself as a force in Europe," said Gerhard Robbers, a professor of political and religious studies at Germany's University of Trier. "The period of secularism is coming to an end. A new landscape is emerging."

But in the 25-nation European Union, it's a very uneven terrain, with church attendance ranging from above 50 percent of followers in Ireland and Poland to below 10 percent in Scandinavia.

Several European countries fund churches through a church tax in Germany, the state-mandated levy runs as high as 8 percent of a person's income tax, and is cited as one reason why more than 100,000 Roman Catholic and Protestants officially break ties with their churches every year.

When the EU expanded in 2004, it inherited a swath of Eastern Europe where churches — particularly the Roman Catholic and Christian Orthodox — have been reasserting their voices in civil affairs after being sidelined for decades by communism. Two of the other newcomers have deep church-



People prepare banners in front of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris two years ago, where a large crowd was set up to mark All Saints Day. Debates over religion, politics and civic life — and how much they should overlap and interact — are demanding more attention across Europe than at any time in recent decades.

state bonds: Malta with Catholicism and the Greek speaking zone of divided Cyprus with the Orthodox church. Two more predominantly Orthodox nations, Bulgaria and Romania, will "enter the EU fold in January."

In Poland, another new EU member, top government officials have been guests on a popular Catholic radio station, Radio Maryja, whose ultra-conservative views and commentary on political affairs and relations with Jews have drawn criticism from the Vatican.

Many of the new EU states, were among the strongest voices in the unsuccessful effort to include a mention of God or Christianity in the EU constitution, which was muddled — at least temporarily — after rejection last year by Dutch and French voters.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said this year that "Christianity has formed Europe in a decisive way" and should be reflected in an eventual constitution. But her party — the Christian Democratic Union, has tried to position itself as a coalition group whose name only echoes the once-powerful Christian political movements that rose across Europe following World War II.

Texas pastors back colleague on 'private prayer language'

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Southern Baptist pastor who found himself at the center of a controversy over speaking in tongues drew renewed support from a group of pastors who want the denomination to re-examine policies governing the practice.

About 150 pastors and other church leaders from around the country participated in a roundtable discussion at Cornerstone Baptist Church

in Arlington, home of the Rev. Dwight McKissic. Trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth voted in October that they would not tolerate any promotion of "private prayer language" at the school. The vote came nearly two months after McKissic said during a chapel service that he sometimes speaks in tongues while praying.

The Rev. Paige Patterson, seminary president, responded by not allowing the video of McKissic's sermon to be posted online or saved in the seminary's archives.

McKissic's group approved sending a letter to the seminary. International Mission Board and North American Mission Board asking that they reconsider policies regarding "the gifts of tongues and/or the use of a private prayer language." Speaking in tongues is com-

mon among Pentecostals, whose more exuberant brand of Christianity is spreading in the United States and in countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work.

Critics of the denomination's tough stance say banning it divides Christians on an issue central to the faith.

Leaders of the roundtable emphasized that they have no plans to leave the denomination.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.
"Where is Jesus?"

Interim Pastor David M. Brown
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Pastor Lynn Schuch

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TUESDAY NIGHT @ 6:30PM
Women's Bible Study
WEDNESDAY NIGHT @ 7PM
Old Testament Bible Study

THURSDAY BOARD MEETING @ 7:30AM
FRIDAY NIGHT @ 7:30AM
Couples Bible Study
SATURDAY MORNING @ 7:30AM
Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

SATURDAY NIGHT @ 9:45PM
Family Night - Dinner, Movie & Bible

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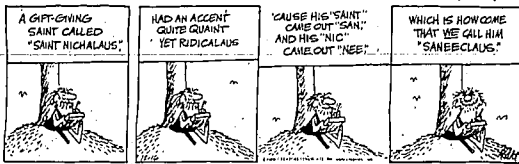
Officiating: Pastor Christopher Folkers
539-3455
1708 Heyburn Ave. E.
Twin Falls, ID 83401

To advertise your church services and events, call Karen at 735-3270 or e-mail: churches@magicvalley.com

COMICS

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



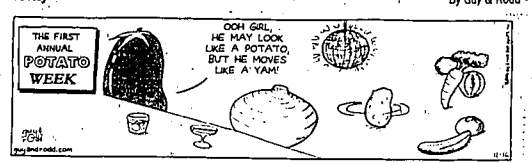
Baldo

By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



Brevity

By Guy & Rodd



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Doonesbury

By Gary Trudeau



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



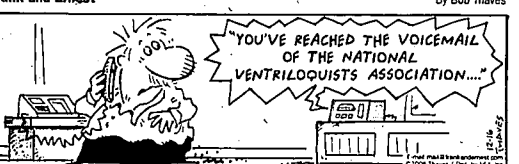
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



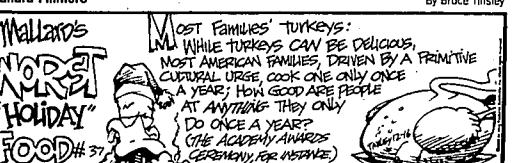
Luann

By Greg Evans



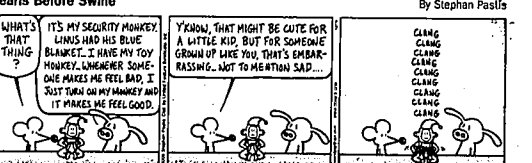
Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



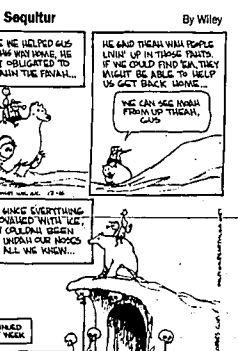
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Non Sequiter

By Wiley



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Virgo: A great weekend is afoot

IF DEC. 16 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, friendships are very satisfying in the year to come, and could provide some real support, emotional and otherwise. Don't be surprised, however, if they undergo some changes somewhere around midyear. You could come off a bit over-powering to more timid souls this year, so if you notice this happening be considerate and take it down a notch or two. Despite that, there is a genuine sweetness in your character, and this year that too will show.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If you thought yesterday stizzled, if you wait until tonight if only you could bottle and sell your appeal, you could make a mint. Make sure to allow plenty of time for winning, dining, flirtation and romance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are a romantic shooting star, but commitment may also be your present. Don't push — just let your fair lady or prince charming take their time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Impulsive decisions may become a problem later, even though the urge could be very strong to leap before you look. Careful consideration is a much better way to create

HOROSCOPE

Jerakine Saunders

future satisfaction with the choices you make now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The stars are beaming rays of magnetic attractiveness on you today. Your romantic urges are strong, and you would be wise not to pass up this opportunity for love with your partner, or with a new flame.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): By tomorrow, the little dark cloud you've been under for a few days will have passed. For today, just take it easy if you're feeling fatigued. Schedule time for romance this evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A great weekend is afoot, with romantic times for almost everyone. Now is a good time to reconnect with your partner, or make new friends if you are single. Your sense of humor could be a little off-center.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Work out some kind of getaway from routine today. You'll go crazy if you just sit at home doing the same old thing, and you could be tempted to take out your frustrations on those near and dear.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can be a shining light for others as long as you don't completely hog the stage. Leap some room for others to shine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is too sexy a weekend to spend all your time contemplating your navel. Make sure to get out and have some fun with your partner, or if single, meet a new and exciting flame.

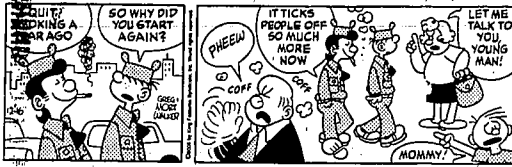
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take time off from being everyone's rock today — there is too much fun to be had. Enjoy the amorous energies the stars are beaming out this weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your strength and power reach a crescendo for a time next week. Use this weekend to mastermind your strategies and get rest in preparation. Save the evening for a hot date with your beloved as long as you don't get too condescending.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Try to wrap things up today, and make sure to focus on what's most important. Tonight, enjoy some flirtation, and fun. Tomorrow you'll probably need to rest up from your recent hard push ahead.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



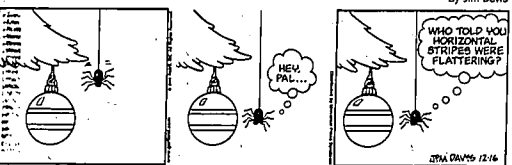
The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



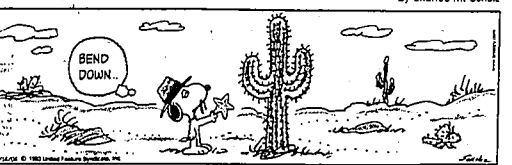
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



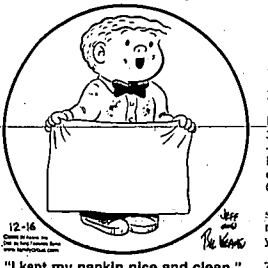
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketchum



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



First wife upstages widow at late husband's memorial



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was widowed last spring, and I still not over the shock of what happened at my late husband Jason's visitation at the funeral home.

I was his second wife. Imagine my devastation when my darling husband of less than three years died only 90 days after being diagnosed with cancer. Jason had been separated and divorced from his first wife, "Carole," for many years before we were married, and had two adult children from that marriage.

On the morning of Jason's visitation, I went to the funeral home and made sure the casket spray, guestbook and a few family photos of all of us were arranged before going home to shower and change.

When I returned to the funeral home, I was confronted by Carole, who was greeting the visitors as if she were the widow — wearing red cowboy boots, no less. If that weren't enough, she had put up a display with photos of herself and Jason, savoring, etc., and was acting as if they had never divorced. I was mortified by her behavior, but did not want to cause a scene in that setting.

Finally, after four hours, the funeral director and a friend escorted Carole outside and told her it was time for the wife

to be alone with the body. Was it the funeral director's responsibility to take care of this, or should Jason's children have corrected their mother's behavior?

HURT IN THE SOUTH
DEAR HURT: The right person finally took action: It was up to the funeral director to see to it that the visitation was carried out to your satisfaction. And, embarrassed and grieving as you were, you should have approached the funeral director and asked that the former wife's performance be "canceled" as soon as it began.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has always been a little bit controlling, but he has never mentally or physically abused me. I was raised in the South to believe that the woman stays home and cooks and cleans. I am pregnant with our second child.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has always been a little bit controlling, but he has never mentally or physically abused me. I was raised in the South to believe that the woman stays home and cooks and cleans. I am pregnant with our second child.

The problem is, my husband is starting to drink more and more. When he drinks, he becomes angry. The other night while he was drinking, he hit me for the first time. I apologized the next day, but I am now scared of what he might do the next time he drinks. I have suggested counseling. He says he will think about it.

— WORRIED IN ROCHESTER, MINN.

DEAR WORRIED: Your husband's drinking has reached the point where it's time that both of you admitted he has a serious problem. For a man to hit a woman is a disgusting sign of weakness; for a husband to hit his present wife is beyond the pale. If you do not draw the line now, your husband could seriously injure you and/or the baby, when (not "if") he does it again.

Tell him that the first time he hit you was also the last, and if the marriage is to continue, he must get help for his drinking, immediately — not just "talk about it." As long as you're at it, inform him that the next time he raises a hand to you, you will call the police and have him thrown in jail. If you fail to act now, this is only the beginning of your problems.

Root beer inventor was a teetotaler

This day in history: American patriots dressed as Indians boarded the British ships *Beaver*, *Dartmouth* and *Eleonore* on Dec. 16, 1773, and dumped 342 crates of tea into Boston Harbor. You can walk to the actual site of the Boston Tea Party because so much of the harbor has been filled in that it's nearly a half mile inland.

When a teetotaler Charles Hires invented root beer, he first called it root tea. His anti-alcohol friends convinced him to call it "beer" in the hope of forcing drinkers into ordering it instead of the real thing.

Some people still believe this, but it's a myth that you save electricity by leaving fluorescent lights on all the time instead of turning them on and off as needed.

Another name for the filer of



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTINESS
Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

a cigarette (or the mouth-end of a cigar) is the "foot." A pound of aramidillo meat has about 780 calories.

Remember: In legal terminology, juries are "hung," while prisoners are "hanged." Not the other way around.

