

• Hansen on "Apocalypso"
• Pandora's happy experience

• The best holiday CD
• The return of Rocky
• The rise of Akon

Spartans wrestle their way past Jerome
SPORTS, SEE PAGE B1

Bickel students going to world championships
MAGIC VALLEY, SEE PAGE C1

Good Morning

High: 35
Low: 29

Mostly cloudy. Details: B4

Times-News

MagicValley.com

THURSDAY

December 21, 2006

50 cents

State trooper in stable condition after shooting

Twin Falls man faces multiple charges after opening fire during traffic stop

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — An Idaho State Police trooper is in stable condition after being shot in the neck Wednesday morning while stopping a robbery suspect.

Trooper Chris Glenn, 34, of Kimberly, is reportedly alert and recovering at St. Alphonsus in Boise.

Adam Mower of Twin Falls has been charged with aggravated battery on a police officer, fleeing a peace officer and armed robbery.

The incident began about 7 a.m. when a man robbed the Slinker Station at 818 Shoshone St. W.

Mower was caught on a surveillance video carrying a 23-pack of Keystone beer to the checkout counter. The manager told Mower the store could not begin selling beer for another four minutes, according to a joint press release issued by the Twin Falls County Prosecutor's Office, the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office and the Twin Falls Police Department.

"He just came in to purchase beer and cigarettes but he just didn't have a photo ID," said Colleen Gooch, the gas station manager. "He left the store — I assumed he went back to his car — and he came back in with a handgun. He just put it on the counter pointed at me."

Gooch gave Mower \$524, according to the press release, and Mower drove south in a white four-door car.

She then called the police. Glenn was first to respond. He flipped on his emergency lights and stopped a white, 1998 Pontiac Sunfire about 7:10 a.m. at milepost four on State Highway 74. Glenn approached the Pontiac. Mower opened the door and fired one shot



Idaho State Police and Twin Falls County sheriff's investigators reconstruct the scene where an Idaho State trooper was shot Wednesday morning.

Fined for trooper
To help Chris Glenn, his wife and son, Glenn Mower made to the Chris Glenn Public Safety Bank.

from a handgun into the left side of Glenn's neck, according to the joint press release. As backup arrived, Mower drove west onto U.S. 93, and then turned south toward Jackpot with officers in pursuit.

The chase reached speeds of more than 120 mph on U.S. 93, according to the press release, before Mower crossed strip strips north of Jackpot and hit the back of a tractor-trailer rig entering the road from a parking lot. The vehicle flipped and skidded for 100 yards on its roof.

Mower has been taken to St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. His condition is unknown.



Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department investigators work at the scene of an Idaho State trooper shooting Wednesday on State Highway 74 south of Twin Falls.

See it online

To watch a video about the shooting, go to: magicvalley.com

"We're all in this together," said ISP Capt. Kedrick R. Wills at a morning press conference in Jerome. "Every police officer that wears a uniform and every employee of law enforcement's hears go out to Trooper Glenn and his family. We all felt a sense of loss and pain today with this incident."

But not just law enforcement officers held their breaths Wednesday. Before Glenn became a trooper about five years ago, he coached football and taught social studies at Kimberly High School.

Please see **SHOOTING**, Page A3

Calming the storm

New schools chief visits with area educators

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Change is on the horizon. Educators from south-central Idaho gathered Wednesday morning at the College of Southern Idaho to meet with Joan Luna, the newly elected state superintendent of public instruction.

Luna spoke about his plans for education in Idaho, and answered questions about an e-mail that has been circulating among educators.

Marilyn Howard, the outgoing state superintendent, sent the e-mail to school administrators Monday to describe changes under way at the State Department of Education. The changes are part of Luna's restructuring of the department and include the dismissal of about 20 staff members. Several other staff members resigned after learning about the dismissals.

Inside
Otter shakes up some key departments
See page C5

Pole Line
work may start July 1
See page C1

school administrators Monday to describe changes under way at the State Department of Education. The changes are part of Luna's restructuring of the department and include the dismissal of about 20 staff members. Several other staff members resigned after learning about the dismissals.

Please see **LUNA**, Page A3

Bush backs basic wage increase, with a catch

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush endorsed one of the Democrats' top priorities for the new Congress, a \$2.10-an-hour minimum wage increase — and on a faster timetable than they have proposed. But his support comes with a catch.

Bush said at a Wednesday news conference that any pay hike should be accompanied by tax and regulatory relief for small businesses, potentially a tough sell for Democrats, who are about to reassume control of the House and Senate.

"Minimum wage workers have waited almost 10 long years for an increase," responded Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, who has said that boosting the federal minimum wage will be his chief goal when he takes over as chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. "We need to pass a clean bill giving them the raise they deserve as quickly as possible."

The president brought up the issue unprovoked during the White House news conference that was dominated by Iraq but veered into domestic issues as well. Eager to show he heard the message of voters who stripped his party of majorities in both the House and Senate in the November elections, Bush said he'll work hard on what he called "an interesting new challenge" — trying to find common ground with Democrats who will lead Congress for the first time in his presidency.

Suspect's life seemed to unravel after arrest in October

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Adam Mower is charged in Twin Falls County with aggravated battery on a police officer, fleeing a peace officer and armed robbery.

Until two months ago, the 24-year-old had never been charged with a violent crime.

Then in October, that clean record



Mower

began to unravel. He attempted to strangle his wife after she confessed to sleeping with his best friend. Still not seen as particularly harmful, a judge allowed Mower to resume living with his wife and their two children.

He pleaded guilty on Dec. 11, to attempted strangulation of his wife. Although he was facing up to 10 years, his wife convinced the judge to let the family reunite while they awaited a verdict.

On Monday, Mower was charged with misdemeanor driving under the influence.

He was spotted about 1:30 a.m. weaving north along Blue Lakes Boulevard North and twice nearly rear-ended a city police officer's vehicle, according to a probable cause affidavit.

At the jail, his Breathalyzer test showed nearly twice the legal alcohol limit for driving.

He posted \$10 on a \$500 bond and was released. His arraignment on that charge is scheduled for next week. The arraignment on the charges filed Wednesday has yet to be set.

Study says gut bacteria could be tied to weight gain

By Rob Stein
The Washington Post

The guts of obese people are teeming with a distinctive mix of bacteria that seems to make them prone to gaining weight. Mind exercises may help brain convey that in old age, could lead to new ways to fight the obesity epidemic, researchers reported today. Obese people have more gut microbes that are especially efficient at extracting calories from food, the researchers said, and the proportion of these super-digesting organisms ebbs as they lose weight. Moreover, when the scientists transplanted gut bugs from obese mice into lean mice, the thin animals start getting fat, providing more support for the provocative theory that the bacteria that populate the gut play an important role in regulating weight.

"There appears to be a link between obesity and the type of bugs in your gut," said Jeffrey Gordon of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, who led the series of experiments being published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature. "The difference in the structure of microbial ecology of our gut may set us up for susceptibility to obesity."

Gordon and his colleagues stressed that more work is needed to explore the findings. And they cautioned against trying to manipulate "gut flora" with antibiotics or microbe-containing "probiotic" pills sold in health food stores. But if the findings are confirmed and better understood, they could lead to profound new insights into one of the world's biggest health problems, they said.

"In the future, we could potentially manipulate the structure and function of these microbial societies as a new approach toward preventing and treating obesity," Gordon said. The findings produced enthusiasm and caution from other researchers.

Please see **WEIGHT**, Page A3

Index

Business and Service directory	E8
Classifieds	E1-10
Covers	C6-7
Environment	E7
First Alert	E8
Magazine	C6
Magic Valley	C1
News	D1
Times-News	C4
Travel	C4
Upfront	A4, C2
Children	A6-7
Education	B4
Weather	B4
World	C5
Worldwide	C8, D4



TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS		
Today	Tonight	Friday
Mostly cloudy	Chance of light snow developing	Chance for light snow
High 35	Low 29	33/16

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 30s.
Tonight: Chance of light snow developing. Lows near 20.
Tomorrow: Scattered snow showers. Highs mid 30s.

Complete weather report: See page B4

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

"A Christmas Carol: the Musical," presented by the Laughing Stock Theater, 7 p.m., nexStage Theater, Ketchum, \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, 726-4TKS.

William Inga's "Bus Stop," presented by the Company of Fools, 7 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, \$25 reserved seats and \$18 for senior citizens and students, (208) 578-9122.

EXHIBITS

"The Circle" by Amber Scoon, former College of Southern Idaho art instructor, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett 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, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Main Street Plaza, 132 Main Ave. S., downtown Twin Falls, no cost, 734-ARTS.

FAMILY

The Annual Lucerne Orange Christmas party and program, 7 p.m., Lucerne Grange Hall, bring a gift for your child and finger foods, 543-5017.

Anderson Camp's annual drive-through Christmas Nativity Pageant, featuring full-sized figures painted by local artist Gary Stone amid trees lighted with over 20,000 Christmas lights, 6 to 9 p.m., Anderson Camp, located at exit 182 off Interstate 84 in Eden, free admission (donation box), 825-9800.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4066.

Milwokka County Planning and Zoning Commission, 4 p.m., courthouse, 715 G St., Rupert, 438-7180.

Bellevue Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 115 E. Poplar, 788-2128.

Kimberly School Board, 7 p.m., district office, 141 Center St. W., 423-4151.

Wendell City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 300 Main St., 536-5161.

HEALTH

Twin Falls Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program for senior citizens, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St., Twin Falls, free for all senior citizens, 737-5946.

Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977. (Holiday break; classes resume Jan. 2.)

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 to sbrowne@magicvalley.com; or fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

THREE-DAY PLANNER

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Dec. 22, 23, 24 William Inga's "Bus Stop," presented by the Company of Fools, 8 p.m., (22, 23) 3 p.m., (24) Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, \$25 reserved seats and \$18 for senior citizens and students, (208) 578-9122.

Dec. 22, 23 "A Christmas Carol: the Musical," presented by the Laughing Stock Theater, 7 p.m., (22) and 2 p.m., (23, 24), nexStage Theater, Ketchum, \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, 726-4TKS.

Dec. 22 "A Magic Valley Christmas Celebration," with the Christmas musical production "A Trip for Momma," sponsored by the Kimberly Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints, 7 p.m., Roper Auditorium, Twin Falls, no cost, 316-2307.

Dec. 23 Sounds of the Season, a musical variety evening to benefit the Wilson Theatre and music scholarships, 7:30 p.m., Wilson Theatre in Rupert, \$8 for students and \$5 for children, 431-8130.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Dec. 22 Raffle drawing for a Sony 20 Gig Playstation III, sponsored by Jerome Rotary Club to provide for the Christmas basket project, noon, Jerome County Annex, \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20, 324-7000.

Dec. 23 I.C.A.N. (Idaho Community Action Network) gas" fundraiser, with chili feed, bingo, music and Santa Claus fun to pay for fuel for food baskets deliveries, 2 to 6 p.m., Hazarene Church, 1231 Washington St. N., Twin Falls, \$5 donation, 404-6501.

EXHIBITS

Dec. 22, 23 "The Circle" by Amber Scoon, former College of Southern Idaho art instructor, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., (22) and 1 to 9 p.m., (23), Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center for Arts and Science, C.S.I. campus, Twin Falls, no cost, 732-6655.

Dec. 22, 23 "Discontinuity," contemporary abstract paintings of local artist Ben Browne in the Galleria Pequena and new works by member-artists in the Full Moon Gallery, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., (22) and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., (23), Main Street Plaza, 132 Main Ave. S., downtown Twin Falls, no cost, 734-ARTS.

MUSEUMS

Dec. 22 Faulkner Planetarium: "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m. and "Stargazing" at 8:15 p.m., Herrett 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.

Dec. 23 Faulkner Planetarium: "Far Out Space Places" at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m. and "Stargazing" at 8:15 p.m., Herrett 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.

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

MAGIC VALLEY



Speedstacking takes T.F. by storm

TWIN FALLS — Most kids are told not to play with their dinnerware at the table, but these kids are encouraged to do it — and to do it fast. It's called speedstacking.

SEE PAGE C1

Luna meets with local school officials

TWIN FALLS — Change is on the horizon. Educators from south-central Idaho gathered Wednesday morning at the College of Southern Idaho to meet with Tom Luna, the newly elected state superintendent of public instruction.

SEE PAGE A1

GARVEE project could start in July

TWIN FALLS — After months of speculation, construction for the nearly \$50 million second phase on Pole Line Road could begin in July and finish by 2009, a local legislator said Wednesday.

SEE PAGE C1



'Apocalypto' marred by too much violence, Rupert consultant said

A Rupert anthropologist who served as a consultant on "Apocalypto," Mel Gibson's new movie about the decline of the Mayan empire in Mexico, says the film overlooks many of the Mayan's cultural and scientific achievements and portrays the people as "bloodthirsty savages."

SEE TNT

OBITUARIES

Merlin Phillip Roberts, 65
 Marjorie Elizabeth Jackson, 84
 Dale Bower, 82
 Dorothy Goldma Lancaster Stroud, 90
 Terry Kenworthy Pierce, 68

See page C2

IDAHO/WEST



Snowstorm socks Colorado

DENVER — A powerful blizzard virtually shut down Denver and Colorado's main population corridor on Wednesday, stranding thousands of holiday travelers at the airport and on highways and emptying businesses, schools and government offices.

Gov. Bill Owens declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard in case it was needed to rescue stranded motorists.

By mid-afternoon, Denver, Colorado Springs and other cities along the Rocky Mountain Front Range were becoming ghost towns, with cars and SUVs slipping, sliding and crawling through thick snow toward the suburbs.

SEE PAGE C5

Otter not bringing back Killeen, Tibbs

BOISE — Idaho Gov.-elect C.L. "Butch" Otter was shaking up more state agencies Wednesday, when he forced prison director Vaughn Killeen to step down.

Other also acknowledged he's considering candidates including former state Rep. Debbie Field, R-Boise, to replace outgoing state drug czar Jim Tibbs.

Idaho State Police Director Dan Charboneau is also quitting, saying in a letter to Otter that he's turning down a chance to be reappointed.

Killeen and Tibbs were appointed by Gov. Jim Risch after he took office in June, stepping in for former Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, now U.S. Interior secretary.

SEE PAGE C5

Bonniers Ferry logging plan disputed

BONNIERS FERRY — Environmental groups in northern Idaho say they will fight a U.S. Forest Service plan to log 2,200 acres in Bonniers Ferry's municipal watershed.

About 3,500 acres of the watershed in Myrtle Creek Valley burned in 2003, and now community leaders and the Forest Service want to thin the forest to prevent another fire. The plan won't be officially released for another month.

But environmental groups say slash piles left by a logging project helped fuel the fire three years ago, and that the new logging project is much more than just thinning.

SEE PAGE C5

NATION/WORLD



Bush not opposed to adding Iraq troops

WASHINGTON — Acknowledging deepening frustration over Iraq President Bush said Wednesday he is considering an increase in American forces and warned that next year will bring more painful U.S. losses. New Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in Baghdad that a troop surge was an obvious option.

Bush was unusually candid at a year-end news conference about U.S. setbacks and dashed hopes in the war, which has claimed the lives of more than 2,950 U.S. military members.

SEE PAGE A4

Nate Crane (112 pounds), Matt Greenfield (119), Jake Hruza (130), Josh Clapper (145), Colby Anderson (152), Case Hruza (160) and Josh Ramirez (285) all put up six points apiece for the Spartans.

SPORTS



Minico grapplers upend Tigers

JEROME — As usual, Minico didn't stray too far from script. The Spartans wrestling squad dominated the Jerome Tigers with a 52-15 team victory through the final of seven pins on Wednesday.

Nate Crane (112 pounds), Matt Greenfield (119), Jake Hruza (130), Josh Clapper (145), Colby Anderson (152), Case Hruza (160) and Josh Ramirez (285) all put up six points apiece for the Spartans.

SEE PAGE B1

Idaho hires WSU's Akey to replace Erickson

MOSCOW — After a nationwide search to replace Dennis Erickson, the University of Idaho had only to look eight miles west to find Robb Akey, who was hired Wednesday as the Vandals' third head football coach in as many years.

Akey, Washington State University's exuberant defensive coordinator, was introduced as Erickson's successor during a campus news conference in Moscow, Idaho.

"This has been 19 years of busting my tail to take over my own program and I couldn't have asked for a better program," Akey said. "About a year ago, I saw a great spark get lit here. I want to bring that passion back to Vandal football and bring Vandal pride back in here."

SEE PAGE B1

BYU, Oregon eager to play bowl game

LAS VEGAS — Brigham Young and Oregon were so eager to play again for the first time in nearly a month that the No. 19 Cougars and Ducks got in a little chest bumping early.

After a three days of pregame activities, both teams are clearly ready for Thursday night's Las Vegas Bowl.

"It's been a while since we've played. We want to get out there," BYU linebacker Cameron Jensen said Wednesday.

SEE PAGE B4

ON MAGICVALLEY.COM

TROOPER SHOOTING

See video on Wednesday's state trooper shooting near Twin Falls at www.magicvalley.com.

STREAMING VIDEO

IDAHO LOTTERY

Power Play # 5	PP# 34
Wednesday, Dec. 20	0 24 14 1 34
Wildcard	Wednesday, Dec. 20
3 6 10 23 30	
MILD CARD: Ace of Hearts	
Dec. 20 5 3 0	
Dec. 19 9 2 8	
Dec. 18 7 3 6	

PUBLISHER

Editor	735-3145
Editor-in-Chief	735-3145
Business Manager	735-3145
Advertising Director	735-3145
Advertising Sales	735-3145
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Customer Service	735-3145
Classified Manager	735-3145

Times-News

Online	735-3007
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Customer service	735-3007
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Classifieds	735-3145
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MAIL INFORMATION

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Employers' elder-care efforts help workers

By Moly Sehra
Los Angeles Times

Patricia and Pat Guadagno were terrified about the prospect of his ailing father going home.

The 65-year-old widower had spent weeks in a hospital rehabilitation unit after breaking his hip in a fall. Mostly confined to a wheelchair, he seemed weak and confused to his family. Yet he was adamant he would be fine in his own apartment.

For help, Patricia turned to her employer, Prudential Financial Inc. The company helped cover the cost of a geriatric social worker who visited the man, evaluated his needs and helped persuade him to move to an assisted-care facility. "She moved mountains," Patricia, a nurse at a Prudential financial office in Pennsylvania, said of the case worker. "It really made the situation so much easier."

Prudential Financial is one of a small but growing number of employers starting to provide elder-care benefits for employees.

Recognizing the mounting burden of caring for aging parents, companies including NBC Universal, Unilever USA and McGraw-Hill Cos. offer services that include understanding the

"Not everyone has children, but everyone has a parent."

— Alexandra McCauley, human resources vice president at NBC Universal in New York

cost of emergency caregivers and counseling employees with nursing-home finders or physicians who specialize in older patients.

Some employers are allowing workers to include their elderly parents in health insurance coverage. Some provide counseling, group support sessions, more flexible work schedules and even help with errands and home repairs.

Marc Solomon said his bosses helped ease his elder-care worries by providing a room where he and co-workers meet monthly over lunch, to talk about the stresses of caring for parents. A software administrator for Toyota Motor Sales USA in Torrance, Calif., Solomon, 60, often came in early and left late to keep up with his duties while overseeing the care of his ailing father, who suffered from dementia. He died in 2005.

But the balancing act took a toll. "You don't at first notice the stress you're under," he recalled. "But every time the phone rings, you think it's the call when they'll tell you he's dead."

Sometimes you're hoping that's the call you get because you want to get back to the life you had."

The elder support group is one of three that Toyota makes available to employees. The company covers the cost of an outside facility.

"Not everyone has children, but everyone has a parent," said Alexandra McCauley, a human resources vice president at NBC Universal in New York.

Of course, adult children always have cared for ill family members. But a confluence of demographic trends has turned that responsibility into a major worry.

Most of the adult sons and daughters who look after their parents are still working — 60 percent, according to one survey — and they plan to stay on the job longer than workers of previous generations.

Meanwhile, the number of Americans who are 65 and older is expected to double to 71 million by 2030. Nearly every baby boomers still living will be included in that pool. The popu-

lation of so-called super-seniors, those 85 and older, also is expected to nearly double by that time to 9.6 million.

Employee absences and turnover tied to elder care already cost American employers as much as \$33 billion a year, according to the study by MetLife, the research arm of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

At least six of 10 working caregivers found the work-parent pinch so consuming that they reduced their hours, took unpaid leave or made another change in their employment, the study showed.

Employers traditionally tried to deal with elder-care issues by offering group rates on long-term care insurance policies that paid for a nurse or housekeeper. The expansion into other elder-care services comes at a time when businesses are trimming or eliminating other benefits, such as health insurance.

But elder-care benefits cost relatively little compared with health coverage, for example. Employers generally provide some services at no cost, such as consultation with lawyers, and subsidize others, such as in-home nursing care. Employees might be required to foot co-payments, just as in conventional health insurance.

Shooting

Continued from page A1

"I know that the ISP is very tight with their officers, but I also know that in the coaching community we're pretty tight, too, and we are a little shaken up over the whole thing too," said Kirby Bright, the school's head football coach. "It's a good guy. He was a great teacher, which made him a great coach."

That is why the Twin Falls

resident is building a home in Kimberly for himself, his wife and his 2-year-old son.

"He's a Kimberly boy and he's got Bulldog blood and he wants to get back to Kimberly," Bright said. "His family is well-regarded in this town. It'll be everybody's just grieving right now and saying, 'a lot of prayers.'"

Reporter Cassidy Friedman can be reached at (208)735-3241 or by e-mail at cfridman@mgjvalley.com.

Luna

Continued from page A1

"This was unexpected, and a lot of people were taken very much by surprise when they learned about it," said Jennifer Oxley, the public information officer for the State Department of Education, who resigned last week. "A lot of people have been working here for decades, and this is tough for them to leave after being involved for so long."

However, most state agencies are undergoing staff changes following the November elections.

"He spoke about the memo and the changes he was making, and I think he did allocate some of those funds," said Wiley Dobbs, superintendent of the Twin Falls School District. "I think you have to understand that whoever it is that is coming into office, they will make those changes, and like any transition some people will stay and some people will go."

Besides administrative changes in the department, many local school districts were anxious to know what changes Luna might make that would affect their own districts — a feeling that most administrators shared after receiving Howard's memo.

Some administrators have expressed concern about the recent dismissal of department employees with whom they had been working closely on complicated issues for more than a decade.

One such issue is who should fund transportation for deaf and blind students to the

Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind in Gooding. The state says the ISDB should cover that, while others believe that the school districts should pay it.

"I don't know what will be recommended to the Legislature this year in terms of the funding of the ISDB," Howard wrote in the memo. "But the issue of transportation to that school or to other regional centers is of importance to every district."

Harvey Lyon, interim superintendent of the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, said the transportation issue had been a concern long before Luna was elected. He also said Luna will likely want to work with department staff before deciding on issues such as the transportation costs.

But that could be a problem because eight staff members, who work with the department's Special Population Services, which works closely with the ISDB, were either dismissed or they resigned.

Luna was not able to return phone calls from the *Times-News* due to prior appointments.

In a memo sent to the department's remaining staff members, Luna addressed additional changes that he will be making before January.

"Change is never easy, but we will now move forward over the next couple of weeks to announce some structural changes I will also be announcing the individuals I have appointed to my leadership team."

Watchdog group: Tax audits of largest corporations decline

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press writer.

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service is auditing a smaller percentage of the nation's largest corporations and spending less time on each audit, a private watchdog group reported Wednesday.

The conclusions were based on an analysis of IRS data released under the Freedom of Information Act to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, an organization based at Syracuse University that monitors federal spending

and enforcement activities.

The IRS responded that tax revenues from audits were going up and the decline in hours spent on each case was a result of more efficient operations.

TRAC noted that the IRS examined the returns of 35.3 percent of companies with assets of \$250 million or more in fiscal 2005, down from 44.1 percent in 2005 and compared to 34.4 percent in 2002.

It also said that hours per audit declined from 1,210 in 2002 to an estimated 950 in 2006.

The organization said that while these corporations filed only 0.2 percent of all corporate returns, they controlled 90 percent of corporate assets and received 87 percent of all corporate income.

The organization acknowledged that enforcement revenues were up, but said that could be attributed to "a real increase in the number of non-compliant taxpayers."

The IRS says that \$48.7 billion in enforcement revenue was collected in fiscal 2005, up from \$47.3 billion the previous year.

IRS spokesman Terry Lemons said the agency strongly disagreed with TRAC's conclusion that the biggest corporations were getting off easy.

"Large corporations are not getting easier treatment," he said. "They are hearing more often from us and getting bigger tax bills."

He said that, between 2002 and 2006, the recommended levy per return for audits of corporations with assets of \$250 million and up had gone from \$3.65 million to just under \$6 million.

Weight

Continued from page A1

Some praised the work for possibly offering a long-sought alternative explanation for the obesity epidemic. Perhaps some change, such as a food additive or antibiotic use, has caused a fundamental shift in gut flora, making it easier for many people to gain weight.

"This is very exciting," said Barbara Corkey, an obesity researcher at Boston University. "We don't know why the obesity epidemic is happening. People say it's because of gluttony and sloth. I think there must be something else. It's exciting to see some work being done on alternative explanations."

Others suspect that if gut microbes do play a role, it's probably relatively minor. "This is extremely interesting," said Hans-Rudolf Berthoud of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, La. "But lifestyle and the environment are still the major factors in the obesity epidemic."