The word "idiot" is from the ancient Greek "idios," which means "of a kind, peculiar."

Odd animal, the duck-billed platypus. Its leathery bill is highly sensitive, the better to guide it through murky water.

It's a mammal, but lays eggs.

The female's milk comes not from nipples, but from pores on the chest and sides and the babies then lick it off their fur.

Way back in 1971, Green Acres, Mayberry RFD, The Beverly Hillsbillies, Gomer Pyle, Hec Haw and Lassie were all cancelled on the same day by CBS.

Long before Legos, there were Legos. Set, invented in the 1930s by Dr. Alfred C. Gilbert. Gilbert's other claim to fame: He was gold medalist for pole vaulting in the 1909 Olympics.

For the bug zipper and adopt an amphibian. One garden-variety toad can eat about 10,000 insects in an summer.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo were reached at factiness@erinmings-barrett.com

Trucker expresses road rage with iron ore

CHARDON, Ohio — A trucker is accused of throwing iron ore at passing motorists because he was angry they wouldn't turn off their bright headlights.

Glenn Rogers Jr., 40, told Geauga County Sheriff deputies he was mad at drivers who wouldn't dim their high beams as he passed them on State Route 122, Sheriff Dan McClelland said.

Rogers pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of vehicular vandalism on Wednesday. More charges are possible because some motorists were injured, authorities said.

"This was not an accident, something accidentally falling out of his hand," McClelland said. "This was a deliberate act." The department received more than 30 calls reporting broken windshields caused by the rocks since September.

The case had been a mystery to deputies until earlier this week when a woman whose windshield was broken followed the truck she believed the rock came from and called 911.

Odds & ends

Betty Goggin said Freeway will have at least a year to live, and if she shows herself to be a good breeder she'll gain a new lease on life.

Freeway launched herself over the 4-foot side of a livestock trailer on Dec. 4, possibly by climbing over other pigs. Her tough hide and thick layer of fat likely helped her escape serious injury, Betty Goggin said.

When state troopers could not find any animal control officers to transport the pig, they called the Goggins.

More road rage — this time with deer antlers

FORT PIERCE, Fla. — Two men were arrested on battery charges after a road rage incident led one to attack the other with deer antlers and then a handgun, authorities said.

Ronny White, 35, and Keith Ransford, 23, were booked Thursday at the St. Lucie County Jail for alleged aggravated assault. Both were later freed on bond, said sheriff's Sgt. Andy McIntosh.

A telephone message left for White was not immediately returned. Ransford's telephone rang unanswered.

They got into a first altercation and the one guy tries to attack the second guy with deer antlers," McIntosh said. "It's not an everyday occurrence."

White and Ransford got into an altercation while driving along U.S. 1 in Ft. Pierce, McIntosh said. The men stopped, and White attempted to attack Ransford with the deer antlers, authorities said.

Both men got back in their cars, crushed into each other, then stopped again about a block away, according to the

sheriff's report.

Ransford then allegedly rammed his vehicle into White's car. White pulled out a handgun and fired one shot into Ransford's vehicle, the report stated. Neither man suffered serious injuries.

Cleveland card celebrates their 'poorest' ranking

CLEVELAND — A hometown company's satirical holiday card features Cleveland's ranking as the nation's poorest big city.

The American Greetings Corp. card shows a man in a black-and-white photo-walking past urban landscape and reads: "Season's Greetings from Cleveland — America's Poorest City." Inside, it says "Happy Holidays."

The U.S. Census Bureau determined that Cleveland was the poorest big city in the nation in 2003, its second such ranking in three years.

"Obviously, our intent is not to make light of the issue. It's just a satirical form of humor that plays well with a certain segment of the population," said Laurie Michienz, spokeswoman for American Greetings, based in the suburb of Brooklyn. "We realize it's not for everyone."

The card was one of 10 test-marketed at the locations, Michienz said. Only a few were available, and they have been rotated out of circulation, she said.

The cards were a takeoff on the old "Greetings from" tourist postcards and meant to take a humorous look at news and political events, she said.

She said she could not discuss whether the cards would be more widely distributed in the future.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

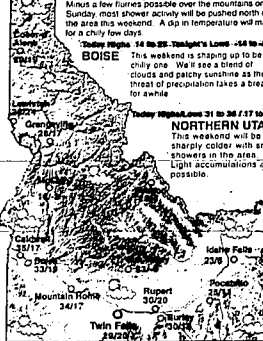
Today: Turning colder with passing clouds. Highs upper 20s to low 30s.
Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy and blustery. Lows near 20.
Tomorrow: A crisp and mostly dry day expected. Highs low 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Cold with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs near 30.
Tonight: A cold breeze developing. Dry and partly cloudy.
Tomorrow: Cooling further with mostly dry weather expected. Highs upper 20s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTs.
Must a few flurries possible over the mountains on Sunday. Most snow activity will be pushed north of the area this weekend. A dip in temperature will make for a chilly few days.



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High/Low).

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, Hi Lo Precip. Lists weather for Boise, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

MOON PHASES



MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table with 2 columns: Moonrise, Moonset. Lists times for Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10.

U.V. INDEX



SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Table with 2 columns: Sunrise, Sunset. Lists times for Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Boise, Burley, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

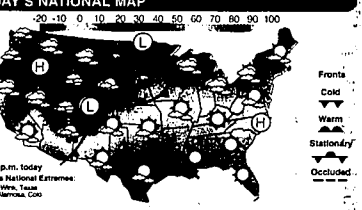
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for various US cities.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The world is a great mirror. It reflects back to you what you are. If you are loving, if you are kindly, if you are helpful, the world will prove loving and friendly and helpful to you. The world is what you are."

Florida, California suspend executions

By Ron Wood Associated Press writer

OCALA, Fla. — Gov. Jeb Bush suspended all executions in Florida after a medical examiner said Friday that prison officials botched the insertion of the needles when a convicted killer was put to death earlier this week.

Separately, a federal judge in California imposed a moratorium on executions in the nation's most populous state, declaring that the state's method of lethal injection runs the risk of violating the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel ruled in San Jose that California's "implementation of lethal injection is broken." But he said "it can be fixed."

In Florida, medical examiner Dr. William Hamilton said Wednesday's execution of Angel Nieves Diaz took 34 minutes — twice as long as usual — and required a rare second dose of lethal chemicals because the needles were inserted clear through his veins and into the flesh in his arms. The chemicals are supposed to go into the veins.

Hamilton, who performed the autopsy, refused to say whether he thought Diaz died a painful death.

"I am going to defer answers about pain and suffering until the autopsy is complete," he said. He said the results were preliminary and other tests may take several weeks.

Bush created a commission to examine the state's lethal injection process in light of Diaz's case, and he halted the signing of any more death warrants until the panel completes its final report by March 1.

The governor said he wants to ensure the process does not constitute cruel and unusual punishment, as some death penalty foes argued bitterly after Diaz's execution. Florida has 374 people on death row, it has carried out four executions this year.

Diaz, 35, was put to death for murdering the manager of a Miami trolley bar during a holdup in 1979.

The medical examiner's findings contradicted the explanation given by prison officials, who said Diaz needed the extra time because his liver disease caused him to metabolize the lethal drugs more slowly. Hamilton said that although there were reports that Diaz had hepatitis, his liver appeared normal.

Executions in Florida normally take no more than about 15 minutes, but Diaz was considered unconscious and motionless within three to five minutes. But Diaz appeared to be moving 24 minutes after the first injection, grimacing, blinking, licking his lips, blowing and appearing to mouth words.

As a result of the chemicals going into Diaz's arms around the elbow, he had an 12-inch chemical burn on his right arm and an 11-inch chemical burn on his left arm, Hamilton said.

Florida Corrections Secretary James McDonough said the execution team did not see any swelling of the arms, which would have been an indication that the chemicals were going into tissues and not veins.

Diaz's attorney, Suzanne Myers Keffler, reacted angrily to the findings.

"This is complete negligence on the part of the state," she said. "When he was still moving after the first shot of chemicals, they should have known there was a problem and they shouldn't have continued. This shows a complete disregard for Mr. Diaz. This is disgusting."

Earlier, in a court hearing in Ocala, she had won an assurance from the attorney general's office that she could have access to all findings and evidence from the autopsy.

Europe on edge as holidays approach

By Paul Hayes Associated Press writer

MADRID, Spain — Western intelligence and security officials say the threat of a terror attack by Islamic militants over the Christmas and New Year's holiday travel season is extremely high, with the greatest concern focusing on a possible plot targeting Europe.

While the year-end period is always a time of concern because of the vast number of travelers, authorities' anxiety is palpable this year.

European fears that terrorists might be planning something come in the waning days of a convulsive year of foiled plots and inflammatory moments. Terror schemes were thwarted in Britain, Germany, the Czech Republic and Italy.

Islamic anger over the publication of cartoons depicting images of the Prophet Muhammad caused riots throughout the world in January and February, with some Muslim protesters in London holding up banners urging "Behold the infidel, this is Islam." Pope Benedict XVI's Sept. 12 comments that seemed to equate Islam with violence also caused outrage and mass protests.

And of course, there were the daily images of carnage in Iraq. Israel's bloody war with Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, and continued controversy over the U.S. holding facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Anti-Lor French counterterrorism official told The Associated Press that intelligence agencies throughout the continent are on "tenterhooks" and that "all of the warning lights are red," though they have yet to uncover any specific plan for attack.

"The threat is at its highest level," said the French official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the secretive nature of his job. "All (security) services are on tenterhooks. And it's not just us (in France). Work is under way every where, but nothing concrete is emerging. Ends of the year are often bad. This year we haven't managed to distinguish a precise plot."

Those fears were echoed in Britain, already on edge after the failed August plot to bring down commercial jetliners over the Atlantic.

John Reid, Britain's top law enforcement official, said Sunday that it was "highly likely" that terrorists would attempt to mount an attack over the holiday period, when the number of travelers swells. He gave no other details.

The top of Britain's domestic spy agency, MI5, has said her agents are tracking almost 2,000 terrorist plots involving 1,600 suspects, and that at least five major terror plots had been thwarted since the July 2005 transit bomb attacks in London.

In Washington, U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the information's sensitivity, said there is no specific, credible information pointing to a holiday-themed attack.

The FBI recently sent a bulletin to state and local law enforcement officials, urging them to be on the lookout for any suspicious activity around the holiday season. The law enforcement official said.

According to the intelligence officials, authorities are more concerned about an attack in Europe than the United States right now. But one of the officials noted that the holiday days are coming since Sept. 11, 2001.

NORTH KOREA

Nuclear talks to begin again after 13 months off

SEOUL, South Korea — Negotiators from the United States and North Korea will sit down with other regional powers for the first time in 13 months next week to determine the nuclear fate of the peninsula, the North's first atomic weapons test adding pressure for elusive results.

The six countries meeting Monday in Beijing for the talks — also including China, Japan, Russia and South Korea — will pick up where they "left off" in November 2005, seeking to implement the only agreement ever reached at the negotiations.

ISRAEL

Hamas accuses Palestinian leader of trying to kill PM

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The ruling Hamas accused a key ally of President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday of trying to assassinate the prime minister, inflaming tensions between rival Palestinian factions to their highest point in a decade as fighting spread to the West Bank.

The heated accusations came after several days of bloodshed and the collapse of talks between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah Party on settling a joint government. Abbas, who has tried for months to persuade Hamas to moderate its hardline positions in hopes of ending an international aid boycott, was to deliver a speech Saturday saying he would call early elections if the deadlock continues — a measure Hamas vehemently rejects.

The Palestinian prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas, was surrounded by supporters in the bank of bodyguards as he addressed a wildly cheering throng of 70,000 loyalists on Friday.

ITALY

Pope's personal priest calls for a public day of penance

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's personal priest asked the pontiff Friday to declare a day of fasting and penance to express the Roman Catholic Church's solidarity with the victims of clerical sex abuse.

In a strongly worded lecture, the Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa denounced the "abominations" committed inside the church "by its own ministers and pastors" and declared that the church has "paid a high price for this."

"The moment has come, after the emergency, to do the most important thing of all: to cry before God," said Cantalamessa, in a pre-Christmas talk delivered in a Vatican chapel. The pope was in the audience.

The Vatican said it had no immediate comment on the speech, which Cantalamessa sent to some Vatican reporters.