On a broader level, the findings highlight the symbiotic relationship humans maintain with the trillions of microorganisms that populate our bodies. Gordon and others said.

"This strengthens the notion that the indigenous organisms that the human body normally has are intimately involved in our health," said David Belman of Stanford University. "The ways they are involved remain unclear, but this underscores the idea that it behooves us to figure it out."

Scientists have long known that the human body is crawling with germs, primarily bacteria, which cover the skin and inhabit every orifice. By some estimates only one out of every 10 cells in the human body is actually human. These organisms perform a host of functions, especially in the gut, where they help digest food.

"There's growing interest in the idea that humans are more than just human cells," said Martin Blaser of New York University. "These cells are not just passengers. They are part of the human metabolism."

organisms in weight regulation. Gordon's team first compared the gut flora of 12 obese people to lean subjects. The obese tended to have significantly greater proportion of one of the two main types of bacteria found in the gut, known as Firmicutes, than the other, known as Bacteroidetes.

Next, the researchers spent a year meticulously measuring the gut flora of obese volunteers as they tried to lose weight by eating low-calorie diets that restricted either their fat or carbohydrates. As they lost weight, the proportion of Firmicutes fell and the proportion of Bacteroidetes rose, the researchers found.

When the researchers conducted detailed molecular analyses of the two types of bacteria in the laboratory, they discovered the Firmicutes were much better at extracting calories from food.

Moreover, when the researchers examined the gut flora of obese laboratory mice they found a similar pattern in their balance of Firmicutes to Bacteroidetes. And when they transferred gut flora from obese mice to sterile mice devoid of gut flora, the recipient animals tended to gain weight, confirming that pattern was associated with weight gain.

"This attribute of being able to harvest and store more energy appeared to be transmissible," Gordon said. "For the first time, we see that there is a correlation between the microbial gut ecology and the obese state."

Among other things, the findings could help explain why it becomes harder and harder to lose weight as people get fat, Gordon said.

"That's part of the pathology of obesity. When you shift the amount of fat tissue, the amount of energy you can harvest becomes somewhat greater, and that's going to fuel the obese state," he said.

The researchers acknowledged that the difference in the number of calories extracted by the microbes is relatively small. But over time even a small differential could be significant, they said.

Many questions remain, however. It's unclear what determines the makeup of a person's gut flora — it might be the microbes they pick up from their mothers; it might be their exposure to antibiotics. It's also unclear how fat tissue and gut flora might communicate, and whether the change in gut bacteria causes or is a result of the weight loss.

Despite those and other questions, scientists said, the findings are sure to inspire more investigation.

"They open up a completely new hypothesis," said Randy Seeley, an obesity researcher at the University of Cincinnati who wrote a commentary accompanying the research. "There are a lot of hurdles here that we have to deal with in terms of our basic understanding. But it's fascinating."

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NATION

Bush open to increasing Iraq troops, but they must have clear mission

By Terence Hunt
Associated Press correspondent

WASHINGTON — Acknowledging deepening frustration over Iraq, President Bush said Wednesday he is considering an increase in American forces and warned that next year will bring more painful U.S. losses. New Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in Baghdad that a troop surge was an obvious option.

Bush was unusually candid at a year-end news conference about U.S. setbacks and dashed hopes in the war, which has claimed the lives of more than 2,950 U.S. military members.

He said "2006 was a difficult year for our troops and the Iraqi people. We began the year with optimism" but that faded as extremists fomented sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shiites.

"And over the course of the year they had success," the president acknowledged. "Their success hurt our efforts to help the Iraqis rebuild the country, it set back reconciliation, it kept Iraq's unity government and our coalition from establishing security and stability throughout the country."

Democrats are about to claim control of Congress and Americans are overwhelmingly unhappy about Bush's handling of the war, so the president is at a turning point as he searches for new approaches. Administration officials said Bush's remarks were intended to brace a war-weary nation for another tough year in Iraq. The latest cost of the war also came into focus as the Pentagon circulated a request for an additional \$99.7 billion to pay for the fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, if embraced by the House and approved by Congress, the proposal would boost this year's budget for those wars to about \$170 billion.

So far, four years of war in Iraq have cost about \$350 billion. On just his third day as secretary, Gates made an unannounced visit to Baghdad to review options with senior American commanders. He said no decisions have been made.

"We discussed the obvious things," Gates told reporters. "We discussed the possibility of a surge and the potential for what it might accomplish."

Gates said he was only beginning to determine how to



President Bush speaks during a news conference in the Indian Treaty Room of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, Wednesday.

reshape U.S. war policy. He also said he would confer with top Iraqi officials about what America's role should be in Iraq. Bush is awaiting Gates' recommendations before making a speech in January announcing changes in strategy and tactics.

The shift in policy is likely to be accompanied by a shuffle of top American generals in Iraq. Army Gen. John P. Abizaid, commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, has submitted plans to go ahead with a retirement that is months overdue.

And the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. George Casey, has indicated he may not stay much longer than the end of this year.

Abizaid and Casey have opposed sending more troops to Iraq, and their departures could make it easier for Bush to send more soldiers to the war. One option calls for sending five or more additional combat brigades — roughly 20,000 or more troops.

Apart from any increase in Iraq, Bush said the military's overall size should be

increased to relieve the heavy strain on U.S. troops, reversing the previous position of his administration during Donald Rumsfeld's Pentagon tenure. Bush also said a troop surge in Iraq would have to be for a specific mission.

His remarks appeared intended to address doubts voiced by prominent military officials who worry that sending more troops to Iraq would be ineffective and put more demands on an already stretched U.S. military.

"There's got to be a specific mission that can be accomplished with the addition of more troops before you know, I agree on that strategy," the president said.

The administration says many questions have to be answered about sending more troops: What would be their purpose, what would they do, how long would they stay and what is the Iraqi government more people in Iraq, particularly in Baghdad.

He said his original remark on Oct. 25, was made in the spirit that "I believe that we're going to win. I believe that — and, by the way, if I didn't think that, I wouldn't have our troops there."

going to require difficult choices and additional sacrifices, because the enemy is merciless and violent," the president said.

Bush was unwavering about U.S. goals for Iraq. "Victory in Iraq is achievable," he said. "It hadn't happened nearly as quickly as I hoped it would have ..."

"But I also don't believe most Americans want us just to get out now," the president said. "A lot of Americans understand the consequences of defeat. Retreat would embolden radicals. It would hurt the credibility of the United States."

Bush stepped back from his confident assertion two months ago that "absolutely, we're winning" in Iraq. Wednesday, he said, "We're not winning. We're not losing."

The president said he changed his formulation because "we're not succeeding nearly as fast as I wanted ... and that the conditions are tough in Iraq, particularly in Baghdad."

Pentagon wants to request \$99.7 billion more for Iraq, Afghan wars

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon wants the White House to seek an additional \$99.7 billion fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to information provided to The Associated Press.

The military's request, if embraced by President Bush and approved by Congress, would boost the budget for those wars to about \$170 billion.

Military planners assembled the proposal at a time when Bush is developing new strategies for Iraq, such as sending thousands of more U.S. troops there, although it was put together before the president said the troop surge was under consideration.

Overall, the war in Iraq has cost about \$350 billion. Combined with the conflict in Afghanistan and operations against terrorism elsewhere, the cost has

topped \$500 billion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

The additional funds, if approved, would push this year's cost of the war in Iraq to about \$150 billion over last year's record. In September, Congress approved an initial \$70 billion for the current budget year, which began Oct. 1.

A description of the Pentagon request was provided by a person familiar with the proposal who asked for anonymity because the person was not authorized to release the information.

The cost of the war has risen dramatically as the security situation has deteriorated and more equipment is destroyed or worn out in harsh conditions. The Army, which has borne the brunt of the fighting, would receive about half of the request, a reflection of the wear and tear that the war has had on soldiers and their equipment.

Sheriff calls off Mount Hood climber search

It now becomes a search for bodies of two missing men

By Sarah Skidmore
Associated Press writer

HOOD RIVER, Ore. — With yet another snowstorm barreling in, rescue teams gave up any hope of finding two missing climbers alive on wind-whipped Mount Hood and abandoned the search Wednesday after nine frustrating days.

"We've done everything we can at this point," said Sheriff Joe Wampler, choking back tears after returning from one last, fruitless flyover of the 11,239-foot peak.

As the weather permits, officials will now look for the bodies of Brian Hall and Jerry "Nikko" Cooke, he said.

Wampler said the men's families made the decision to end the search.

"It was pretty much their conclusion. The chance of survival is pretty nil. I don't think I can justify putting the men's families in a field with the hope of finding them alive," the sheriff said.

The men's families had no immediate comment.

Three climbers to all were reported missing in the snow on Mount Hood on Dec. 11. One of them, 46-year-old Dallas landscape architect Kelly James, was found dead in a snow cave on Saturday. Volunteers continued scouring the mountains for signs of James' climbing partners, Hall, a 37-year-old personal trainer from Dallas, and Cooke, a 36-year-old lawyer from New York

City. But climbing gear found on the peak suggested the two may have been swept to their deaths over a precipice or buried in an avalanche.

The sheriff's announcement ended a dramatic and heart-breaking search that began Dec. 11 on the rocky, snow-covered peak of Oregon's tallest mountain and included, at its height, scores of volunteers, sheriff's deputies and National Guardsmen on foot and in helicopters and a plane.

The three men had set out Dec. 8 on what was supposed to be a two-day climb to the peak and back down. On Dec. 10, however, James called his family via cell phone to say that the party was in trouble and that his two companions had gone downhill for help. Authorities suspect James suffered a dislocated shoulder, perhaps in a fall.

Brain exercises yield significant payoff, study shows

By Shankar Vedantam
The Washington Post

Ten sessions of exercises to boost reasoning skills, memory and mental processing, the study stated, helped to slow the decline in middle-aged and elderly people in the first defining study to show that honing intellectual skills can help the mind in the same way that physical exercise does and strengthens the body.

The researchers also showed that the benefits of the brain exercises extended well beyond the specific skills the older volunteers learned. Older adults who did the basic exercises followed by later booster sessions were three times faster than those who got only the initial sessions to orient themselves to activities of daily living, such as reacting to a road sign, looking up a number in a telephone book or checking the ingredients on a medicine bottle — abilities that often spell the difference between living independently and needing constant help.

Experts said the federally funded study is a call to action for anyone who has ever worried about developing Alzheimer's disease, dementia and similar disorders. Americans spend billions of dollars each year on efforts to keep physical well being, but there are no comparable efforts to keep people mentally agile and strong.

During the study, suggested there is a bigger payoff to mental exercise, because the brief training sessions seemed to confer enormous benefits as much as five years later. That would be the case, one went to the gym Monday through Friday for the first two weeks of the new year, did no exercise after that for five years, and still saw significant physical benefits in 2012.

The researchers divided the volunteers into four groups, including a control group that got no training. A second group were trained in reasoning skills — being asked to spot the pattern in a sequence of

letters "a, c, e, g," for example — every other letter of the alphabet. A third group was taught memory skills, which involved remembering word lists and using visualizations and associations as memory aids. A fourth group was given exercises to speed up mental processing — being asked to identify an object flashed briefly on a computer screen while fighting off distractions.

Each of the groups being trained had 10 sessions of between an hour and 75 minutes each, and each session grew progressively more challenging. Compared to the control group, those who got memory training did 75 percent better on memory tasks five years

later, those who got the reasoning training did 40 percent better on reasoning tasks, and those who got the speed training did a whopping 300 percent better than the control group.

Researchers noted that mental skills can sometimes

compensate for physical disabilities: Knowing how to figure out directions and find a new route on a map, for example, could allow someone to remain mobile even after their night vision deteriorates to the point where driving on certain roads becomes difficult.

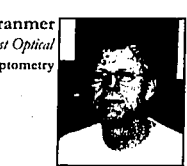
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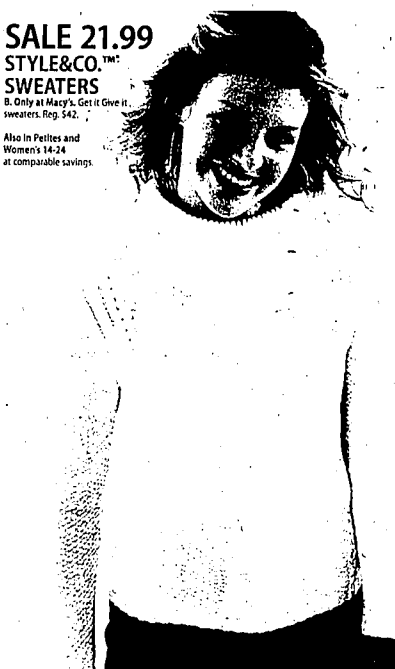
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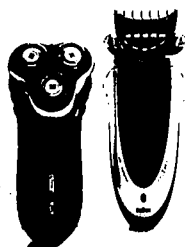
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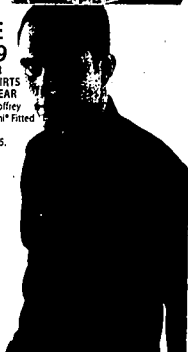
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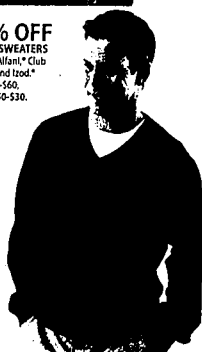
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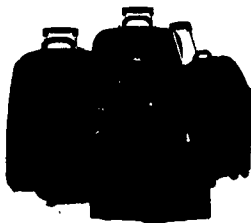
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EDITORIAL

Luna stands firm, then slips with his transition

Being elected as Idaho's Superintendent of Public Instruction may have been the easy part for Republican Tom Luna. The real battles are just beginning. Luna's transition into what has lacked a certain clarity in the past week. Some of those obstacles are to the expected given the hostility some critics have for the new school chief. But other pitfalls rest squarely at the feet of Luna.