IRAQ

Three U.S. troops killed in Iraq fighting

BAGHDAD — Three more U.S. troops died in fighting this week, the military said Friday, raising to 54 the number of Americans killed in Iraq in December — nearly half of them in Anbar.

The month is shaping up to be one of the deadliest for Americans since the war started, especially for those trying to tame the Sunni-led insurgency in the volatile province west of Baghdad.

At least 25 of the U.S. troops killed this month — most Marines — died in the vast stretch of desert that runs from the capital to the borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Three U.S. aircraft also went down in a span of two weeks, start-

INDIA

Hunt is on for killer elephant named Osama bin Laden

GAUHAITI, India — Hunters in India's remote northeast are tracking a rogue elephant blamed for 14 deaths in the region and named after Osama bin Laden by fearful villagers.

The order came after the bull dubbed Laden, which has twice evaded attempts to kill him, was blamed for the death of a woman Wednesday near the thickly wooded evergreen jungle where it lives.

"We have ordered a hunter to shoot and kill the 10-foot tall task force but that is believed to have killed up to 14 people in the past two years," Chandan Bora, a wildlife ranger, said Friday from Bishwanath Chariali, 150 miles north of Gauhati, the capital of Assam state.

RUSSIA

Russia will refit nuclear missiles with warheads

MOSCOW — Russia will replace single nuclear warheads on some of its strategic missiles with multiple warheads, Russian news agencies reported Friday, allowing Moscow to modernize its nuclear arsenal while building fewer new missiles — and spending less.

In theory, the shift would also make it easier for Russian nuclear weapons to evade a U.S. missile defense system.

In the near future we may begin to substitute the single warheads on Topol-M intercontinental missiles with multiple warheads," the Interfax-Military News Agency quoted Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov, commander of Russia's Strategic Rocket Forces, as saying Friday.

OREGON

Searchers say list shows climbers well equipped

MOUNT HOOD — Notes left by a trio of climbers missing on Mount Hood show they have supplies that could help them survive in the blizzard conditions on Oregon's highest peak, officials said Friday.

"I always knew they were headed away," said Capt. Christopher Bernard of the Air Force Rescue 304th Rescue Squadron. "But I just tell me they did all the right things."

At a news conference, Bernard pointed to a handwritten note the climbers purposely left at a ranger station before they started their climb last week.

It said the climbers took gear such as food, fuel, bivvy sacks, a shovel and ropes, all of which could be helpful as the three hunkered down in the storms.

WASHINGTON

Johnson opens eyes, shows small signs of recovery

Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson has opened his eyes and shown small signs of recovery from brain surgery that are encouraging to his family, a spokeswoman said Friday.

Congressional visitors continued to come to the hospital and comfort family members as the Sen. Dakota senator's progress was closely watched across Washington. His sudden illness raised questions about the Democrats' odds of majority in the upcoming Senate session.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid visited Johnson, 59, at George Washington University Hospital again Friday and said he looked "good, fine." Senate Chaplain Barry Black also came by.

—Compiled from wire reports

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Test yourself: Crossword, C16

INSIDE: Classifieds, C3-20 | Stocks & mutual funds, C2 | Sudoku, C5 | Business & Service directory, C4

Market Watch

Dow Jones	+26.78
Industrials	12,445.52
Nasdaq	+4.95
Composite	2,457.20
Standard & Poor's 500	+1.80
	1,427.09
Russell	-1.51
2000	782.71

Stocks of local interest

close	change
Dell Inc.	26.53 ▲ .34
Linia Ma.	28.75 ▲ .15
Supervalu	35.70 ▲ .28

Commodities

close	change
Jan. Oil	63.43 ▲ .92
(Light sweet crude by barrel)	
Dec. gold	615.0 ▲ 11.6

For more, see page C2

Merck wins second Vioxx trial in a week

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Merck & Co. won its second Vioxx trial in less than a week Friday when jurors rejected the claims of a man who blamed the once-popular pain medication for a heart attack in 2001.

The jury of eight women and four men needed only 1 1/2 hours of deliberations to side with the drug manufacturer in the lawsuit filed last year by Gary Albright, 57, of Chelsea.

A federal court jury in New Orleans ruled for Merck on Wednesday.

Juries continue to determine that Merck acted responsibly in its research of Vioxx and provided the appropriate information about Vioxx to patients and the medical community, Merck executive vice president and general counsel Kenneth C. Frazer said in a statement.

Another trial continues in Los Angeles, and Merck spokesman Kent Jarrell said six more lawsuits are set for trial between now and June, with the next slated to start in New Jersey on Jan. 16.

The company is sticking by its plan of defending against thousands of claim over Vioxx rather than settling the suits.

"Our litigation strategy is steady as she goes," said Jarrell.

Lawyers for Albright, who works in the paint department of a Lowe's store, told jurors he should receive as much as \$5.75 million in his lawsuit. But jurors rejected Albright's claims that Vioxx caused his heart attack and that the company failed to reveal potential dangers of the drug before pulling it from the market in 2004.

One of Albright's attorneys, Steve Heninger, said an appeal was possible.

"We're disappointed, but it's tough when you go against a Colossus," he said.

Jurors speaking with attorneys and reporters in the courtroom after the verdict said Albright had too many health problems before his heart attack to blame Vioxx. None of the jurors would give their names.

Merck denied that Vioxx had anything to do with the heart attack Albright suffered in March 2001. It also denied withholding information about potential side effects of the medication, which Albright took for arthritis.

Merck attorney Mike Brock told jurors that Albright had only a "small heart attack" that didn't cause lasting damage to his lifestyle. Albright's health risk for heart problems because he had diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and was overweight, he said.

Rates edge up for 30-year mortgages

By Martin Crotzinger
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Rates on 30-year mortgages, after falling steadily for a month, edged up slightly this week but still remained well below the levels of a year ago.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac reported Thursday that 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages averaged 6.12 percent, up from 6.11 percent last week. Last week's rate had been the lowest level this year except for the week of Jan. 19, when the 30-year mortgage dipped to 6.10 percent.

All mortgage rates except the five-

year adjustable rate mortgage showed tiny gains this week, which economists attributed to conflicting signals from the economy.

"Mixed economic reports have kept mortgage rates from making any drastic changes this week," said Frank Nothaft, chief economist at Freddie Mac. He said that the government reported stronger-than-expected job growth and retail sales for November but weak growth and consumer sentiment were both weaker.

The Federal Reserve on Tuesday at its final meeting of the year voted as expected to keep interest rates unchanged.

Many economists believe the Fed, which last changed rates in June, will remain on hold until May or June of next year, with Fed policymakers hoping that the 17 rate hikes they have already approved will be enough to achieve a soft landing in which a slowing economy cools inflation without triggering a recession.

Nothaft predicted that long-term mortgage rates will rise in coming months but at a gradual pace. He said the 30-year mortgage will probably not reach 7 percent, with the moderate rates expected to help foster a rebound in the slumping housing market.

Dry, West



Larry Todd, left, and rangeland management specialist Wilma Renken monitor vegetation Nov. 21 on a plot they have been studying on Warbonnet Ranch, near Willcox, Ariz., since 1986.

Arizona ranchers, farmers dig in against drought

By Shaun McElwain
The Arizona Republic

PHOENIX — The tawny flats of Warbonnet Ranch shivered as a stiff wind rummaged through grass coaxed from the ground by summer rain.

The grass and the rain, scant though they were, bought Larry Todd another season, maybe two. And on the parched ranges of southeastern Arizona in the middle of a drought, a rancher and his cattle can't ask for much more. Unless it's just more.

"This is good country if you get the rain," said Todd, who bought the Warbonnet in 1986 after fleeing the cooped-up Montana winters. "We had a pretty good summer, but it's getting pretty daggone dry again. If we don't get something this winter and spring... it's gonna be tough." Todd knows tough. Drought forced him to sell nearly all of his cattle five years ago and take a job in town to keep groceries in the pantry. But he refused to sell the ranch and has rebuilt the herd to about 250 head, still only about half of what he had owned.

His story rings true to most Arizona ranchers, battle-weary veterans of an 11-year-old drought that has bruised their billion-dollar industry, pushing another of the vaunted "5 Cs" of the state's traditional economy (cattle, citrus, climate, copper and cotton) closer to extinction. But more have weathered the drought than have surrendered, and despite mounting losses, many insist they won't quit.

"It's gonna have to get a lot tougher than it is before we'll sell," Todd said. "I'm not sure where a person could go anyway... There's drought everywhere."

The Warbonnet Ranch compound crouches in a ragged box canyon 18 dust-choked miles from town.

Now fat in the highest reaches during the winter but not enough to shut down the ranch, and that's why Todd uprooted his family from Montana 26 years ago to scratch out a life in Arizona's low desert.

Now fat in the highest reaches during the winter but not enough to shut down the ranch, and that's why Todd uprooted his family from Montana 26 years ago to scratch out a life in Arizona's low desert.

In the cold country, cattle graze the range during the spring and

summer while the ranchers tend crops, growing, cutting and storing hay. Before the snow flies, ranchers bring the cattle back, corralling them in pastures, where they will be fed all winter.

Without snow, cattle can graze all year, moving from pasture to pasture. It works as long as the summer rains and mountain snows keep the forage growing. When drought strikes, so do the realities of ranching in the desert.

Warbonnet Ranch encompasses about 17,000 acres, but Todd owns just a fraction of that. In Arizona, almost no rancher can afford to own all of the land that ranching requires. Forage — the brush, grass and trees that cows eat — grows sparsely and cattle can chew through an acre quickly.

So ranchers lease grazing rights from the state and the federal government under the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act. Ranchers pay \$1.56 a month for each cow and calf on federal lands and \$2.52 a month on state trust lands. Environmentalists have long complained about grazing fees, arguing that they amount to welfare for ranchers.

But what federal rules can give, drought and poor range conditions take away. The federal agencies that oversee grazing pastures, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, assess the range each year and determine how many cattle the land can support.

Arizona's ongoing drought reminded ranchers of that reality. In 2002, the driest year of this cycle, the Tonto National Forest sharply reduced the number of cattle allowed to graze, and by fall, the herds had shrunk to barely 8 percent of normal capacity, according to University of Arizona livestock specialist Robert Kattning.

When the government cuts grazing rights, ranchers face two choices: Buy hay and food supplements or reduce the herd. Few ranchers can afford to buy hay on the market for a large herd, so most sell, often for prices far below what they could have gotten normally.

The economic effects of the drought could take years to measure, but in his study, the U.S. Kattning predicted huge losses. In 2000, he said, calves and yearling cattle sales in Arizona generated more than \$600 million. During the worst years

of the drought, only about one-third of the typical herd numbers remained, resulting in a loss of \$400 million in revenue. Using a formula to measure the effects on the total economy, Kattning said the real loss to the state was closer to \$2.8 billion.

Ranching has suffered losses in the state even without the extended drought. Since 1986, the number of beef cattle dropped from about 293,000 head to an estimated 190,000 this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The number of cattle operations fell from 3,000 to about 1,900 in the same period.

Some effects do not translate well to statistics. Cattle raised and grazed on the range know the country and they teach it to their calves.

"They know where the water is, the trails," Todd said. "The new ones don't." That makes more work for ranch hands, who chase down more strays and spend more time guiding the animals to watering holes.

Wilma Renken is a rangeland management specialist in the Willcox office of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. She spends many of her days out with ranchers, helping them learn how to keep cattle in an impossible environment.

Renken's job is to help monitor the land. She takes ranchers out and shows them what to look for.

"You have to listen to what the soil tells you," she said. "When you lose the soil, you lose it all."

Todd listens to what Renken tells him. He has adopted conservation measures and has spent money installing pipelines to keep water holes full. He can't hide his love for the land.

"If we didn't take care of the land, it wouldn't pay us," he said. "If you don't protect the resources you have, after a while, they're gone."



Mending shoes and boots used to be just a hobby for Olivier LaRoque. But when he retired four years ago from the Minidoka County Highway Department, he decided to make it a full-time profession.

Rupert man puts heart and 'sole' into shop

By Coreen Hart
Times-News correspondent

RUPERT — If you need your boots re-soled in Mini-Cassia, Olivier LaRoque is the man. At his shop, The Cowboy Place in Rupert, there's a bit of dust in the air and Oriental music plays softly in the background. As the light from the window catches his face, you can see the French-Canadian and Native American features. A sign by the front door proclaims that "You Are Now In Indian Country."

The Cowboy Place

396 W. 100 S.
438-8651

He's one of the few shoe repairmen around these days and he hears more and more rumors of other shoe repair shops closing. But no self-respecting cowboy would throw out a perfectly good pair of boots just because the heel came off or the sole separated from the upper. These boots are just getting broken in.

He's got a sign on his counter that reads, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could like a pair of old shoes? The worse we look, the better we feel!"

LaRoque has been picking up tricks of the trade for many years. He bought equipment from Hornick's shoe business when she decided to call it quits, and the late Otto Vaneck coached him in repair work. It started out as just a hobby, but when he retired from the Minidoka County Highway Department four years ago, he turned his shop into a full-time business. Today, he puts in long hours for a fellow who will be 67 on Christmas Day.

Business has been so good that he closed the shop for a month during November and December so he could catch up. But he's got the lines of boots and shoes cut back to a workable level now.

Theresa Surrage of Ileyburn came in to pick up her husband's hoppers and drop off some dress boots. "I guess we've been coming in at least 10 years," Surrage said. "My husband just loves him. It's a challenge to this poor guy. My husband is just a busy, busy guy, and he gets a lot of wear and tear out of things before you put them in here."

She said when a heel starts to come off, her husband puts a screw in it to hold it a little longer. Only when the screw loosens does the boot come to The Cowboy Place.

"See, the screw makes a bigger hole than the nails," she said. "That's why he's such a challenge. But Olivier always does a great job."

LaRoque's wife, Dianne, helps with a few of the tasks in the shop. She began her shoe repair education in August 1995 when her husband opened his business. She works during the early part of the day at Rupert Elementary School in food service. Then she comes out to the shop to spend a hand.

"I sew on patches for motorcycles and zip zippers in purses — things like that," she said.

She admits she's very glad her husband has his business to keep him occupied.

"He really parties on his work," she said. "He does it, and he does it right. And I could never do his leather tooling. That takes patience. He can work on it half the night." She referred to his leather tooling as a sideline. LaRoque makes leather cell phone covers, album covers, purses, wallets, CD/DVD covers and other leather items. It allows him to use his creativity in a way that work does not.

He often works until late at night.

MONEY

MUTUAL FUNDS

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table of mutual fund performance data including fund names, share classes, and various metrics.

Table of commodity futures prices for various metals, grains, and other commodities.

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities, including oil, natural gas, and metals.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange data including market indices, active stocks, gainers, losers, and diamonds.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table of market summary data including NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and various market indices.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market data including active stocks, gainers, losers, and diamonds.

Boots

Television usually bores him, so the shop provides entertainment. He said he can't change what other shoe men in metropolitan areas because the local economy won't support it.

and allowed to set before they are put together. While one pair sets, he starts another pair. He orders materials from Salt Lake City and California. He said the cost dramatically more than they did a year or two ago, and like every other thing in retail, it's all tied to the soaring price of gas.

Table of stock market data including various stock prices and market indices.

Classifieds



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LEGAL

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Part-time, MVRIS, an EEO employer, is looking for a qualified, flexible individual to provide developmental therapy. Wages start at \$7.97 per hour with appropriate education/experience. Benefits package available.
Stop by MVRIS 454 Eastland Dr. S. Twin Falls, or call (208) 734-4112 for an application today

200 Employment

DRIVERS
CO & Cattle Truck drivers. CDL Req. New equipment. Team and local Drivers. Call 208-733-2979

HOTEL
Holiday Inn Express is looking for Breakfast Host part-time. Customer Service skills preferred. Apply in person at 1910 Filmore Street, Twin Falls.

IRRIGATION
Don's Irrigation is hiring exp. Inspec Techs. Will train the right candidates. We offer competitive pay & benefits.
Apply in person 294 S 300 E in Jerome

LAW ENFORCEMENT
The City of Meridian Police Department is seeking applicants for the position of Patrol Officer. Please visit the website at www.meridiantn.org or more information and qualifications.

200 Employment

MAINTENANCE
Maintenance Tech needed for 30 unit apt complex.
20-25 hrs/wk.
Call 208-543-2740.

MANUFACTURING
Spence Mfg Co. is accepting applications for the following FT positions:
-Packaging
-Production
-Material Handler
-Warehouse
-Production Machinist
\$8-\$12/hour (depending on position)
Company benefits, employee health, dental, life insurance, vacation, paid holidays, & 401k plan. Applications available Spence Mfg Plant Security Office 2152 S. Lincoln Jerome, Idaho
Spence is an Equal Opportunity Employer
We're here to help. Call 733-0561 to place your ad in Classifieds today.

200 Employment

NEWSPAPER
CIRCULATION
The Times-News is seeking a District Sales Manager in our Twin Falls Circulation Department. This is an excellent opportunity for an energetic and ambitious professional to bring their skills and ideas to a growing organization. This entry-level management position includes responsibilities in managing youth and adult carriers, sales promotions, collections and customer service. The successful candidate must have a valid driver's license and good driving record along with good time management skills. Must be dependable and be able to work alternating weekends.

The Times-News offers an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation. Check out our website at www.magiclevalley.com.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to:
Times-News Attn: Trisha Mitchell
P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303
E-mail: tmitchell@magiclevalley.com

200 Employment

NEWSPAPER
Graphics/Prepress Specialist

The Times-News is seeking a graphic designer who can make informative and entertaining news graphics, assist with production of the newspaper and design classified advertising sections. Ideal candidates will have the ability to work on both Mac and PC platforms, be proficient in Quark, InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat and Distiller. They will have the ability to work under tight deadlines, solve problems, and work in a team-oriented environment. The ability to multi-task is a must. Good communication skills are very important. Hours of work are primarily 2-9:30 to 11:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

We offer an excellent benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, fair-price health club and paid holidays and vacation. We are an equal opportunity employer and a drug-free workplace.

Send a resume, reference list and work samples to:
Chris Caldwell
News Editor
Times-News
P.O. Box 548,
Twin Falls, ID 83303 or by e-mail to
cbaldus@magiclevalley.com

MEDICAL

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NACNA'S
We will be offering a certification class for those caring individuals that are anxious to begin an adventure in nursing.
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Down Otero 208-734-9845 or apply in person 640 Filler Ave W, Twin Falls, ID 83301

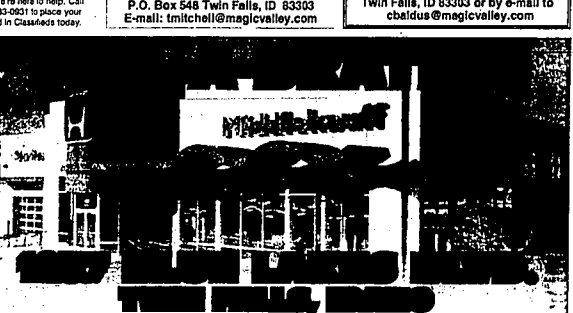
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*Great for first time job or career!

Please apply at 640 Meadows Dr #1 Twin Falls or please call (208) 733-0561 and mention this ad for bonus opportunity! Walking distance from SCB!

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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!
Great Benefits!
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EO/DFW/FRO
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Attn: Chris or email
nmmanager@starwestsatellite.net
For Details Call 866-317-9399

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MEDICAL

IDAHO HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

Come grow with us....
We are expanding our team!
IH&H is now hiring for a full-time Director of Clinical Services with Home Health and/or Hospice experience, Full-time RN, and Part-time LPN. IH&H offers continuing education and GREAT incentive programs to all staff. Competitive benefit package available after 90 days of employment. Come be a part of a caring environment.
For questions call 208-734-0661 or email resumes to
htheater@idahohomehealth.com
EEO

NEWSPAPER PRESS OPERATOR

The Times-News is looking for an experienced Press Operator or entry-level worker with a desire to learn a 12-unit Urbanite 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 walk the majority of the work shift, and climb ladders is necessary. Hours of work are primarily 6 p.m. to 3 a.m., including weekends.

We offer an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation. Check out our website at www.magiclevalley.com.

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Automatic transmission Keyless entry AM/FM CD Stock #117781 Model #H6127EW

Was \$22,794
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Automatic, lock & drive CD, alloy wheels, Dual climate control, Cruise, TR, Air conditioning, lock #17822 Model #F7147EW

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Was \$21,374
Save \$3,386

\$17,988

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8						7	
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AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, AIR, PWR WINDOWS-LOCKS, SEAT

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187 HP, 6-SPEED, THINTEC GLASS, ALLOY WHEELS, NAVIGATION

2007 HONDA CR-V 4WD EX-L NOW \$25,986
180 HP, 5.5 LITER I-4 VALVE, 5-SPEED AUTO, REAL TIME 4WD

1991 CHEVY 1/2 TON EXT-CAB 4X4...2,986 2006 KIA RIO...9,986 2006 TOYOTA COROLLA CE...13,986
2002 MERCURY SABLE GS...6,986 2005 FORD FOCUS ZX4...9,986 2004 HONDA ACCORD LX...15,986
2001 FORD TAURUS SES WAGON...6,986 1989 DODGE DAKOTA EXT-CAB 4X4...9,986 2005 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LS...16,986

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for todays puzzle on page C-17.

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 CHA's and HA's for day and afternoon shifts. Serious applicants only! 208-212-9118

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 Interpath Laboratory seeking a candidate to perform lab and nursing home phlebotomy. This will require full-time hours during training period. Scheduling flexibility is essential for early morning and daytime work. 1 year previous experience preferred. Interpath Laboratory 8660 W Emerald, Ste 102 Boise, ID 83704 Fax (208) 375-2427 Find it. Sell it. Buy it. Classifieds: 733-001 ext. 2

RN or LPN
 Full-time RN or LPN needed for busy clinic. Send resume to FHS Attn: A. Snyder 794 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE
MEDICAL
 Searching for quality Review RN. Need skilled nursing experience to coordinate quality measures at 3 Magic Valley. Call Mary Tan at 208-251-2573 Classifieds. For people everywhere. 733-0031

RECEPTIONIST
 Experience needed. Full-time. Benefits. Send resume to PO Box 503 Twin Falls, ID 83303
RESTAURANT
 Cook Needed. Experienced. Apply in person at the Addison Plaza Hotel Jerome or call 208-324-3726
RESTAURANT
 Now Hiring Day Cooks. 4-2pm or 8-5pm. Apply in person at the Addison Plaza Hotel Jerome or call 208-324-3726
RETAIL
 Wanted Honest person to Cashier & perform side work. Part-time. UA test req. Send resume or stop by for an application. Fatway 66 PO Box 330 Kimberly, ID 83341 EOE and Drug Free Workplace

MARKET RESEARCHER
 \$6-\$9/hour. FT or PT, day & evening hours. Call 208-734-4800
PROFESSIONAL
 Buhl School District is accepting applications for a Psycho-social Rehabilitation Specialist. Application materials are available at the District Office 920 Main, Buhl or by calling 543-8438. For more information regarding this position, call Suzanne Wilkin at 208-543-8208. EOE and Drug Free Workplace

TECHNICAL
 Propane Service Technician Valley Co-op is taking applications for a Propane Service Technician to help meet the demands of our growing propane business. Exp in the propane industry is preferred. Salary dependent on experience. We offer an excellent benefits package including medical, dental, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, paid vacation, sick and holidays. Pick up an application or send resume to 708 West Ave B Jerome, ID 83338 Fax 208-322-0043

RESTAURANT
 Servers, Hosts & Line Cook needed for 40 shifts. Apply at The Garden Cafe 2221 Addition Ave-E.
VETERINARY
 Veterinary Tech - Exp req. Send resume to PO Box 386 Gooding ID 83330
WELDER
 Position opening for a Welder. Rebuilding of semi tractors and trucks. Experience helpful. Benefits. Must pass drug test. Barclay Truck Builders, Kanny or Mary 208-438-5588

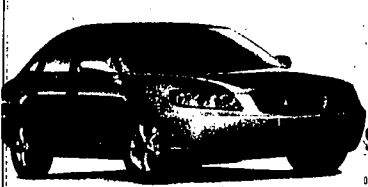
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2006-AZERA
 REBATE: \$1000
 LOYALTY: \$1000
\$23,044 OR \$319mo.
DAC Lease payments/biweekly payments based at 7% monthly 10% cash down or trade equity plus tax, title and doc fee of \$245