Last week's first challenge came in an Associated Press story casting doubts about Luna's political appointment as an adviser in the U.S. Department of Education. Then came news of Luna's transition to state office, and his decision to release 20 Department of Education workers.

The first controversy shouldn't cause much of a sweat. It would be nutty for Luna to embellish his affiliation with the White House considering the many critics who already hit him for a lack of graduate degrees.

Luna reaffirmed his stint as director of the Rural Education Task Force when former deputy secretary of education Bill Hansen defended Luna's appointment. Hansen had been quoted as saying Luna was not appointed by President Bush.

"It was generated by the White House," Hansen said Monday of the Luna appointment. ("Education) and contrary (Rod) Paige and I got to know Tom in September 2002, and I were very interested and had a lot of work to do in implementing No Child Left Behind around the states. We were looking for people with his background who could help us on a number of fronts.

"Most appointments are initiated by the White House and not Secretary Paige. It's just a mixture," Hansen added. "But no matter where their starting point is, the secretary cannot bring on a political appointment without a White House approval."

"While Hansen responded swiftly and clearly to that issue, his blunt transition into the education department made his job tougher than it needed to be.

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

"It's going to announce a proposed organization structure, and then the positions will look somewhat different than they do now," said Wayne Hoffman, a spokesman for Luna's transition team. "He has handled this transition no different than any other state officer."

Obviously, Luna has the authority to make personnel changes in the department. All constitutional officers have the same right. For instance, Gov.-elect Butch Otter's transition team is front-loading the process with new directors in some of Boise's biggest agencies. Some state workers don't know who will be at the helm in January, or even if they'll be along for the ride.

But Luna doesn't have the political advantages that Otter has. Luna's absence of teaching experience and his few years in the public sector raise concerns for many in education. With some still doubting his credibility, Luna should have ushered in personnel changes by having his own team of appointments ready to go. That way he could have delivered a clearer message for how his reforms will unfold.

Luna campaigned as a candidate for change in educational policy, but said repeatedly he wouldn't "take a wrecking ball to the place." And while some disagreements will emerge on those he has let go, the superintendent has the right to make appointments that match his educational vision.

That vision should have been at the forefront of this transition. Having a spotlight on those Luna let go doesn't make his job easier coming out of the gate.

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LETTER

Myers sunk his own chances of confirmation

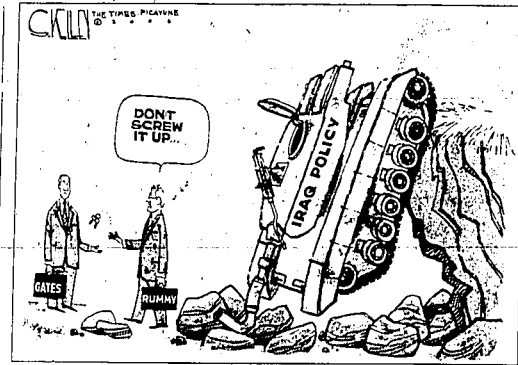
"Your Dec. 14 editorial ("Myers' winding road to 9th Circuit takes final turn") claims that "Senate Democrats gave raspberries to 9th Circuit Court of Appeals nominee William Myers and his writings on environmental case law. Dems used a judicial filibuster to prevent Myers from earning a full vote on the Senate floor."

Ultimately, however, Myers was blocked by bipartisan Senate action. In the "gang of 14" agreement that saved the filibuster, seven Republican and seven Democratic senators provided for confirmation of certain controversial judges but specifically exempted Myers. Widespread opposition

to Myers focused on unjustifiable legal positions he took as the Interior Department's top lawyer that were rejected by his own department and by federal and state courts.

Your editorial states that Myers "sunk his own chances of gaining a circuit court seat" after questions arose about his 2005 testimony regarding the notorious lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Actually, Myers sunk his chances a long time ago when, as interior solicitor, he favored his previous industry clients instead of enforcing laws that protect the environment, taxpayers and tribal rights.

GLENN SUGAMELI
Washington, D.C.
(Glenn Sugamele is senior legislative counsel for Earthjustice.)



Farewell, dense prince

James Baker ran after W. with a butterfly net for a while, but it is now clear that the Innates are still running the asylum.

The Defiant Ones came striding from the Pentagon on Friday, the troika of wayward warriors marching abreast in their dark suits and power ties. W. Rummy and Dick Cheney were so full of quick-draw confidence that they might have been sauntering down the main drag of Deadwood.

Far from being run out of town, the defense czar who rivals Robert McNamara for deeply incompetence has been on a victory lap in Baghdad, Mosul and Washington. Friday's tribute had full military honors, a color guard, a 19-gun salute, an Old Guard performance with marching musicians — including piccolo players — in Revolutionary War costumes, John Philip Sousa's music and the cluckheaded neoneons and ex-Rummy deputies who helped screw up the occupation, Paul Wolfowitz and Douglas Feith, cheering in the audience.

It was surreal: The septuagenarian who arrogantly dismissed initial advice to send more troops to secure Iraq, being praised as "the finest secretary of defense this nation has ever had" by his pal, the vice president, even as a desperate White House effort to raise the stakes by sending more troops in a grasping-at-straws effort to reverse the chaos caused by Rummy's heedless mistakes. Last imagine the send-off of a defense secretary would have gotten who hadn't sab-



MAUREEN DOWD

otaged the Army. Iraq, global security, our chief of state, Osama, our moral credibility, the deficit and American military competence.

Even Joyce Rumsfeld got a Distinguished Public Service Award ribbon placed around her neck. The grandiose ceremony featured everything but the gold-plated matching set of pistols Tommy Franks, another failed warrior, and his wife, Cathy, recently received from a weapons manufacturer. (His had four stars and diamonds; hers, rubies and their marriage date.)

W. never seems as alarmed about the devastation in Iraq as he should be. He told People magazine "I must tell you, I'm sleeping a lot better than people would assume," and he told Brit Hume that his presidency was "a joyful experience."

He slacked off on his slack effort to form a new Iraq plan. (Can't these guys ever order pizzas and pull some all-nighters?) Bush was busy this week hosting Christmas parties for a press corps he disdainfully convened a malaria conference at the National Geographic with Dr. Burke of "Grey's Anatomy" Isiah Washington; and presiding over a hero's departure for one defense secretary he actually dumped, not

because of incompetence but for political expediency.

The Rummy hoopla was a way for W. to signal his decision to shred the Baker-Franks study, after reportedly denouncing it as a "flaming" piece of excrement. Condi Rice signaled the same, telling The Washington Post that she did not want to negotiate with Syria and Iraq, as the Iraq Study Group had proposed, because "the compensation" might be too high.

The Democrats thought that when they won the election, they won the debate on the war and they had W. cornered. But the president is leaning toward voting over the Democrats, voters, Baker and his own command, and some of his own commanders.

The White House budget office is studying how much it will cost to finance The Surge, an infusion of 20,000 or more troops into Baghdad to make one last try at "victory." The policy would devolve from "We stand down as they stand up" to "We stand up more and maybe someday they will, too."

But W. would rather take a risk in Iraq than risk being a wimp. So he continues to wrap himself in muscular delusions, asserting that on Rummy's watch, "the United States military helped the Iraqi people establish a constitutional democracy at the heart of the Middle East, a watershed event in the story of freedom."

Maureen Dowd's e-mail is liberty@nytimes.com

LETTERS

Thieves can't take level of dedication from Yngst

Jan Yngst is a physical therapist who treats miracles with her therapy of love. She has dedicated her life to treating children. Jan works with the State's Infant and Toddler Program, assessing and treating children at high risk for developmental delays.

Jan works with state and local health care providers, coordinating care for these little ones in the service of the entire Magic Valley, driving to schools to provide therapy and to the homes of infants too fragile to leave.

White state funding for the Infant and Toddler Program is being cut. Jan advocates for the children who desperately need services. Jan is a constant in the lives of hundreds of children that have so many variables.

Jan organized the Kids Fun Run that took place during the Canyon Rip Fest. All of the proceeds went to the St. Luke's Magic Valley Foundation earmarked for children with disabilities. Jan is a gentle person with wisdom, a sense of fun and a contagious love for a kid at heart. Her work is dedicated to the children she loves, and her love is childlike. All of that takes a pretty grown up person.

Thieves recently raved Jan's business, costing her

thousands of dollars in supplies and pediatric equipment. These thieves violated and stole from Jan, her pediatric patients and the community. Jan Yngst is the type of professional who provides the quality of care often seen only in major metropolitan areas. The Magic Valley is very fortunate to have her.

This Christmas my children are emptying their piggybanks to give to Jan. They know that their money isn't much, but she has taught them that we can make a difference one person at a time.

CAROL GUNTER
Twin Falls

One-mile radius law must be reviewed in Idaho

In 2003, our Legislature enacted the law imposing the arbitrary "one-mile" limit on testimony from the public concerning potential impacts from large confined animal feeding operations.

In 2004, a legislative committee considered citizens' pleas to amend to law and remove the limit. The committee voted to kill the amendment, preventing the Idaho Legislature from even voting on the change.

Equal credit should be given to county officials who have had, since 2003, the option of expanding the "one-mile" limit, but who have decided not to.

If our representatives at the Legislature or at the local level want to limit testimony at public hearings concerning large CAFOs, it can be done without creating artificial, unfair limits on who can and who cannot testify.

One approach would be to borrow the "standing" test from the court system that judges have been using for many years. (Using that approach, county officials — just like judges — could accept testimony from citizens who have a genuine stake in the outcome of a decision while rejecting testimony from "outside interests" who cannot show a direct stake in the outcome of a decision.)

The "standing" test is flexible. It can be applied in cases where land use impacts are very limited or in cases where impacts are widespread or troublesome.

How the "one-mile" limit on testimony in large CAFO cases first came into our law really does not matter. As far as I know, the limit is only applied to large CAFO permit applications — no other land uses the "one-mile" treatment. What matters now is what we're going to do about it.

RICHARD CARLSON
Filler
(Editor's note: Richard Carlson is a member of the Idaho Rural Council.)

Editorial had glaring errors about feedlot

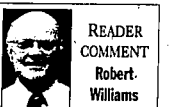
I represent Big Sky Farms Limited Partnership. Readers of the Times-News should be entitled to assume that your editorial board has researched the facts on which it bases its opinions carefully and verified them. Last week's Dec. 15 editorial, "Jerome County should nix dairy near Hunt Camp," is replete with glaring factual errors. Some of the more egregious ones are:

- The application is not for 18,555 animal units. It is for 12,100 animal units.

- The application is not for a dairy. It is for a heifer and calf-raising operation. No mature milking cows will be located or milked on the real property.

- The application was submitted by Big Sky Farms Limited Partnership, not Big Sky Farms, LLC, as claimed by the Times-News.

- Don McFarland, not Tom McFarland, is the general manager of Big Sky Farms Limited Partnership and signed the application.



READER COMMENT
Robert Williams

Your editorial board advocates rejection of the application without once referring to the Jerome County Ordinance that governs such matters. Chapter 13 of the Jerome County Zoning Ordinance deals with livestock confinement operations and contains requirements for applications and applications that must be met for the approval of applications. The real property owned by Big Sky Farms Limited Partnership is within the A-1 (Agriculture Zone) of Jerome County, where livestock confinement operations are permitted if they meet the standards of Chapter 13. The issue is not whether an LCO can be located within the A-1 zone. It is whether this application meets the requirements of Chapter 13.

A hearing on the application will be held before the Jerome County Board of Commissioners, who are charged to determine whether the application meets the standards of the ordinance. If the standards are met, the application will be approved. The evidence that is produced before the board of commissioners will be the basis for the decision.

The editorial opinion of the Times-News does not recognize this legal process that has long been in place in Jerome County regarding such applications. The Times-News espouses a view that is shared by critics of the local livestock and dairy industries, that the standards of the ordinances do not matter, and that the county commissioners, like Nero in his throne, should render a thumbs up or thumbs down based on their own particular view of what the law ought to be or whether the proposal meets prevailing popular opinion.