2006 TIBURON

REBATE: \$1000
 LOYALTY: \$500
\$18,777 OR \$259mo.
DAC Lease payments/biweekly payments based at 7% monthly 10% cash down or trade equity plus tax, title and doc fee of \$245



2006-SONATA-GLS
 REBATE: \$500
 LOYALTY: \$500
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GREAT PRICES ON GREAT USED CARS

- 2005 DODGE STRATUS #5H150-0..... WAS \$16,995 NOW \$12,988
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- 2005 DODGE GRAND CARVAN SE #6H051-0..... WAS \$19,995 NOW \$14,988
- 2006 DODGE MAGNUM #6H087-0..... WAS \$19,995 NOW \$14,988
- 2005 BUICK LESABRE #6H010, 6H009-0..... WAS \$19,995 NOW \$15,988
- 2005 CHEVROLET VENTURE #5H115-0..... WAS \$19,995 NOW \$15,988
- 2004 FORD ESCAPE #6H100-1..... WAS \$18,995 NOW \$15,988
- 2005 HYUNDAI SANTA FE #6H023-0..... WAS \$20,995 NOW \$17,488
- 2005 FORD EXPEDITION #6H035-0..... WAS \$29,995 NOW \$24,988
- 2006 NISSAN MAXIMA SE #6H068-0..... WAS \$28,995 NOW \$24,988

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 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.magicalvalley.com or 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

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 Using our P&H Advertisers your ads in Classifieds. Call 733-0031

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JOIN OUR GROUP NOW!
 We're looking for people who want to work for a fast-growing team. We offer training and development to help you reach your goals, both professional and financial.
LISTE VALLEY
 ✓ Up to 20% Commission
 ✓ Up to \$2500 Monthly Bonus
 ✓ Paid Vacation
 ✓ Guaranteed Monthly Salary
ARE YOU READY?
 If you are a people person, self-motivated, success-driven and looking for a career versus just another job.
TAKE THE NEXT STEP!
 CALL TIFFANEE FOR AN APPOINTMENT
208-733-2480
LIFE LINE MORTGAGE

PLEASE DONATE THIS SEASON

Times-News FOOD DRIVE



Add this to your list:
 Fill a bag with canned goods and drop it off at the Times-News, Smith's, Swensen's, Albertsons, Winco or any First Federal location.
 (All proceeds go to the South Central Community Action Partnership)



I would like to help feed a hungry neighbor by making a cash donation. (Please make your check payable to "Times-News Food Drive")
 Name _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 email (optional) _____
 Please mail this along with your donation, to: TN Food Drive, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID, 83303-0548

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Click the Magic Valley HomeSeller button on our homepage magicvalley.com.

216 Times-News Carriers

South Idaho Press

Currently taking applications for the Mini-Cassia area. **WALKING ROUTES** (Mon.-Sat. Delivery)

RT. 27: Burley Park to Burton Ave. & W. 19th - W. 21st.

RT. 216: Burley W. 5th to W. Main St. & Overland to Park

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RT. 312: Burley Burdick Haul to Burley Businesses N. of Main St.

RT. 36: Hoburn W42.2 St & River Rd to Alfrezo Rd

RT. 181: Rupert 2 1/2 to K St. & 9th to 1st St.

RT. 188: Rupert Ononda to South F St & 1st to 9th St. S.

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If you live in those areas and are interested in being a newspaper carrier...

Please contact Amy at 877-8781 200 E. Main, Burley District Service Manager

301 Business Opportunities

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE

Big profits usually mean big risks. Before you do business with a company, check it out with the Better Business Bureau.

For free information about avoiding investment scams, write to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center 1-800-878-7060

401 School Instruction

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In The Classifieds

Buy It! Find It! Sell It!

In The Classifieds

304 Investments

DRACO INVESTMENT CORP

Call for Details of Trusts, Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts Call today for a free, no-obligation quote. (208)733-3821.

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wanted to fund purchase of apartment complex. 208-961-1905 Kade.

401 School Instruction

CLASSIFIEDS

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Open House

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE

Selling Property? Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding time share and real estate scams, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-878-7060.

502 Homes For Sale

CHOICE ACREAGES

TWIN FALLS Beautiful, spacious, well kept 4 bdrm., 3 bath home on 2.99 acres. Close-in location south of Twin \$349,000

FILER Nice, remodeled 4 bdrm., 2 bath country home North of Cury Crossing. 3.35 - acres. \$288,000

BURLEY-OAKLEY Remodeled 5 bdrm., 2 bath brick home, 5370 sq ft., formal dining, great room, 3 acres. \$300,000

Roberta Jones Realty

733-0404 www.rjrealty.com

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A TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED WILL FILL EVERY NEED

BUY IT! SELL IT!

502 Homes For Sale

AMSTERDAM

Historic home and general store with 27 acres. Currently has 5 bedrooms. Close to Jackpot. Would be great bed and breakfast home. \$238,000

NELSON REALTY LLC

734-3930

GOODING 3 bdrm., 1 bath home. Owner carry - \$10,000 down. \$79,500

GOODING 6500 sq. ft. shop. Owner carry. \$29,000

GOODING 30 acres w/3 lower pivot. \$159,000.

SHOSHONE 160 acre ranch. \$595,000.

WENDELL New 2,000 sq. ft. custom home. \$189,450. Call Anthony 731-9800 Triple 7 Realty

Classifieds. For people everywhere. 733-0931

502 Homes For Sale

BUIH Treasure of Value 2 story home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2300 + sq ft., gas heat, fireplace, pantry. \$120,000

NELSON REALTY LLC

734-3930

GOODING

Now home for sale in Willow Sage Subdivision. Still under construction and time to pick colors, 1751 sq. ft., 4 bdrm., 2 1/2 bath, living room and family room. Asking \$205,000. Call 208-308-6804

HANSEN cute 3 bedroom 2 bath, remodeled inside. Walking distance to great schools. \$91,260. Call 308-8438 or 404-8509

Holiday OPEN HOUSE

HIGH PLAINS ESTATES

Saturday, December 16, 2006 12 noon - 2 p.m.



668 Gimlet-Twin Falls

Jingle all the way Home!

This 1470 sq. ft. 4 bedroom, 2 bath home has a small price tag of \$152,055.

More in ready.

*Monthly payment \$911.65
MLS #98271258

Other floor plans available with prices starting at **\$119,500.**

*Based on 30 yrs., 6%, zero down, buyer may have additional closing costs.

KEYSTONE Realty Group
1200 Overland • Burley 878-1116

Please call Sandy Koch • 208-431-5535



Need a head start on your holiday shopping?

EZ\$PAY

Sign up for EZ Pay and take your choice of a:

- \$15 Gift Certificate to Magic Valley Mall
- \$15 Gift Certificate to Smith's Food Stores

With EZ Pay you can use your checking, debit or credit card account to make 12 monthly payments of \$17.40, and save that much every year. It's like getting 4 weeks of *The Times-News* for free!

Call 733-0931 to start EZ Pay today.

OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY DEC. 15 4-6pm
SATURDAY DEC. 16 11-2pm

641 GARNET DRIVE, KIMBERLY

KIMBERLY GEM
Custom Cabinets • Hardwood & Tile • Master Suite • 3 bedrooms/2 baths • Formal Entry • Office • Bonus Room, MLS# 9823273 8289.900


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- Landscaping • Decorating • Roofing • Flooring
- Financing • Real Estate • Electrical • Plumbing
- Title • Heating/AC • Furniture • and so much more

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Open House Open House Home For Sale

OPEN HOUSES FROM 1-3 PM WATCH FOR ASSIST 2 SELL SIGNS

7799 Chaparral Circle - Twin Falls East on Eastland & Elizabeth, South on Trotter to Capital Cir.

4 bedrooms, 2 baths 1729 sq. ft., \$188,000

665 Cherokee Lane - Twin Falls East on Elizabeth & Eastland, North on Cherokee Lane

4 bedrooms, 2 baths 2446 sq. ft., \$196,900

We Will Sell Your Home For Only \$2,995 Flat Fee!

Assist 2 Sell Bayers & Sellers Realty 734-1898

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

1143 STARFIRE ST. - TWIN FALLS \$149,900 - 1-3 PM. EXCELLENT NEIGHBORHOOD.

857 MORNING SUN DR. - TWIN FALLS \$437,000 - 1-4 PM. STONE & STUCCO

IRWIN REALTY 734-6500

OPEN HOUSE TODAY 12 - 3 PM

8435,000 WEST TERRA Gorgeous REAL ESTATE GROUP

Call Lexi Roth 308-4944

NEW ON MARKET! OPEN HOUSE Saturday December 16 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Price: \$489,900 MLS# 9827404

1303 Valencia Street This Model Home is located in the new Golden Eagle Subdivision

Price: \$140,000 MLS# 9827400

Price: \$179,900 MLS# 98226041

Hosted by: Debra

Lezamiz 734-7007

JEROME New construction 3 bdrm 2 bath 1250 sq. ft. available for immediate occupancy \$129,900

JEROME New construction, 1 acre w/ water, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1500 sq. ft. By Forth Park, \$189,900

JEROME New construction. New subdivision. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, large garage, \$136,500.

KIMBERLY Newly Remodeled 1,230 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 1 bath, garage. Large lot with back yard.

TWIN FALLS Hard to find exceptional vintage home on 2 acres.

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with formal living & family room.

1143 STARFIRE ST. - TWIN FALLS \$149,900 - 1-3 PM. EXCELLENT NEIGHBORHOOD.

857 MORNING SUN DR. - TWIN FALLS \$437,000 - 1-4 PM. STONE & STUCCO

IRWIN REALTY 734-6500

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Price: \$140,000 MLS# 9827400

Price: \$179,900 MLS# 98226041

Hosted by: Debra

Lezamiz 734-7007

TWIN FALLS duplex with (2) units, 2000 sq. ft. total. Great income property.

WEINDEL 3 bedroom 2 bath home, 1500 sq. ft., fenced yard, close to elementary school.

TWIN FALLS 5 bdr owner 1980 Tamarack Loop. Amazing, less than \$100 a sq. ft.

JEROME 400 3 bdr 2 bath, 1000 sq. ft. 2 building lots side-by-side with water.

SHOSHONE 10 acres, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Great home on acreage.

TWIN FALLS Falls Ave. near 3400 E. 1.5 acres, natural gas, water, septic.

816 Mobile Home 2BHL 93 Marlette 2BHL56 3 bdr, 2 bath, attached 1 car garage.

CASH NOW for 3 and 2 bedroom mobile homes.

TWIN FALLS/KIMBERLY You'll celebrate when you find out how readily affordable a spacious 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is 1410-2332.

cutting edge REAL ESTATE

TWIN FALLS 3 homes in the much heralded Sawtooth School District.

JEROME/TWIN FALLS New commercial buildings ready for occupancy May 2007.

JEROME 1 bedroom, 2 bath, fenced yard, \$250 month + dep.

JEROME 2 bdrm, 1 bath available immediate occupancy \$290/mo

JEROME 3 bedroom, 1 bath in town, \$790 month + deposit.

JEROME brand new 5 bdrm, 2 bath in new neighborhood, 1690 sq. ft.

JEROME in town, 2 bdm, 1 bath, WD / sewing room, incise cutting & stove, detached garage, no smoking & water pd.

JEROME SMALL 1 bdm, 1 bath, 578 sq. ft. no smoking, no alcohol/drugs.

JEROME small 2 bedroom, 1 bath house, 578 sq. ft. no smoking, no alcohol/drugs.

JEROME brand new 5 bdrm, 2 bath in new neighborhood, 1690 sq. ft.

JEROME in town, 2 bdm, 1 bath, WD / sewing room, incise cutting & stove, detached garage, no smoking & water pd.

JEROME SMALL 1 bdm, 1 bath, 578 sq. ft. no smoking, no alcohol/drugs.

Classified Department Classified Sales Representatives are available from 8:00 am-5:30 pm

WEINDEL 3 bedroom 2 bath home, 1500 sq. ft., fenced yard, close to elementary school.

TWIN FALLS 5 bdr owner 1980 Tamarack Loop. Amazing, less than \$100 a sq. ft.

JEROME 400 3 bdr 2 bath, 1000 sq. ft. 2 building lots side-by-side with water.

SHOSHONE 10 acres, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Great home on acreage.

TWIN FALLS Falls Ave. near 3400 E. 1.5 acres, natural gas, water, septic.

816 Mobile Home 2BHL 93 Marlette 2BHL56 3 bdr, 2 bath, attached 1 car garage.

CASH NOW for 3 and 2 bedroom mobile homes.

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TWIN FALLS 3 homes in the much heralded Sawtooth School District.

JEROME/TWIN FALLS New commercial buildings ready for occupancy May 2007.

JEROME 1 bedroom, 2 bath, fenced yard, \$250 month + dep.

JEROME 2 bdrm, 1 bath available immediate occupancy \$290/mo

JEROME 3 bedroom, 1 bath in town, \$790 month + deposit.

JEROME brand new 5 bdrm, 2 bath in new neighborhood, 1690 sq. ft.

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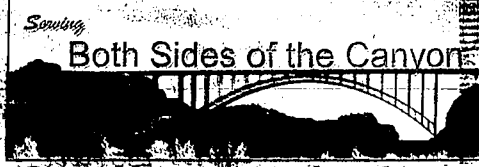
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with 3 bedrooms plus bonus room.
Hardwood floors, Barber caps, two tone
paint & central vacuum. Fully fenced
backyard, quiet street with sidewalks,
over 1700 sq. ft. Call Harry for your personal
touring. \$159,900 MLS#98254850
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Willowbrook Floor Plan.
1470 sq ft 4 bed 2 bath 2 car garage.
Full sprinklers and landscaping.
\$161,700 MLS#98271738
Call Christy 308-4586 or
Bryan 308-4585

Nice home in quiet neighborhood
with huge fenced back yard and
extra deep garage. \$139,500
MLS#98277908
Call Gary Shook 539-7027
or Bryan Newberry
308-4585

log home sitting on 5 lots
2 bedroom 2 bath. \$165,000
MLS#98263445
Call Earl Ward 208-590-0253

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3000-sq-ft-kind farm or development property in
Hagerman Valley. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath
stone home with incredible views of Snake River
Spring on property with great water rights. 36
acres with 12 acres already platted and
approved on a subdivision with 2nd home on
property. \$448,000 MLS#9821186
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Lester 539-7572 or Kitty 539-0501

Plenty of space
in this 5 bed, 2 bath home. Large family
room, fully fenced backyard. Could be
yours today! \$144,900 MLS#98272697
Call Maria Cruz 208-219-9172

Tucked into the hillside
and enjoying at least 530' of Rock Creek
frontage as well as three well-constructed
horse corrals and a horse stable. This property
is ready for your dream home and has potential
geothermal heating. \$225,000
MLS#98274433
Call Kitty Martin 539-0501 or
Jamie Martin 539-0503

Custom home on 560 acres
40x40 shop. Additional outcrops available.
\$995,000 MLS#98261278
Call Barbara Morales for more
information 539-2272

Double 10 dairy barn
20x40, milk tank, 1345 gallon cooler, permitted
250 milking cows, 35 replacement
cows, 30 dry, 96 lock-ups, 2 feeding
manages. Book-up general, 32 shares of
canal water. Lagoon updated - pipe
200x2-200. \$225,000 MLS#98270633
Call Judy Holland 731-3141

A great buy.
House well maintained, clean and com-
fortable. A lot of house for the square foot.
Vinyl fence in back yard. \$99,500
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Great family home
in a wonderful neighborhood 3 bedroom
2 bath home with a split floor plan. Great
decks on both front and back of house.
\$184,500 MLS#98277456
Call Suzie Richardson
420-3765

This 2 story, 3 bedroom
2 bath home located in Lincoln Park Subdivision
is a must see One of Jerome's newest subdivisions
offering quiet location in a great location.
\$178,000 MLS#98257886
Call BJ Ross 539-0795,
Chris Barber 404-6322 or
Sandra Capps 539-3354

Great investment opportunity
own your own motel or apartment building
fully equipped and with lots of potential
and room for growth in the heart of
town. Right off the freeway. \$299,000
MLS#98248333
Call Susana Vieira 539-1009

Charming 3 bed 2 bath home
with his and her closets in master bedroom
and double sinks in master bath.
Large kitchen and family room. Perfect for
family gatherings. all on fully fenced 2.47
acres. \$136,000 MLS#98278874
Call Lance 424-2117 or for
more pics lancepaul.com

Older country home
with lots of potential and lots of room on
1 acre. Great location between Jerome
and Twin Falls \$129,900
MLS#98279464
Call Paul Lloyd 731-2727 or
Cindy Chase 404-4717

Hagerman home.
Remodeled and ready to occupy. New
carpet and paint. 3 bedroom plus 3rd
office, 2 baths, double garage. All this on
one level on large lot. \$165,000
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55+ SUBDIVISION
50-80 GARDENS

40' x 120' lots
2-3 bedrooms
2-3 bathrooms
2-3 car garages
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Well-built brick home on large lot
room to build another home or large
shop. Home has beautiful cabinetry and
wood stove. Double garage, work shop
and lots of fruit trees. \$159,900
MLS#98262520
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**Horse lover's delight and
priced to sell!**
Don't miss out on this one. 2 bedroom
home on 1 acre in good shape.
\$128,000 MLS#9826017
Call Dan Wise 539-2609

Nice custom built home
with hardwood floors, split floor plan on a
corner lot. \$159,900 MLS#98280241
Call Gary 539-7027

Home being remodeled.
You can still choose your colors! Great
Wendell location and the price is right on
this nice family home. \$99,900
MLS#98278474
Call Paul Lloyd 731-2727 or
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Complete horse property
on 5+ acres. Out buildings, pastures, and
riding arena. 1559 sq. ft. up with 2 bed,
2 bath and daylight basement unfinished
with 1559 sq. ft. \$399,900
MLS#98269379
Call Gordon Graves 539-1807
or Diane Petrie 420-6046

Nice home, nice neighborhood
This house has been completely
remodeled! \$168,500 MLS#98277233
Located in Twin Falls.
Call Weston 320-1917 or
Ben 410-5980

Eager to sell! Bring all offers!
Wheelchair accessible. Located in
Wendell. \$80,000 MLS#98280151
Call Weston 320-1917 or
Ben 410-5980

One of the last
large expanses of river front (over 700 ft),
20 acres, could be horse pasture or private
hunting. 3 bedroom home.
\$91,000 MLS#110427
Call Kitty Martin 539-0501

VINTAGE 2 STORES!
This 5 bedroom, 2 bath home is over-
flowing in character and square footage.
Over 2000 square feet, granite, large lot,
metal siding, newer gas furnace, hard-
wood floors and lots of storage. Best
value! \$129,900 MLS#98280131
Call Bonnie B 731-7304

What a deal!
10 acres and 10 water shares. 4 bed-
room, 2 bath. Nice home, 2 car garage.
Just reduced to \$279,500.
MLS#98279851
Call Juanita Myers 420-7524

This is a must see!
2 bedroom, 1 bath, storage shed and an
awesome covered patio. This home has a
very large kitchen and spacious living
room with gas fireplace. \$20,000
MLS#98279851
Call Darlene 308-5502 or
Shirley 731-4254

Conveniently located
near shopping, restaurants and theater! Let
someone else worry about the town. This is
a great place to live. 2 bedroom, 1 bath
plus a storage shed and a very inviting
covered patio. \$16,000 MLS#98278524
Call Darlene 308-5502 or
Shirley 731-4254

Brand new home
north of Shoshone. Lots of quality here in
the country. \$259,900 MLS#98286789
Call Louisa Harris 280-0822 or
Larry Urrutia 280-2197

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Vinyl fence in back yard. \$99,500
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in a wonderful neighborhood 3 bedroom
2 bath home with a split floor plan. Great
decks on both front and back of house.
\$184,500 MLS#98277456
Call Suzie Richardson
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2-3 car garages
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Super investment! Home sits on two lots.
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MLS# 98175980 \$58,000
728 SF cottage. 2BR 1 BA. New Kitchen. REALTOR owned
Call Roger: 329-0032

Corner Lot
EDFN
MLS# 98276728 \$65,900
3-4 Bedroom home in Eden. New roof.
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Price Reduced!
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MLS# 98273463 \$89,500
Manufactured home on acreage. South of Kimberly.
Call Lynn: 410-2807

To Be Built
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98266171 \$129,500
Daisy II By TKO. 3 Beds. 2 Baths, 1,200 Sq. Ft.
Call Lynn: 410-2807

TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98278670 \$130,000
Brick home in excellent condition on large corner lot.
Call Steven: 404-9077

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TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98267683 \$139,000
"Willow" under construction! ALMOST COMPLETE! 3 BR 2 BA
Call Roger: 329-0032

TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98276116 \$144,900
Super 3 BR 2 Bath. Built in 2002. Split bedroom plan.
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Rock Creek Lot
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MLS# 98273152 \$149,900
Great 5.5 Acre lot with incredible views & privacy.
Call Chris: 539-1246

To Be Built
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98274353 \$153,900
Iris by TKO. 4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 1,600 Sq. Ft.
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To Be Built
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98266176 \$153,900
Darling 3 BR 2 Bath home. Built in 2003. Tons of extras!
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Price Reduced!
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MLS# 98276444 \$155,000
Almost NEW (2002)! 3 BR 2 bath. 1,460 SF. Great area!
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JEROME
MLS# 98277200 \$158,894
Never been lived in! Beautiful & roomy. New subdivision.
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TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98280291 \$159,000
4BR 2BA home w/1664 SF. Living & family room+bonus room.
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Price Reduced!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98280093 \$159,500
4 Bed, 2 Bath on half acre. Priced way under appraisal.
Call Brian: 404-3892

Affordable Price!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98265881 \$159,900
4 bedroom, 2 baths, large lot. Great location. W/privacy
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Not A Drive By!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98276270 \$159,900
Darling 3 BR 2 Bath home. Built in 2003. Tons of extras!
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Price Reduced!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98276451 \$160,900
Nice 4 Bed 2 bath. Covered porch and walking trail.
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TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98277378 \$165,000
Better than new. James Ray Const. 3 BR, 2 BA and 1422 SF.
Call Steven: 404-9017

Wow!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98277126 \$174,500
Get a lot for the price in a great neighborhood.
Call Richard: 731-2474

COME SEE US AT
1146 Eastland Dr. N.

Julie Lane
Eastland Drive N
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Brand New!
Jerome
MLS# 98277195 \$174,794
If you need to move quickly you can move in today!
Call Richard: 731-2474

Under Construction
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98267687 \$174,900
Syringa By TKO. 4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 1,745 Sq. Ft.
Call Dave: 326-0926

Acreage
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98268309 \$199,000
Country acreage 2.50 AC. Home & out buildings.
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Pending!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98277592 \$199,000
3 BR 2 bath w/1,810 SF. Well maintained. Many updates.
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Pending!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98266283 \$220,000
3 Bed, 2 Bath on Main. 1 Bed, 75 Bath up
Call Steven: 404-9017

TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98278283 \$235,000
Remodeled home. Great location. Close to parks & schools.
Call Brian: 404-3892

Price Reduced!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98266330 \$260,000
5 Acres w/4 Bdrm home-beautiful yard-super country home
Call Diana: 331-3588

Duplex
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98267455 \$282,900
NEW DUPLEX (2005). Great location! 3 Bed/2 Bath per unit
Call Chris: 539-1246

Acreage
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98278695 \$205,000
In town acreage w/water. 4 bed, 3 bath home. You'll love!
Call Brian: 404-3892

Turn-Key Operation
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98273226 \$209,000
Dining room & drive thru. Recipes included. Make it yours!
Call Richard 731-2474

Price Reduced!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98266015 \$385,000
Windmill Hgts Custom Built. Home-1 Acre-2 Fireplaces.
Call Diana: 731-3588

TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98274369 \$415,000
Beautiful home on Morning Sun Dr. 6BR, 3 Baths
Call Lynn: 410-2807

Acreage
WENDELL
MLS# 98265877 \$424,900
5 Bed, 3.5 Bath on 3.68 Acres
Call Steven: 404-9017

Farm
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98265893 \$1,500,000
Great Farm-Watch this for future development!
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ITALIAN GREY-HOUNDS, Just in time for Christmas! AKC registered, 3 females, 2 males, 8 weeks, \$800 + \$500 Call 208-331-4483.