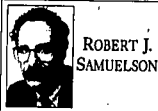
Reasonable people can sometimes disagree on the standards contained in ordinances and statutes, including the standards of the standards found in Chapter 13 of the Jerome County Zoning Ordinance. However, a hearing on an individual application is not the time to debate or change the ordinance.

The Times-News editorial board should be embarrassed by its amateurish determination of the accuracy of the facts used to support its opinion. It should be equally embarrassed by its lack of understanding of the process used to make decisions on LCO applications.

Robert E. Williams is an attorney with the law firm, Fredericksen, Williams, Mesery & Lohsbeck, LLP in Jerome, who represents Big Sky Farms Limited Partnership.

Hard future and a soft landing?

Consider it a good omen. In October, the U.S. trade deficit dropped unexpectedly to \$59.6 billion, about \$5.4 billion less than in September. Although the largest cause was lower oil prices, strong American exports — up 14 percent from a year earlier — also contributed significantly. And that's exactly what the economy needs in 2007: an export surge. It would ward off recession and slow today's dangerously large global trade imbalances. We need what economists call a "rebalancing" of our economy and the world's.



ROBERT J. SAMUELSON

With unemployment at 4.5 percent, the U.S. economy is hardly ailing. But three threats cloud the outlook. First, the real-estate bust. Speculation helped fuel the boom — and now it's payback time. In the past year, housing starts have dropped 27 percent and sales of new homes 25 percent. With buyers waiting to see how low prices go, inventories of unsold new homes have risen 14 percent. Some economists see recession. Falling home prices could weaken consumer confidence and spending. By year-end 2007, unemployment will hit 6.3 percent, predicts Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Second, turmoil in the auto industry. Unpopular models, steep gas prices and high labor costs have forced huge cutbacks at Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. Pressures could intensify. Vehicle sales will decrease to 16.1 million units in 2007 — the lowest since 1988 — forecasts Moody's Economy.com. That would be down from 16.5 million in 2006 and almost 17 million in 2005. Since June, manufacturing jobs have dropped by 95,000, about 90 percent of the loss relates to autos and home building (lumber, furniture). Family, and most important, skewed trade. American exports go on imports while other countries have become overly dependent on exports. In 2006, the United States will run a current account deficit of \$478 billion, estimates the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Meanwhile, China, Japan and Germany will record surpluses of \$211 billion, \$165 billion and \$117 billion. (The "current account" is an expanded trade balance.) These huge imbalances could destabilize the world economy through a currency crisis or trade slump. Although most economists think the Federal Reserve will engineer a "soft landing" — nudging inflation down while avoiding a recession — it may be a close call. The real ques-

tion is whether the world moves toward a sturdier pattern of economic growth: stronger exports for the United States; stronger consumer spending elsewhere. The present pattern looks increasingly shaky because it involves a perilous contradiction — other countries like selling to America, but they may choke on the resulting flood tide of dollars. Until now, foreigners have reinvested most dollars in the United States. In the year ending in September, they bought about \$1 trillion of U.S. stocks and government and corporate bonds, says David Wynn of Standard & Poor's. Private investors made 85 percent of those purchases, he says. But if the preference for dollar investments subsides, U.S. stock and bond markets could weaken. The dollar might drop sharply against other currencies. The U.S. economy could suffer from a loss of wealth and confidence; foreign economies could suffer from a loss of exports.

That's the danger of today's trade patterns. In time, these will change. Even without India and China, developing countries are growing at about 5 percent annually. They will buy more machinery, aircraft and advanced instruments — the heart of U.S. exports. With growing middle classes, these countries will also probably focus more on their own consumers in the future; dependence on exports to the United States will decline. In 2006, developing countries had a total of 352 million people in households with incomes over \$16,000, the World Bank estimates; by 2030, that's projected to be 4.1 billion.

But next year is more iffy. Japan and China still seem wedded to export-led growth. A brighter spot is Europe, where domestic growth is accelerating. From 2001 to 2005, annual growth in the euro zone (the 12 countries using the euro) averaged only 1.4 percent. Now the OECD forecasts 2.2 percent in 2007 and 2.6 percent in 2006 — and that might go higher.

In Germany, says Jean-Philippe Cotis, the OECD's chief economist, "people were scared to death about unemployment." If falling jobless rate quiets their fears, they might go ahead. That would be good news if it helps shrink those huge trade imbalances.

Robert Samuelson is a columnist for Newsweek.



Barbie, Jane Eyre and toy fatigue

RUTH MARCUS

My kids aren't getting any toys for the holidays. Don't feel bad for the little darlings. They've been buying in plenty of Hanukkah loot — digital cameras, Ugg boots, gift cards galore. But at 9 and 11, my daughters seem, much to my dismay, to have aged out of toys.

I tested this theory while I was driving them to school a few weeks ago. Me: "You guys aren't getting any toys for Hanukkah?" Julia, 9, spitting with indignation: "We're not! What do you mean, we're not getting any toys?"

Me: "Well, can you think of any toys you want?" Julia, after a long pause: "Not really." This no-toy story isn't for lack of trying. I have a cloyful of unplayed board games and unmade crafts. Macrame bracelet, anyone? And I'd chalk it up to bad parenting skills — what ever happened to that plan for family game night — except that it seems to be a broader societal phenomenon.

Broad enough. In fact, to have spawned its own acronym: KGOV — Kids Getting Older Younger. Toy sales have been down three years in a row, and 2006, no matter how many Elmos are tickled, may not be much better. The biggest culprit is the deflection of the tweens, the ever-expanding — downward — category of wannabe teenagers.

"Eight is the new 13," Bill Goodwin, a marketing consultant who specializes in children, wrote in the latest issue of Marketing Times. In my unscientific survey of my children's friends, the gift they most often said they wanted was a cellphone. A friend reports that her 9-year-old daughter refuses to use her flip-style cellphone — this is the kind that comes programmed with buttons for Mom and Dad — because it's too humiliatingly babyish.

There are a many reasons for this premature aging as there are headless Barbies crammed in the back of our playroom closet. The technology explosion: If toddlers are playing computer games, how can 10-year-olds be expected to content themselves building

with Legos or playing jacks? The ubiquity of cable television and the Internet, and with them the constant exposure to commercialism and branding and ever-more-sophisticated things to crave. And a major reason for this toy ennui is, I suspect, a surfeit of toys: Many kids these days simply have so much to play with that none of it feels especially enticing. How indulged are they? On Toy Wishies magazine's list of this year's dozen hottest toys, three cost more than \$200, including a \$300, three-foot-tall animatronic bush pony that is galloping off the shelves.

I've been reading "Jane Eyre" to Julia recently, and I was struck by this passage in which Jane, looking back on her 10-year-old self, describes her intense attachment to a battered doll. "Human beings must love something, and in the dearth of worthier objects of affection, I continued to find a pleasure in loving and cherishing a faded graven image, shabby as a miniature scarecrow. It puzzles me now to remember with what absurd sincerity I doted on this wooden toy, half fancying it alive and capable of sensation."

And yet, as much as kids today may feel peer pressure to put away childish things, they really do, at heart, love toys. Children of all ages — even children — want to play. We were all at my parents' house for Hanukkah the other night, with an assortment of cousins and friends ranging in age from 6 to 11. In the flurry of trendy branded presents (an iPod Nano for one, an Abercrombie sweater for another) the hit of the evening was a gloriously oversized Barbie head — the Barbie Primp and Polish Styling Head with hands for Manicure, to be exact — for my 6-year-old niece.

As the adults were having dessert, I caught back downstairs. The five tween-aged girls had allowed the 6-year-old

and were clustered around Brodibingnan Barbie, curling her hair and applying her makeup. A creepy, sexualized toy, perhaps — but a toy, nonetheless. "I want this for my birthday," said the oldest. She has since asked for anonymity so she can continue to attend middle school. She wasn't entirely joking about wanting it, though. Jane Eyre, I think, would have

understood perfectly. Ruth Marcus is a member of The Washington Post's editorial page staff.

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LETTER

Give state the authority to tighten Fish and Game

Why do the federal Fish and Game departments run our state? Because we let them. It's time to put a stop to this now. The people of Idaho need to stand up and be heard. When our former governor took the job of secretary of interior, Idaho would gain back control of our fish and game. He has not done one thing to better the problem we have with the wolf. If we are concerned Idahoans do not do something now, by the year 2009 our \$1.8 billion revenue from hunting in Idaho will be lost. It may already be too late. Please write your congressman and be heard. We are losing 17,000 elk each year to wolves that should've never been introduced here in the first place. These wolves breed like rabbits, that's why they have multiplied nearly four times faster

than originally thought. Please help, write your letters now!

Another issue that needs to be addressed is a law to be introduced for the closure of most of the roads and trails that are being used by all terrain vehicles, motorcycles and 4x4s on our public lands in Idaho. It's too bad a few bad apples spoil the whole barrel, but it happens.

We have a new influx of people in our state of Idaho who are used to going any place their ATV (or whatever else they are driving) can go or try to go. The ATV and off-road clubs need to enforce the laws to prevent the destruction of the country and the areas around the roads and trails. The roads and trails are there for a purpose but people are not staying on designated roads and trails. This is not the desert of California, this is Idaho. If you abuse it, you should lose it!
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INSIDE: The Utah Jazz had little problem handling the Atlanta Hawks Wednesday, B2



INSIDE: Local sports, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | College football, B4 | Weather, B4

Golden Eagles men, women in action tonight in Arizona

Road swing wraps up 2006 schedule

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

Conference schedules in Rangely, Colo., against Colorado Northwestern Community College on Friday, Jan. 5.

Men

The No. 9 CSI men's success against Phoenix College will hold down very strong limiting the damage an outstanding Bears team that nonetheless crashes the boards hard can do on in the rebounding battle. The G-1 Bears have accumulated a 3-1 Arizona Athletic Conference record thanks largely to the efforts of 6-foot-5 sophomore power forward Ira Brown. The multi-talented Brown has been a force in the ACCAC, averaging 20.1 points, 9.0 rebounds and 2.6 steals per game, and

Eagle Eyes

Today
Men: No. 9 CSI (10-1-1 SWAC) at Phoenix College (6-1, 3-1 ACCAC), 7 p.m.
Women: No. 20 CSI (9-2, 1-1 SWAC) at Glendale Community College (3-4, 2-2 ACCAC), 1 p.m.
On the horizon: The Golden Eagles are off until both teams travel to Rangely, Colo., to take on Colorado Northwestern Community College on Friday, Jan. 5 and Saturday, Jan. 6.
On the radio: All games will be broadcast on 1270 AM KTFI.

has used his bruising, 235-pound frame to work his way to a .487 field-goal percentage. While primarily a bruiser alongside forward Mychal Brown, who averages 9.6 rebounds per game, Brown has also displayed a nice perimeter touch, hitting over 61

percent of his 3-point attempts. The 10-1 Golden Eagles will look to work hard on the offensive glass and use the superior height of posts Kevin Ford, Brandon Stokes and Boerai Bai to dominate the boards the way they did early in the season.

"I think we need to get back on the glass on both ends," CSI head men's coach Barrett Peery said. "We won the rebounding war (against North Idaho), but we weren't as good as we should be at it. Then we need to tighten up our defense in the half court. Not take so many chances."
The Golden Eagles' perimeter defenders will also have to deal with 6-2 sophomore guard Ryan Holmes, who is tied with Brown for the team lead in scoring at 20.1 points per game. The Golden Eagles will have a definite size advantage over the Bears and will look to their wing players, including Juan Pantoja, Terry Fields and Brad

Garrett to be active in crashing the boards and trying to pick up those run-building second-chance points. The Golden Eagles and Bears are set to square off at 7 p.m.

Women

Simply put, this should be a win for the No. 20 CSI women. The Glendale Gauchos are 3-4 overall, with two of their losses coming in blowout fashion to the College of Eastern Utah and Central Arizona College. Sophomore point guard Niomi Nolic leads the Gauchos in scoring at 13.4 point-per-game clip, while 5-9 sophomore forward Jessica Brody's 8.0 rebounds per game is a team best. With the improved play of posts Anita Burdick and Eva Ivanova and the addition of 6-4 freshman Jennifer Kioa, the 9-2 Golden Eagles could very well find a Please see **GOLDEN EAGLES**, Page B2

Sooners say Boise is a worthy opponent

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — From almost the moment it became apparent Oklahoma's Fiesta Bowl opponent would be Boise State, the rumblings could be heard from some in the Sooner Nation.

Tradition-rich Oklahoma, the theory goes, has nothing to gain and everything to lose when the Big 12 Conference champion Sooners (11-2) take on undefeated Boise State of the Western Athletic Conference in the Jan. 1 game in Glendale, Ariz.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops and his players say the only problem with that theory is that it's completely flawed. To a man, the seventh-ranked Sooners say that while No. 9 Boise State (12-0) might be from a non-Bowl Championship Series conference, the Broncos rightfully earned a place in a BCS game.