JACK RUSSEL TERRIERS Stocking stuffers! Purebred, \$500, 539-8299.

LAB Chocolate Lab female puppies AKC just in time for Christmas. 208-628-6728

LAB puppies 1 black AKC reg. 1 male, 1 female, Dewclaws removed, 17 shots and dewormed, Whelped 10/15/06, 18 field champion and 4 national field champions in 1st 4 generations. Fire qualified all aged with 9 derby points in field trials. Puppies specialized with grandkids, \$520. 208-332-4163 or 208-312-1447

LAB puppies available now AKC reg., rare size \$500, dewclaws \$550 females, Dewclaws removed, 1st shots. Call 208-332-4277 or 208-431-8312

LAB puppies for sale, AKC registered, 1 black, 4 chocolate, and 4 yellow, 1st and 2nd shots, dewclaws removed, 1st shots. Call 208-539-1027.

LAB puppies, AKC reg., Black and chocolate, 2 weeks old, January, Call RJ at 208-438-4324.

LAB puppies, AKC reg., black & yellow, 3 weeks in Pomona. Dewclaws removed and first shots. Flecky 12/18/06, will hold until Christmas. Outgoing pedigree on both sides. Call 208-423-5206 for more details.

LABRADOR Pups AKC, all 3 colors great parents on site. Many champions in pedigree first shots and dew removed. Call Joyce 312-2428.

LABS AKC puppies, Perfect for Christmas. Black & yellow, 2 weeks old. Parents on site. Yellow, \$300/offer. Black, \$200/offer. Call 208-676-8877 or 208-431-2212

LABS yellow & black Christmas puppies. Great family and pedigree. 12/22, Dad papered, 2nd shot, dew removed. Shots & dew removed. \$200 324-4698 msg, or 320-133-3333

706 Pets And Pet Supplies

PIT BULLS red nosed, 1st shots, ready to go. 5 females, 4 males, 8 weeks old. \$100/each. Call 208-260-0626.

POMERANIAN 3 AKC reg. ready now! \$250. Call 208-886-2813.

POMERANIAN puppy, AKC registered, AKC markings, AKC reg. \$400. 208-219-0221 or 208-430-8782.

POMERANIAN pup, AKC Assorted colors. Tiny little sweet heart! \$400. 734-3117

POMERANIAN Super cute female puppy needs home for Christmas. She was born on 10/31, is a pretty white sable, and really playful. \$400/offer. Call 404-3658 if you're interested. Serious inquiries only! She will go quick so hurry!

708 Farm Equipment

NEWHOUSE bale chopper, PTO or 3 phase 20 hp, electric motor w/100 to power cord, panel and wind. \$300-3029.

PAYING CASH for International PTO axle bar hay mower or Ford PTO hay mower. Wanted. 5000. 503-5883. Myrta Harbor, 324-5883

WANTED TO BUY LITTLE two bar bale maker for sale. Call 208-655-4360

WHEEL LOADER 3 yd. Trojan 2000, cab, Detroit diesel, great shape and runs. 208-324-2199. \$14,700. Backhoe Case 500E 4th hood crop, exc. mach. \$16,600. Call 208-358-2494

801 Antiques And Collectibles

ANTIQUE POCKET WATCHES Ball, Hamilton, Illinois and others. Also watch chains and fobs. Call 208-308-5688

BEDROOM SET 1931 5 piece low post. Includes dresser chest, dresser, chair and bench. Near new condition. \$1100. Call 208-733-0394

BUFFET solid oak, with 4 drawers. \$225. Call 208-420-5395 for more information.

DOM PERIGNON 1980V, 9 bottles, Two Fats Bolla & cases Nascar Magnum bottles, Baseball Cards. 208-423-4199

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GLOBE-WERNICKE (2) Barnstar bookcases, 5 stack & top and bottom, orig glass and hardware, from early Twenties. \$1200 ea. or \$2000. 208-731-1702.

SALE Lots of collectible gifts, 200 and under. New dealer #18, Back room at Susan's Antiques, 237 Main Ave. E. 1P

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JENNAR gas cook top & fan wall electric oven, like new, \$350/offer. 208-6901

MAYTAG Washer & Dryer, Chel Drex, \$100/offer each. Call 208-308-8410.

REFRIGERATOR Frigidaire 20 cu. ft. white, 4 years old, excellent cond. \$250. Call 208-224-9558

STOVE E. E. electric, self cleaning, really good condition. \$125. Call 208-536-4669

WASHER/ DRYER Electric, Chel Drex, 10 yrs old, good cond. \$175 pair. 208-734-6661

WASHER/DRYER SET Whitepool, good condition, \$300. Greater Admiral upright, good condition. \$200. Call 208-410-2193

CRAFTERS SAKE Hegerman, New, gen. ty used, hand made crafts, yarn, books, antiques, much more. Above US Bank, we're in the back. Open Wed-thru Sun. 10am-4pm. Call 208-837-6618

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HDTV, 55", DVD Player, 5.1 Surround, large Entertainment Center. \$3200/offer. Prices negotiable on items at the lot. Call Travis 208-948-5888.

HITACHI 579700 Projection Color integrated HDTV 57" with PIP, surround sound. Excellent condition. \$1100. Call 208-733-0394

POD VIDEO Incls Lot 30 gb \$250. Hoyte Enkler Bow \$200. Snowboard \$50. Call 208-316-3440.

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PLAYSTATION 3 60 gigabyte, still in box, w/orig receipt. \$900/offer. Call 208-490-0246

PLAYSTATION 3 Just in time for Christmas! PlayStation 3 with blue ray movie. New in box. \$900/offer. Call 208-420-2063

SONY PLAYSTATION 3, 60 gb system of brand new. \$2,100 or best offer. Call 208-731-4266

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807 Hot Tub & Pools

HOT TUB COVER 2 years old, Cover Assat, \$7474. \$275. Call 208-734-7395

COAT Beautiful Mahogany Ranch. Mink coat. European cut. dress length. size Med. \$800/offer. Call 735-1248 evs.

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807 Clothing And Fur

FOX FUR coat new 3/4 length. Diamond ring \$150. Serial books \$50. Brand new 734-5785

The Perfect Christmas Present Shiny, long, black mink vest with black fox trim. Retail for \$4,000. Asking \$2,750. Size 1 XL. Call 208-404-3528

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Classifieds. For people everywhere. 733-0931

808 Computers

COMPUTERS (1) Pentium 3; (2) Pentium 3. All serviced and ready to go! \$175-\$225 or best offer. Call 208-324-8556

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LABS yellow & black Christmas puppies. Great family and pedigree. 12/22, Dad papered, 2nd shot, dew removed. Shots & dew removed. \$200 324-4698 msg, or 320-133-3333

706 Pets And Pet Supplies

POMERANIAN AKC reg. male pups, 1 white & 1 white w/brown spots (ears) adorable, 1st shots/dew check up. \$400. 208-736-0138

POMERANIAN AKC registered, female, 1st shot, dew removed, \$800. Male, buff, small, \$400. 3 months old. Great. Will hold til Christmas. 208-654-9998 or 208-312-2769

POODLE Black Standard, 2 weeks old, 1st shot, AKC/podrigon, \$750. 208-733-4240.

PUG puppies (2) very pretty, brown, ready now, just in time for Christmas, \$350 ea. Information: 539-0708

PUGS cut and cuddly, 1st shot & dewormed. Black & fawn, \$350 625-5468 or 212-1121

SHELTERS in time for Christmas! Registered Smelter breed, 1st shots, dewclaws removed, very friendly, hand raised lot. 1 male, 2 females. Parents on site. Call 828-6058 to view by e-mail.

SHH TZU 8 months old purebred female. \$250. Call for details. 208-431-8453

SHH TZU adorable AKC reg. pup, 1st shot, dew removed, perfect Christmas gift! Call 208-934-9088.

SHH TZU puppies, AKC reg., podrigon, dew removed, dewclaws removed, physical. Females, \$400. Males, \$400. Also, Baggies, AKC reg., ready on 12/18. 208-436-9338 or 208-208-670-1626.

SHH TZU purebred puppies, 3 males, 3 shots, \$300. Great Christmas present. Call 208-431-7052 or 208-438-9062.

STANDARD POODLE pup, female, AKC reg., papered, shots, chocolate, \$500. Call 208-320-5050.

STANDARD POODLE puppy, ready for Christmas! \$500. Call 208-733-9811.

TOY POODLES tiny AKC. (1) Male, white, 5 mos, \$350. (3) females, 6 weeks old, silver, \$500-\$600. (1) male, \$600. 733-6535.

WIRE HAired PIONTING GRIFONS AKC reg. awesome hunters, excellent lines, great companions, taking deposit. snakerest.com. Call 208-543-8502

YORKIE Puppies, Very Cute, 13 weeks. Ready to go. Call 734-4212, \$350.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER adorable female puppy, 10 weeks old. AKC registration, 1st & 2nd shots included, mother & Dad's photo. \$800. 208-420-3385. 208-0717 or 308-5827

YORKSHIRE TERRIER (2) Just in time for Christmas! AKC reg. 13 weeks old, beautiful markings, \$300 cash only. 731-8478/731-8487

709 Hay Grain & Feed

ALFALFA OR GRASS mix hay, all cuttings, covered, 2 string bales, small amounts. Corral area, 124-5082 or 308-0073

At Southern Idaho Feeds LLC 347 South Park Ave Twin Falls, ID 83401 (Across from Longview Fibre) 208-732-5279 Complete Line of Livestock Feed Hours: 8am-5pm Weekdays 8-12pm Saturdays

HAY 1st & 2nd cutting \$95 a ton, Oct Hay \$3.30 a bale, small 2 string bales approx 100 ea. 888-2930 or 720-7201

HAY cuttings, good quality, close to Twin Falls, sell any amount. Call 208-733-2520.

HAY 3rd grass hay mix, light green, well stored, 3 string bales, \$9 a bale. You pick up. 208-324-2149

HAY Fender and Oct Hay for sale. Please call 731-3471 for more information

STRAW for sale. 500 small bales. Call 208-312-1443.

T.S.C. Hay Retriever/pug Call Con at 208-280-0839

WHEAT 52,000 bushels soft white 208-434-5233 or 208-731-2017

POTATOES Ida-Rose Red, \$10 for 50 lb bag. Call Kathleen Smith 208-431-3969.

SUGAR BEET SHARES for sale, 400 acres of Mini Cassia regular Snake River Farmer Beets Share #431-8520 or 438-3566 in the evening.

LEARN TO FLY pigeons from 100-500 miles with a great group of people in the Twin Falls Area. Racing pigeons is the only way to fly! For info call Rick Post @ 424-4377 or Dave Anderson @ 423-5043.

CLOVER, FILER, BUNH area. Young farmer looking for farm ground, gravelly or sprinkler. 306-8430. Call 208-837-6618

EDEN Filly for rent. Penny for 800, 200 lbs, 16, 90 acre with lock ups. Available approximately 1/1/07. Call 208-423-8098 or 208-731-8088

PASTURE Looking for horse pasture for 10 head. \$43-6956 or 622-21239

PASTURE Wanted 250 head mother cows. 539-8802, 731-525 or 308-1173.

PASTURE wanted 40 head mother cows. Call 208-731-5525

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ROB GREEN AUTO GROUP

Red TAG EVENT

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dream up

2006 BUICK LUCERNE CX

RED TAG PRICE NOW ONLY \$21,905 (was \$27,040)

2006 BUICK LACROSSE CX

RED TAG PRICE NOW ONLY \$19,937 (was \$26,010)

2006 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT

RED TAG PRICE NOW ONLY \$21,942 (was \$27,175)

2006 GMC CANYON CREW CAB

RED TAG PRICE NOW ONLY \$21,995 (was \$25,945)

Grandy's Christmas Gathering Unique Home & Holiday Décor birdhouses • signs • candles • shovels primitive furniture • wreaths • metal art

December 14, 15, 16 10:00am-6:00pm

Snake River Sprinklers Garden Center 1675 E. 4100 N. (East of Buhl on Highway 30)

733-1823

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Angleton

Unscramble these four jumbles. One letter to each column to form four ordinary words.