"Boise State is not a bad team," third-team All-American linebacker Rufus Alexander said. "They're a good team. They've won games. They've shown they can beat good teams. If we take them lightly, they'll show that they can beat us, so we've got to go out there and fight."

Added Stoops: "I'll promise you as a coach, our players and coaches, we've got great respect for Boise. You watch them on tape, they're a very good football team in everything they do. Very disciplined. Play hard, play smart of themselves. They've got a lot of ability."

Oklahoma's schedule this season included seven bowl-bound opponents and marquee college football names like Oregon, Texas, Texas A&M and Nebraska, while

Boise State hasn't played a ranked team. The biggest names on the Broncos' schedule were Oregon State, Hawaii (which eventually did crack the top 25), Utah and Fresno State.

But Stoops said the focus shouldn't be on the teams Boise State has, or hasn't, played. It should be on the Broncos' level of talent, which he said is outstanding.

"I was talking to someone ... who's a close friend of mine who was visiting with pro scouts," Stoops said. "(Boise State) had pro scouts in there, watching them just a week or two ago, and they were watching 10 different

ent players that they're evaluating for this year's draft. "The media doesn't sit and study 12 football games and what they do. When you watch the discipline, how hard they've played, the talent that's there and the way they play, it's easy to respect them. And we do."

There's a brief history of non-BCS conference schools in BCS games. Utah of the Mountain West Conference capped an undefeated 2004 season with a 35-7 thumping of Big East Conference champion Pittsburgh in the 2005 Fiesta Bowl.

"If we go in taking these guys lightly, we'll get run out of the building," Oklahoma quarterback Play Thornton said. "We have to go in with our mind-set as if should be: We're playing against an undefeated team, a top-10 team in the country and we'll be in a BCS bowl game on national television."

"We don't want to go out there and embarrass ourselves or put ourselves in a situation where we don't respect them and then we come up short."



Minico wrestler Landon Barnes (140 pounds) attempts to flip Jerome grappler Austin Peterson at the Jerome High School gym on Wednesday. Barnes won a 10-5 decision over Peterson.

Spartans spend Tigers

By Brad Gale
Times-News writer

JEROME — As usual, Minico didn't stray too far from script. The Spartans wrestling squad dominated the Jerome Tigers with a 52-15 team victory through the aid of seven pins on Wednesday.

Nate Crane (112 pounds), Matt Greenfield (119), Jake Iruza (130), Josh Chapter (145), Colby Anderson (152), Case Iruza (160) and Josh Ramirez (285) all put up six team points apiece for the Spartans.

Crane was up eight points and could have gone for the major decision against Keenan Allen, but decided to pin him instead during the third period. Allen was shut out in points, but Crane admitted that it wasn't as easy as the numbers show.

"He didn't give anything up. I had to work," the 7-0 Crane said. "I got his back

on the mat and settled in, but I had to fight for everything."

Another undefeated Minico standout, Anderson, decided on a new approach this week, and it worked to his advantage. The senior said he wanted to shoot more and he did just that against Jerome freshman Riley Argyle.

"It's something I've been working on this week. I hooked his arm, got him in a half-nelson and stuck him," said Anderson, who is now 4-0. Argyle was pinned at 3:14.

Chapter took the night's fastest pin over Cody McCoy in under 30 seconds.

On the flip side, James Swensen (215) claimed Jerome's lone pin of the night as he put away Brett Jones in 3:46. After one period, Jones was up by three points when Swensen took control.

"I took him down, but it was hard to get anything in," Swensen said. "He was good. I put him in a barbed wire and got him."

The victory puts Swensen at 7-3 for the season. He previously took second at the Bear-Cat Invitational.

Chris Kilroy failed to score a point in his technical fall loss to Jerome's 135-pounder Mike Cummins. The Jerome senior scored on two takedowns, a reversal and three near-falls before winning at the 4:46 mark.

The Tigers are off until traveling to Kimberly on Thursday, Jan. 4. They'll face the Bulldogs and the Gooding Senators in a tri-meet. Minico is off until the Buhl Invitational, held the weekend of Jan. 5-6.

- #### Results
- Minico 52, Jerome 15**
120 pounds - Andrew Lee, Minico, vs. Cory Carver, Jerome, 4:12 - Lee pinned Carver.
140 pounds - Landon Barnes, Minico, vs. Austin Peterson, Jerome, 2:19 - Barnes pinned Peterson.
160 pounds - Colby Anderson, Minico, vs. Riley Argyle, Jerome, 3:14 - Anderson pinned Argyle.
180 pounds - Matt Greenfield, Minico, vs. Brett Jones, Jerome, 3:46 - Greenfield pinned Jones.
215 pounds - James Swensen, Minico, vs. Mike Cummins, Jerome, 4:46 - Swensen pinned Cummins.
285 pounds - Josh Ramirez, Minico, vs. [Name], Jerome, 3:14 - Ramirez pinned [Name].
Unranked - Case Iruza, Minico, vs. [Name], Jerome, 3:14 - Iruza pinned [Name].
Unranked - Jake Iruza, Minico, vs. [Name], Jerome, 3:14 - Iruza pinned [Name].
Unranked - Nate Crane, Minico, vs. [Name], Jerome, 3:14 - Crane pinned [Name].

Idaho officially hires WSU's Akey to replace Erickson

By John K. Wiley
Associated Press writer

MOSCOW — After a national search to replace Dennis Erickson, the University of Idaho has only to look eight miles west to find Robb Akey, who was hired Wednesday as the Vandals' third head football coach in as many years.

Akey, Washington State University's exuberant defensive coordinator, was introduced as Erickson's successor during a campus news conference in Moscow, Idaho.

"This has been 19 years of busting my tail to take over my own program and I couldn't have asked for a better program," Akey said. "About a year ago, I saw a great spark get lit here. I want to bring that passion back to Vandal football and bring Vandal pride back in here."

Spear offered the job to Akey, 40, who is known as an energetic coach. He coached the Cougars' defensive standouts in nearby Pullman, Wash., have included Outland Trophy winner and All-America first team pick Ben Long as well as top players D.D. Aebolton, Isaac Brown and Mkgisto Bruce.

"It was very important for me to find the right guy for this job at the right time," Spear told the news conference. "You always want somebody who has great character. That's what makes great programs, and we found that."

Contract terms have been negotiated, pending approval from the Idaho state Board of Education, but university sports information director Becky Paul said they would not be made public until the board meets. Akey replaces Erickson, who left earlier this month to accept



Robb Akey gives a thumbs-up gesture after he was announced as the new head football coach at Idaho during Wednesday's news conference in Moscow. Akey will replace Dennis Erickson, Vandals sports information director Becky Paul said Wednesday.

the head coaching job at Arizona State after 10 months in Moscow. Erickson was hired at Idaho after being returned to Southern California as defensive coordi-

nator before the 2003 season, and his duties have included coaching the defensive line.

Akey, a Colorado native, was an assistant at Northern Arizona from 1995-98 and at Weber State, his alma mater, from 1998-94.

Idaho was 4-8 overall and 3-5 in the Western Athletic Conference under Erickson this past season. The Vandals were 11-47 the previous five seasons.

Akey said he planned to contact players — some of whom will be getting to know their fourth coach since signing — to let them know he'll be a permanent fixture.

"I'm going to show them in good faith that I care about them, and that we can help them become better players," Akey said.

"I hope it won't be very difficult at all. I think they're

snakebitten," he said. "I think they're bonding together. They'll bite right now. I think they need to know that they have someone they can trust."

Mike Walker, WSU's defensive line coach, told the Lewiston (Idaho) Tribune that Akey is a player's coach with boundless energy.

"All the players love him. Great recruiter. When he walks in the house, the house just lights up. The kids are going to love him," Walker said. "I'm sure he's going to take that energy into Idaho and turn those guys into a winner."

WSU head coach Bill Doha was visiting relatives in the Midwest, but issued a statement through sports information director Rod Commons. "We lost a very good coach and recruiter when Robb was named head coach at Idaho," Doha said. "We want to wish him the best of luck."

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

TEAM	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
New Jersey	114	47	22	10	1
Philadelphia	107	41	20	10	1
New York	107	33	23	11	1
Charlotte	107	33	23	11	1

TEAM	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
Atlanta	112	40	24	10	1
Washington	107	33	23	11	1
Orlando	107	33	23	11	1
Charlotte	107	33	23	11	1

TEAM	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
Indiana	112	40	24	10	1
Washington	107	33	23	11	1
Orlando	107	33	23	11	1
Charlotte	107	33	23	11	1

TEAM	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
Atlanta	112	40	24	10	1
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TEAM	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
Atlanta	112	40	24	10	1
Washington	107	33	23	11	1
Orlando	107	33	23	11	1
Charlotte	107	33	23	11	1

GAME PLAN

LOCAL
High school
Girls basketball
Monticello, 7:30 p.m.
Oakley at Littlehouse Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Jerome Middle School, 7:30 p.m.
Eagle at Wood River, 7:30 p.m.
Highland at Twin Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Men's basketball
CSI at Grande Cou, 7 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
2:30 p.m.
ESPNU - Tulsa vs. Oklahoma, at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
ESPNU - Pittsburgh vs. Oklahoma St., at Oklahoma City, 8:30 p.m.
ESPNU - Gonzaga vs. Duke, at New York, 8:15 p.m.
TNT - Detroit at Cleveland, 8:30 p.m.
TNT - Washington at Sacramento, 8:30 p.m.

NFL FOOTBALL
8 p.m.
ESPN - Los Vegas Bowl, BYU vs. Oregon
NFL - Minnesota at Green Bay

SKI REPORT
Kabo
Bogus Basin - Wed 12:00p
Sawtooth - Wednesday 27
32 base 42 of 52 trails, 6 of 7 lifts, 81% open, Mon-Fri: 10a-10p
Sawtooth - Wednesday 27
32 base 42 of 52 trails, 6 of 7 lifts, 81% open, Mon-Fri: 10a-10p
Sawtooth - Wednesday 27
32 base 42 of 52 trails, 6 of 7 lifts, 81% open, Mon-Fri: 10a-10p

TV SCHEDULE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
6 p.m.
ESPN - Los Vegas Bowl, BYU vs. Oregon

NFL FOOTBALL
8 p.m.
NFL - Minnesota at Green Bay

WRESTLING

WRESTLER	W	L	PTS
John Smith	12	3	45
Mike Johnson	10	5	38
David Brown	8	7	30
Chris White	6	9	24

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INSIDE:
Colorado
combats
big winter
storm; C5-

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THURSDAY
DECEMBER 21, 2006

INSIDE: Obituaries, C2 | Community news, C3 | Court records, C3 | Nation, C4 | Idaho, west, C5 | Comics, C6-7 | World, C8

Growing pains

Buhl looking at ways to pay for future growth

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — As Buhl looks back on the \$15 million wastewater and \$9 million water system bonds recently passed, the city has learned a big lesson: growth costs a lot of money.

During the Dec. 11 council meeting, City Engineer Scott Hybee explained that improving capacity or impact fees on future development could help offset infrastructure costs.

Even though new home development is slowing nationally, Hybee said he expects Buhl to continue growing.

"With the higher land value in Twin Falls, I think that Buhl will continue to draw people here," he said.

However, with every new residence or business that pops up, the community is impacted from every angle whether it be the extra demand on the wastewater system or a need for additional education facilities, police officers and books to check out at the library.

The money to cover such costs can come from two sources: existing users or new users.

"If we begin to charge the new people coming into town even part of what their impact is, we could put that money into a reserve account to help pay for it," Hybee said. "The next time an issue comes up like the bonds that just passed, it would be good to have some of the costs already covered."

The charging of such fees would be rushed because city officials are still learning what they can charge and where they can use the revenue, but the council agreed that implementing a fee may be a good idea.

"I support charging such fees," said Councilman Steve Highberger. "But we need to conduct a study on what the appropriate charge should be. However, I think that as a city we need to step on the gas."

Mayor Charles Sheridan thinks that the city needs to be careful in its fee planning.

"As a city we are not ready to charge such fees yet. We have a lot to learn before we charge anything," he said. "If the fees are too high, we could slow or reverse growth in Buhl and we don't want to do that."

Hybee told the council that Twin Falls is preparing a preliminary study and suggested learning from that before the city conducts its own.

In no way am I suggesting plagiarizing anything that Twin Falls does. I think it would be a good idea to see what comes of their study before we go any further with our own," he said.

Times-News correspondent Blair Koch can be reached by email at blairkoch@gmail.com or by calling 316-2607.

State rep: Second half of Pole Line could start in July

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — After months of speculation, construction for the nearly \$50 million second phase of Pole Line Road could begin in July and finish by 2009, a local legislator said Wednesday.

The five-mile bypass from Grandview Drive to the U.S. Highway 93 and U.S. Highway 30 interchange is waiting for

the Legislature to approve funding. Because of financial concerns work could start July 1, said Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls.

The project is one of 13 financed by federal Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle, or GARVEE, bonds, which are grants from the federal government's gas-tax funds. The bonds — financed with future federal highway funds that will be received by the state —

help decide whether to avoid inflation from rising construction costs or simply pay for projects immediately and incur debt.

GARVEE bonds have long been a source of debate and, after much deliberation, The Legislature in April approved the issue of the first \$200 million of approximately \$1.2 billion in bonds for six of the projects, all of which have fallen behind scheduled.

Smith, who has met several times recently with the Idaho Transportation Board, plans to introduce a bill to prevent the remaining projects — if financed — to fall behind schedule as well. His bill asks for more financial details.

"I want it to be transparent," Smith said. "I want to see the money. I want to see how it's going to be spent. I want to see how much debt there will be. We want to see things,

not just give us the money, we'll take care of you."

But while Smith said the second phase could start by the end of the fiscal year, the Idaho Transportation Department might disagree. Steven Tonks, the project manager for the second phase, said beginning construction by July 1 was a "possibility."

Please see **POLE LINE**, Page C3

Pyramid power



Austin Dobbs, left, and Darrell Falconburg, both 12 years old, practice stacking at Bickel Elementary School in Twin Falls.

Bickel Bobcats stack up against competition

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Most kids are told not to play with their dinnerware at the table, but these kids are encouraged to do it — and to do it fast.

It's called speedstacking, and it's the competitive sport of stacking cups into pyramids in the shortest amount of time. And a group of students from Bickel Elementary School are preparing to be the first speedstacking team from Magic Valley to compete in the World Sport Stacking Championships — and only

the second from Idaho.

But the sport — yes, it's an actual sport that is sanctioned by the World Sport Stacking Association — is something you have to see to believe.

Students as young as 7 years old can build and break down a pyramid of cups in less than five seconds. Their hands move so fast that they learn how to do it by touch rather than by sight.

"The toughest part is knowing how many cups to pull off the stack when you're in a hurry," said Brooklyn Johansen, a sixth-grader at

Help the Bobcats

If you would like to help send the Bickel Bobcat Stackers to the World Sport Stacking Championships in Denver, contact Eric Bauman at: baumaner@isd.k12.id.us
For more information about stacking, visit <http://www.worldsportstacking.org>.

Bickel Elementary. "So you have to know how to count with your hands."

Eric Bauman, a physical education teacher at Bickel and Oregon Trail elementary, said that it is only one of the benefits students get from the sport.

Please see **STACKING**, Page C3



Four chosen for pool advisory board

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Four people have been chosen to serve on the city's newly created five-member pool advisory board, city officials said Tuesday.

Robert Blastock, Lesley Hollister, Richard Katusak and Will Kezele, all of Twin Falls, will be recommended to serve on the board, which will advise the council and field residents' concerns regarding the city pool, which is managed by the YMCA. Twin Falls Management Assistant Greichen Scott said.

The city received eight applications and conducted interviews last week.

Two applicants — Tom Ashley and Joy Crist — were not interviewed because they do not live within the city limits; one applicant, Brenda Larsen, has been a member with the YMCA for too long, Scott said; and Cindy Blastock was not eligible because she is married to Robert Blastock and just one family member is permitted.

"We just felt the four we had offered really good balance and maybe one other person would be good," Twin Falls Mayor Lance Clow said. "We just wanted to make sure we have a good balance. It'd be great if we could get someone without the relationship with the Y or any programs in the past, but I just

Pool advice

The city of Twin Falls is accepting applications for a fifth spot on the Pool Advisory Commission, which will advise the Twin Falls City Council on pool-related issues and field complaints from residents. Please direct a sense of interest to Mayor Lance Clow, Box 1907, Twin Falls, ID 83303-6077. For more information, call 735-7228.

don't know if that's possible."

Katusak has three children on the Marlins swim team; Hollister's two children swam competitively in the past; Blastock's daughter, Amanda, swam for both the Marlins and the high school team before graduating several years ago; Kezele's five children swim on a YMCA summer team separate from the Marlins and two also swim on the high school team.

In November, the council approved creation of the board, which will meet at least six times a year. The city will continue to field applications for the fifth position.

Reporter Jared S. Hopkins can be reached at (208) 735-3204 or jhopkins@magicvalley.com

Magic Mountain opens today

Times-News

HANSEN — All ski resorts in southern Idaho are now open.

Magic Mountain, south of Twin Falls in the Sawtooth National Forest, and Soldier Mountain in Fairfield are both opening today.

Pomerelle in Albion opened Nov. 17 and Sun Valley opened Thanksgiving Day.

Recent precipitation and the completion of upgrades to the main chairlift prompted Magic Mountain's opening.

"We just wanted to make sure everything was perfect," said co-owner Gary Miller.

"We've got a better lift now that can get us to the top of the hill faster. And then we've got new rails for snowboarders and new boxes and platforms."

The ski area, under new local management, will remain open every day — except Christmas — through Jan. 7.

Then it will return to normal hours, which are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

Magic Mountain is 28 miles south of Hansen and Rock Creek Road. From Hansen, head south on 3800 E.

Brothers Terry and Gary Miller, both of Twin Falls, bought the historic ski area late last year.

Lift tickets for adults are \$25 per day. Youth tickets are \$17 and kids under 6 ski for free.

For information on ticket prices and lessons, visit <http://www.magicmountainresort.com> or call 736-SNOW.

SANTA'S RHYME TIME



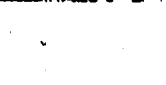
Three-year-old Garrett Thomas approaches Santa Claus for a hug Wednesday morning after Rhyme Time at the Twin Falls Public Library.

Snowpack Levels

Station	% of Avg.	% of Season
Salmon Falls	86%	28%
Big Wood	83%	27%
Little Wood	60%	21%
Big Lost	70%	20%
Little Lost	78%	27%
Henry's Fork/Teton	81%	27%
Upper Snake Basin	81%	28%
Oshley	121%	36%
Salmon Falls	91%	29%

As of Dec. 20

* A combination of basin snowpack on this site with a 30% deficit.
** An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire region, with peaks in 1998.



Pole-Line

Continued from page C1
The \$20 million initial phase two miles between Blue Lakes Boulevard and Grandview Drive — was completed nearly a month ago.
Tonks said several right-of-way acquisitions remain and there are some utility-related issues needed for canals and gaslines. Canal companies prefer to work in winter when water is underused.
That's something if the legislature wants it. If they give the funding for it," Tonks said. "That is a possibility but I don't know if that would be the most appropriate way to start."

After a Tuesday meeting, Smith, who sits on the House Transportation and Defense Committee, said the state will receive about \$200 million yearly for the next five years and be capped at \$998 million. Smith's bill will require debt for the any of the 13 projects be capped at 20 percent. Currently, debt service for the six projects is limited to 20 percent this year and can grow as far as 30 percent beginning next fiscal year.

"We've got the transparency now," Smith said. "That's been my main complaint — that they didn't know what they

were doing and they were flying by the seat of their pants up until about six months."

Smith, who earlier clashed with the ITB over the GARVEE issue, said the ITB took issue with appropriating the projects separately. The projects will be given more details and transparency, but the appropriations bill has to be a lump sum. "I charged very little of the bill," he said. "They are fine with it. They feel it ducks well with the program they have planned."

Smith's concern further stems from a potentially problematic financial situation. The

state sold the GARVEE bonds to Citicorp, which takes the money — currently \$200 million — on a contract. Citicorp pays the state 5.2 percent interest while the state pays 4.6 percent interest to the bondholders.

But it is illegal to borrow money at a low rate and put it out at a higher rate and keep the difference — essentially getting rich off short-term interest rates. As a result, the state needs to get the projects done as quickly as possible and 2009 is a good benchmark before jeopardizing the state's credit rating, Smith said.

Stacking

Continued from page C1
"This does a lot of different things for the kids, such as helping with hand and eye coordination, completing what they start and being competitive," he said. "And that is important for each one of them to not quit, and to finish what they start."

Students practice with weighted-metal cups to what they start and being competitive," he said. "And that is important for each one of them to not quit, and to finish what they start."

Although it takes several hours to learn how to count by touch and stack the cups so they won't topple, almost any student can learn to do with a little practice.

"I think that's what great about it," Bowman said. "This is also something new and different, and something I want to do is get kids away from common physical activities so they can try something new."

compete on the speedstacking team also participate in other sports. And some say the hand-eye coordination that they learn in speedstacking helps them in other sports. Eight of the Bicket Bicket Stacker will be heading to Denver next year to compete with other stackers from the United States. Although the students have the talent — they can all easily beat the qualifying time — they still have to raise the money to pay for travel expenses to the championships.

So how do the students feel about going head-to-head against the best in the nation? "I like to compete," said Sabina Tchernavoi, also a sixth-grader at Bicket. "I don't like to lose."

Times-News writer Joshua Palmer covers education. He can be reached at (208) 420-6526.

SERVICE NEWS

Buhl grad completes basic USAF training

BUHL — Air Force Airman Luke S. Alexander has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.



Alexander

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies performed drill and ceremony marches; and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exer-

cises, and special training in human relations.

He is the son of Steve and Kathleen Alexander of Buhl and a 2006 graduate of Buhl High School.

Filer soldier graduates from basic Army training

FILER — Army Reserve Pvt. Elizabeth M. Benge has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill

and ceremony, marching and more.

She is the daughter of Naomi Benge of Filer and a 2005 graduate of Filer High School.

Twin Falls soldier returns from Iraq

TWIN FALLS — U.S. Army Cpl. Jeremy R. Ajeti, Unit A-2/70FA F, returned from Iraq on Nov. 28. He was stationed at Camp Fallujah for 11 months.



Ajeti

He is now stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, and the end

of his time of service is Feb. 18, 2007.

Ajeti, a 2002 graduate of Twin Falls High School, is the son of Shawna and Mike Ajeti of Twin Falls, and the husband of Shellie Ajeti of Twin Falls.

T.F. soldier returns from Iraq, reenlists

TWIN FALLS — U.S. Army Cpl. Brent Fought, Unit A-2/70FA, returned from Iraq on Nov. 21.

He was stationed at Ar-Ramadi for 11 months.

He has reenlisted for four years and is stationed in Fort Hood, Texas.

Fought, a 2002 graduate of Twin Falls High School, is the son of Rick and Corine Fought of Twin Falls.

TWIN FALLS ARRAIGNMENTS

Alonso Mendez-Cruz, 22, Ogden, Utah; delivery of a controlled substance, trafficking in methamphetamine; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$10,000 bond. Richard D. Hodge, 21, Sun Valley, Nev.; resisting or obstructing an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for Jan. 9; \$10,000 bond; failure to appear; plea: guilty; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for Jan. 9; \$250,000 bond. Joe W. Martinez, 39, Twin Falls; driving under the influence, excessive; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$10,000 bond; driving without privileges; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for Jan. 9; \$500 bond. Monica D. Williams, 40, Kimberly; possession of a controlled substance; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$500 bond. Lorán R. Schwenson, 56, Jerome; felony driving under the influence;

three counts robbery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$250,000 bond. James R. John Jr., 19, Hazelton; three counts robbery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$250,000 bond. Richard W. Ross, 18, Twin Falls; attempted robbery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$50,000 bond. Keith E. Doane, 19, Twin Falls; two counts forgery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$25,000 bond. Christopher S. Beer, 20, Twin Falls; two counts forgery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$5,000 bond. Lauren J. Pelozo, 19, Gilbert, Ariz.; grand theft; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$25,000 bond. Keith E. Doane, 19, Twin Falls; crim-

inal conspiracy; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$25,000 bond. Ivan D. Baker, 18, Twin Falls; criminal conspiracy; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$25,000 bond. Timothy D. Wilder, 27, Twin Falls; criminal conspiracy; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for Dec. 29; \$25,000 bond.

JEROME COURTS

ARRAIGNMENTS Calvin Garland Solders, 47, leaving scene of an accident. Samantha M. Shipley, 27, battery. Darrell Kyle Basilar, 18, pett theft. Jennifer Gregory Eden, 23, two counts obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, forgery, etc. Brandy Sue Erickson, 28, obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, forgery, etc. Jennifer Ann Abbott, 33, no driver's license; no insurance. Carlos Amezcua-Corona, 35, DWOP; failure to use safety device. Christopher Barber, 37, dog at large. Pleaded guilty, fined \$122.50. Rex Nicholas Caswell, 19, DWOP; failure to use safety device. Rebecca Caudill, 44, vicious dog at large; second offense DUI. Tanker B. Chitney, 18, DUI. Rodney J. Christwood, 37, DWOP; no insurance, failure to give immediate notice of an accident. Oscar Ronoldi Cross, 24, DWOP. Pleaded guilty, fined \$237.50; driver's license suspended 180 days; 180 days jail time, 178 suspended credit; 1 year unsupervised probation. Heather N. Grob, 18, vicious dog at large; bail jumping. Henry William Hempesell, 66, second offense DUI. Angela M. Hunter, 21, DWOP. Rebecca Katherine Hurd, 21, under 21 DUI. Pleaded guilty, withheld judgment; fined \$418.50; driver's license suspended 180 days; 1 year unsupervised probation. Emerald B. James, 18, DWOP. Cameron Willis John, DWOP; speeding. Nicolas C. Ktuber, 27, DUI.