OMENG

KRIPE

YATAPH

OLDONE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the words, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANS: O M E N G H I S T I M E M O N E Y

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOUSE BUILT TWINGE MOBILE
Answer: What they had on their weekend sail — "A SWELL TIME"

815 Exercise Equipment
SPIN BIKES in good condition. \$350 each. More information.
WEIGHT LIFTING MACHINE: Olympic weight set and bench. \$300/offer. 431-4111

816 Miscellaneous For Sale
ANTIQUE Table and chairs, 42" round with claw feet, 2 leaves, refinished, 100 years old. \$1,200. Call 208-738-0048. Hyster's new electric guitar in hard case, \$125. Ibanez starters pig-casual guitar w/gig bag, \$75. Call 208-878-2048. Hyster's.

817 Musical Instruments
DRUM SET complete set, Sonor 4 drum, 1 base, 3 symbols. \$375. 208-543-8022.
GUITAR elect, Peavey Destiny \$250. (2) Fender amps, (1) Pro 185 \$250. (1) Power Chorus \$500. Corni saxophone \$500. All exc. cond. Price or offer. 208-404-0047.

818 Office Equipment and Supplies
DESK handmade, walnut, with glass top. \$300 or best offer. Call 208-431-4141.

819 Miscellaneous For Sale
PONTOON BOAT BUICKS Brgs Bronco extra big motor. \$3,000. Aluminum diamond plate" load box \$150. 420-6479

820 Miscellaneous For Sale
MOUNTAIN BILLIARD SUPPLY #4897. \$600. See Woody at Woody's, 213 E. 3rd Ave. So. Call 208-733-0077.

821 Miscellaneous For Sale
POOL TABLE new, Connolly 7 foot, has 4 cues and bridge, wall mountable holder, 15 & 8 ball racks, chalk and cover. Discounted \$500. Asking \$1,800. 208-739-6569

822 Miscellaneous For Sale
RECLINER new, \$225. Tappan microwave, \$40. Heller refrig \$40. 18x19" pots, stainless steel \$25. 736-7066

823 Miscellaneous For Sale
BABY CLOTHES girl 0-3T, all exc. cond, yard sale prices. Call 208-224-2297

824 Miscellaneous For Sale
GARAGE TRAILER 4x8x8 custom built 4 tray roll-over BBQ trailer. \$1,000. Call Ron 208-638-6659.

825 Miscellaneous For Sale
BOAT Seaath Otter 2000 with extras \$1000. Mill LaRue 4000, 208-421-0666.

826 Miscellaneous For Sale
CASH REGISTER like new \$40. Wooden rocking chair, \$50. Sewing machine & cabinet \$25. File cabinet \$15. Folding bar stools 10 ea. \$20. Store clothing racks, pegs & peg board \$45. 8x8 & 4 chairs \$30. Adult female Turkey \$30 308-4122

827 Miscellaneous For Sale
CATERING BARBE-CUEER Kenmore hotless, 19.6 cu. ft. \$250. Washer conservator (Clothes) heavy duty extra large tub, \$200. Dryer Kenmore, electric, \$75. Stove Kenmore, electric, \$200. Patio Door, glass, \$50. Call 208-224-4272

828 Miscellaneous For Sale
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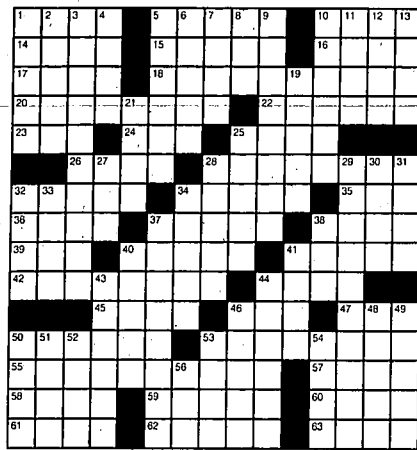
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 - 3 "Ulee's Gold" star
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 - 5 Quaking trees
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 - 7 Hay wagon
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 - 25 Shell out
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 - 29 Connected with
 - 30 Modernists
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 - 53 Thwart
 - 54 Explorer
 - 55 Ericson
 - 56 Ewe's cry



Friday's Puzzle Solved

G	A	B	L	E	E	T	H	R	E	E	F	O	R
A	M	A	I	N	T	H	R	O	U	G	E	A	R
M	O	L	L	S	A	L	G	O	N	O	U	I	N
M	U	L	T	I	P	L	E	T	U	N	E	S	
A	R	E	G	R	A	S	P	S	I	S	L	E	
R	E	N	O		A	I	D	E					
J	A	I	L	P	L	A	N	T	A	T	I	O	N
A	G	N	E	S	L	I	E	B	U	R	R	O	
B	E	A	C	H	B	A	L	L	S	D	R	E	W
S	A	A	R	Y	A	N	K	E	E	G	E	T	
E	L	G	I	N	I	M	M	A	T	U	R	E	
P	E	R	C	A	P	I	T	A	T	A	L	E	S
I	R	E	P	O	K	E	R	E	X	A	C	T	
A	T	E	X	P	E	R	T	D	I	R	T	Y	

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FREIGHTLINER '98 Cummins, 9 spd with PTO \$20,000. Call 208-543-9290 or 404-8690

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CHEVY '05 K2500, 4DR, 28K miles, leather, like new condition. \$27,900.

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CHEVY '06 2500 HD 4x4, ext. cab, long bed, Allison, PW, PL, FM, XM radio + On-star, shell, upgrades wheels & tires, under 12K miles. \$29,500 or best offer. 420-7972

CHEVY '07 Z-71 4x4 Classic, 900 miles, silver birch, 100K warranty, \$26,888. Please call 543-4369.

CHEVY '06 pickup, 6 cyl, runs great, low miles, \$1500 '85

DODGE 1 ton, 2WD - nice steel-body good cond., \$1500. 543-9393 or 961-0459

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CHEVY '84 crew cab, turbo diesel, 4x4, AT, \$4,500 or best offer. Call 208-731-6793

CHEVY '85 Silverado 4x4, short box, bed, many extras, exc cond., sharp truck. \$3,800. 733-2601

CHEVY '90 shortbox 350, AT, custom wheels, 100,000, remote starter, lots of extras. Call 208-731-5459 or 825-5566.

DODGE '94 Ram, 2500, 2WD, \$3975. 324-4532 or 324-2724 for more information.

CHEVY '98 Diesel 2500, 4x4, Ex. cab, local truck, good condition. \$6,600

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CHEVY '03 Extra cab Duramax, long bed, Quad cab, \$15,850. 324-0069. 2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.

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CHEVY '98 K2500, service utility box, 4x4, Rog' cab, 74K miles. \$12,500.

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CHEVY '99 Silverado 1500, (tres, rims exhaust, good cond, ext cab, \$11,500/offer 208-308-8090

DODGE '01 Dakota Sport, 4 dr crew cab, 62K, 6 cyl eng, 5 speed, Alpino CD sound system, great shape, \$12,900. 304-0479 or 404-1639

DODGE '06 Dakota crew cab, PW, PL, PT, bed liner, culso, CD. Stock# 2795. \$19,895

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DODGE '94 Ram, 2500, 2WD, \$3975. 324-4532 or 324-2724 for more information.

DODGE '99 Silverado 4x4, crew cab, short bed, V8, 5.9L, auto, 4WD. \$9986

MIDDLEHAUFF 208-738-2480

DODGE '99 Dakota SLT, ext cab, 4x4, V8, air, PW, PL, AM-FM, CD, spray-in bed liner, alloy wheels, \$9966

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FORD '01 Super crew cab, 4x4, 6.4L V8, \$24,000. Call 208-312-5881

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FORD '02 F-150 super duty XLT 4x4, extended cab, V8, AT, tinted windows, excellent shape. Save the doc fee. \$11,995. 539-5570

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FORD '02 diesel crew cab, 4x4, nice truck. \$24,500

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FORD '02 F-150 extended cab, 4x4, excellent condition, nice matching shell. \$15,900. 46210 S 24 905

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FORD '02 Ranger 4x4, extra cab, 4.0 V6, 5 speed, 50,000 miles, very sharp, yellow sport, \$13,950. 324-0069. 2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.

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FORD '58 1 ton, dump truck, runs good, 4 spd. \$2200. Call 208-731-7938

FORD '85 EXL, diesel, \$1,600. Ford '88 4x4, \$1,200. Pontiac, '99 Gmnd Am. \$3,200. Call 208-312-5881

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Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006

THE ACES ON BRIDGE® Bobby Wolf

"Martin, if dirt was trumps, what hands you would hold!"
 — Charles Lamb

The first segment of the 1999 American Trials finals between Wolfson and Team Goldman was relatively unremarkable, but one deal featured an unusual play of the trump suit.

After identical auctions to two hearts, both defending pairs led and continued clubs. At one table the declarer for Wolfson won the third club in dummy and played a heart to the jack and ace. West cashed the spade ace and played a fourth round of clubs, East ruffing with the heart queen. That had the effect of establishing an additional trump trick for the defense, ensuring the defeat of the contract.

At the other table, the defenders cashed their three black-suit winners, then played a third club. At this point Peter Weichsel as South decided that there was no room for East to have both top honor honors, or he would have bid. Accordingly, playing a heart to the jack would result in the trump promotion we saw in the other room. He decided to play East for the heart queen and at that point one of the critical heart intermediates — the nine or the 10.

So at trick five Weichsel played the four of hearts from dummy and let it ride to the West's 10. Now, although West could lead a club, there was no useful way for East to ruff in to create a trump promotion for West, and the defense was finished. Plus 110 was worth four IMPs for the Goldman Team — their exact margin of victory in the segment.

NORTH 12-16-A
 ♠ K Q 6
 ♥ 8 4
 ♦ A J 8 7
 ♣ A 3 2

WEST A 9 5
 ♥ A 10 3
 ♦ K 2
 ♣ 10 9 8 7 5

EAST 10 7 3 2
 ♥ Q 9 2
 ♦ 6 4 3
 ♣ A K 6

SOUTH J 8 4
 ♥ K 7 6 5
 ♦ 10 9 5
 ♣ Q 4

Vulnerable: East-West
 Dealer: North

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 1NT Pass
 2♥ All pass

Opening lead: Club 10

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds: ♠ J 8 4
 ♥ K J 7 6 5
 ♦ 10 9 5
 ♣ Q 4

South West North East
 1♥ Pass
 2♥ All pass

ANSWER: It feels wrong to sell out to one spade when you know your side has about half the deck. Rebid one no-trump as the partscore likely to play best (or at least best) for your side. Remember, since the opponents have not raised spades, you can safely assume that partner will come through with something in that suit.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolf, e-mail him at bobbywolf@midrange.com
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Sudoku Answers:

4	1	6	5	9	7	2	8	3
9	3	8	4	2	1	5	6	7
2	5	7	6	3	8	4	9	1
6	2	3	8	5	4	7	1	9
8	7	5	3	1	9	6	2	4
1	9	4	7	6	2	8	3	5
5	6	9	2	7	3	1	4	8
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	7	6
7	4	1	9	8	6	3	5	2

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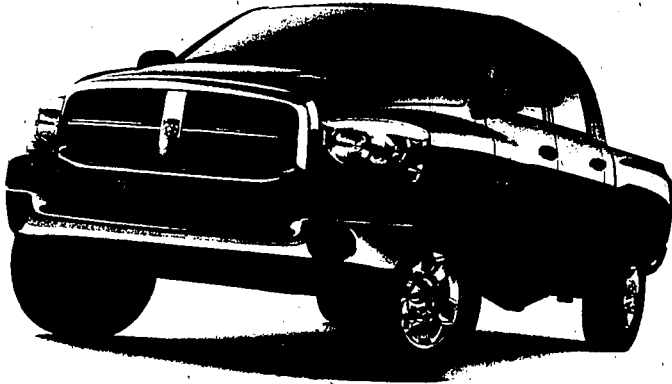
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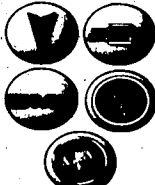


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