RECORDER'S OFFICE Dec. 11, marriage certificate: Robert Muri Pfland and Janeth Rabutin Pirogo. Marriage certificate: Rogelio Hernandez-Gomez and Elizabeth Rios-Villa. Dec. 12, marriage affidavit: Victor Manuel Sandoval-Rodriguez and Rebecca Fern Diaz. Dec. 13, marriage certificate: David Lawrence Dekker and Annalise Ringham.

Advertisement for Century Cinema 5 & Burley Theatre listing movies like Rocky Balboa, The Holiday, Apocalpyto, Charlottes Web, and Nativity Story.

BRIDGE RESULTS

Duplicate Bridge announces results

GOODING — Gooding Duplicate Bridge released its results for Dec. 15.

Section A: First, Nathan and Kay Higer; second, Riley Burton and Joe Blackford; third, Edna Pierson and Adelaide Gerard and fourth, Henry Robinson and Joyce Black.

Section B: First, Edna Pierson and Adelaide Gerard; second, Henry Robinson and Joyce Black; and third, Jodi Faulkner and Louise Smith. Duplicate bridge is played at 1 p.m. Fridays at the Gooding Senior Center, 308 Senior Ave. No game is scheduled for Friday.

For partnership information or directions, call Kathy Rooney at 934-9732.

BJ Bridge lists game results

RUPERT — The B J Duplicate Bridge Club announced weekly winners. Dec. 18, north/south: first, Shirley Tschannen and Edna Pierson; second, Vera Mai and Nanette Woodland; third, Barbara Carney and Eunice Merrigan; and fourth, Warren and Joan McEbin.

East/west: first, Sheila Hubsmith and Mildred Wolf; second, Dona Kunat and Peggy Payne; third, George and Nancy Gibson; and fourth, Marlene Temple and Pat Adams.

Games are held at 1 p.m. Tuesdays at the Lupert Elks, including Dec. 26. For partners and more information, call Steve Sams at 870 3997, or Vera Mai at 436-1163.

www.magicvalley.com

Advertisement for Magic Valley Bakery featuring images of Bread, Dough, and Green Stuff.

Advertisement for Magic Valley Mall.com with text: 'Call it what you like... we'll just call it cash.' and 'If you need extra cash this holiday season, we've got delivery routes that pay well.'

Large advertisement for magicvalleymall.com with text: 'magicvalleymall.com Mail Hours Store Numbers Sales & Events Santa Coupon'

NATION

'Blue Christmas' church services attract those who feel depressed, joyless

By Kristie Geisler
Associated Press writer

RICHMOND, Va. — There were no jolly Christmas carols at the Cannon Memorial Chapel. No brilliant poinsettias or festive branches of holly. No smiling faces or hearty wishes of happiness. Instead, melancholy piano music echoed through the hushed church. Dead branches were laid on a table covered in blue cloth, representing the "winter of our souls." Men and women held each other and cried.

"This is not a traditional Christmas service," chaplain Kate O'Dwyer-Randall said Tuesday, opening the nondenominational "Blue Christmas" service, which drew around 60 people.

Somber Blue Christmas services are being held at many churches around the country this year, in recognition of what psychologists have long known: that the contrived good cheer of the holiday season can actually make some people who are dealing with heartbreak feel worse. The Blue Christmas services confront feelings of grief and loss head-on.

"Holidays in our culture are often about families, and families are not always happy institutions," said O'Dwyer-Randall, who once worked as a grief counselor. "I think that particularly if you're facing a

"Holidays in our culture are often about families, and families are not always happy institutions. I think that particularly if you're facing a death or a divorce, the 'empty chair syndrome' becomes very real at this time of year."

— University of Richmond Associate Chaplain
Kate O'Dwyer-Randall

death or a divorce, the 'empty chair syndrome' becomes very real at this time of year." "This is the first Christmas in a long time that 77-year-old Charles Minter Jr. will have to celebrate without Barbara, whom he married 15 days after they met and stayed with for 57 years, four months and three days." In May, she succumbed to cancer.

"I hate the holidays. I see the lights and Christmas — I just get the chills," he said. "I hope this is going to help."

Sharon Van de Walle's husband of 40 years died suddenly earlier this month.

"This just is a preparation for Christmas, which is going to be rather difficult," she said tearfully.

"And it's a good place to have a cry and no one will mind," her friend, Anita McCabe, said as she embraced her.

The "Blue Christmas" concept serves "an important function for those who have lost loved ones," O'Dwyer-

Randall said. "The biggest sigh of relief for people who are grieving comes when you name it. When you say, 'Hey, you're probably having a hard year.' When you say the person's name," she said.

Christine Moll, a mental health counselor in Buffalo, N.Y., who has helped two churches develop holiday programs for depressed parishioners, said that all the holiday cheer can make people dealing with death, divorce or family dysfunction feel more out of place, and more miserable.

"All the glitz, the tinsel, and what have you, the decorations, conjure up that we all need to be having some sort of Norman Rockwell experience," she said.

The Rev. Emily Richards, pastor of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ridgefield, Conn., said there has been a huge response to her church's first Blue Christmas service.

"We have to have the per-



University of Richmond Associate Chaplain Kate O'Dwyer-Randall, left, greets worshippers as they arrive for a Blue Christmas service at the Canon Chapel on the campus of University of Richmond in Richmond, Va. Tuesday. Somber Blue Christmas services are being held at many churches around the country this year, in recognition of what psychologists have long known: that the contrived good cheer of the holiday season can actually make some people who are dealing with heartbreak feel worse.

fect Christmas and we have to be happy this time of year — when the reality is that we're not," she said. "This is an opportunity for people to come and be in the presence of God and acknowledge their grief and despair and loneliness and give it to God."

Some churches refer to such programs as "Longest Night"

and hold them on the shortest day — and therefore, the longest night — of the year. This year, that falls on Thursday.

"I find in my ministry that there's quite a bit of pastoral work to be done in December. It just seems that whatever griefs or pain people have increase in this time," said

Rev. Cynthia Maybeck, pastor of the Trinity Church of Northborough, Mass., which has been offering such services for more than a decade. "Everything on the commercials is 'Ho, ho, ho. Merry Christmas, such a season of tidings and great joy' — and there's a lot of people whose hearts are breaking."

Unlike decades ago, teens not driving rise in unwed mothers

Women in their 30s and 40s now fueling increases

By Dablene Gantoro and
Bonnie Miller Rubin
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Kimberly Dearth's biological clock was beginning to tick pretty loudly. So when she discovered she was pregnant, she had no problem putting diapers before a diamond ring.

"It was unplanned, but not unwelcome," said Dearth, 37, who is raising her 15-month-old daughter, Samantha, as a single mother. "Two different doctors told me that I would need fertility treatments. So when I found out that I was pregnant, I was shocked. I was frightened, but I was also very happy."

Dearth, medical assistant from Cedar Lake, Ind., is among a growing number of women over 35 — when fertility rates begin to steeply decline — to become single mothers.

The number of out-of-wedlock births has reached a record high in the U.S., with nearly 4 in 10 babies born last year to unmarried women, according to a recent report by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The increase was seen in all racial groups.

Unlike two decades ago, teenagers — who are having fewer babies — are not driving the trend. It is fueled, in part, by women in their 30s and 40s, many of whom had put off marriage and family for careers. And single mothers

"They are choosing to become single mothers... This is about making a personal choice."

— Jane Mattes, founder of Single Mothers by Choice

have fought to remove the stigma of raising children out of wedlock.

Married women also are having babies later, researchers said. More than a quarter of the 4.1 million babies born in 2005 were to women ages 30 to 54.

"This is continuing a trend that has been going on for quite a number of years," said Stephanie Ventura, a statistician with the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, speaking of unwed and married older mothers.

Fourteen years after actress Candice Bergen drew the ire of Vice President Dan Quayle and other conservatives when her TV character, Murphy Brown, got pregnant and decided to raise the baby alone, single women are helping redefine the typical American family.

Despite efforts by social conservatives to promote traditional marriages, the Ozzie and Harriet stereotypes of the 1950s — a mother who stays home with the children while the father works — have long vanished from most American households. With nearly half of marriages ending in divorce and more couples in non-traditional relationships such as cohabitation, married couples have become a minority, accounting for 49.7 percent of households, according to the U.S. Census.

With marriage no longer considered by many a prerequisite for having children, single mothers are integrating into the mainstream and get-

ting attention in the media, including celebrities like Angelina Jolie and photographer Annie Leibovitz.

Though some pregnancies are unexpected, many older women have gone to great lengths to give birth, such as turning to in-vitro fertilization using sperm banks or donor eggs, health officials said.

"Society's attitude has changed a little in that people understand that this is an option for single women who have not found the right man, or were divorced in their 30s, and really do want to be a mother," said Jane Mattes, 62, who founded the networking group Single Mothers by Choice.

According to Mattes, the Internet-driven group has grown from eight members in 1991 to 2,000. Most are college-educated women age 35 to 45 with established careers, debunking the negative stereotype of struggling young mothers on welfare.

"When you hear the term 'single mother,' most people think of teenagers or a divorced woman who was left with children, but most of these women aren't either," said Mattes. "They are choosing to become single mothers. This is about making a personal choice."

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Study: New blood tests are no better than old methods for predicting heart attacks

By Linda A. Johnson
Associated Press writer

New blood tests that doctors hoped would more accurately predict which patients are headed for a heart attack or stroke are no better than cholesterol levels, blood pressure and other conventional measurements, a study found.

Doctors in recent years had become excited over substances in the blood that appeared to be powerful new predictors of a heart attack. These substances included C-reactive protein, or CRP; homocysteine; and BNP, or B-type natriuretic peptide.

An increasing number of family doctors have been ordering expensive tests for these substances, and some patients have started requesting them, in hopes of identifying people who do not have the standard risk factors but are still likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke.

But the new research, by scientists at the highly regarded Framingham Heart Study, found that tests of CRP, BNP

and homocysteine and seven other substances are only a couple of percentage points better at predicting outcomes than the standard, commonsense risk factors that doctors have known for decades.

The difference in accuracy was considered so small as to be negligible.

"It's a little bit disappointing," said lead author Dr. Thomas J. Wang, a Harvard Medical School assistant professor. "I think our study and some other recent studies have begun to dampen that enthusiasm."

The study was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The Framingham researchers, who have been testing residents of the Boston suburb for several decades, used frozen blood samples taken from 3,209 healthy Framingham participants in

the mid-1990s, then checked to see who had major heart complications or died over the following decade.

The best predictors were tests for BNP, CRP, homocysteine and levels in the blood and albumin in the urine. Patients with the highest levels of BNP and albumin were nearly twice as likely as those with lowest levels to suffer a heart attack, stroke or heart failure; those with the highest levels of CRP, BNP and the three other substances were four times as likely to die during the decade.

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Killeen, Tibbs on way out as Otter reshapes administration

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Idaho Gov.-elect C.L. "Butch" Otter was shaking up more state agencies Wednesday when he forced prison director Vaughn Killeen to step down.

Otter also acknowledged he's considering candidates including former state Rep. Debbie Field, R-Boise, to replace outgoing state drug czar Jim Tibbs. Idaho State Police Director Dan Charbonneau is also quitting, saying in a letter to Otter that he's turning down a chance to be reappointed.

Killeen and Tibbs were appointed by Gov. Jim Iltis after he took office in June, stepping in for former Gov. Dick Kempthorne, now U.S. Interior secretary.

Otter has reappointed at least 12 agency heads from Iltis's interim administration, but he's using his authority as incoming governor to reshape

leadership at some key departments. Department of Administration Director Pam Ahrens quit earlier this week. Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi and Idaho Lottery Director Roger Simmons did the same last week. Otter also declined to reappoint Karl Dreher at the Department of Water Resources.



Otter

In a news release, Killeen said he was leaving Dec. 31 because Otter asked members of the Board of Correction to ask for his resignation. Though the board has final say, Idaho governors hold significant sway over who leads the prison system on their watch.

Killeen took the post July 14 after former prisons director Tom Beaulair resigned.

Beaulair had been criticized by Iltis for not doing enough to prevent the overcrowding that forced Idaho to send more than 450 inmates out of state, beginning last year.

"The Idaho Department of Correction will have well over 1,600 inmates out of state by 2011. If this growth is to be accommodated within the state, several incarceration facilities will be necessary costing tens of millions of dollars," Killeen said in the release. He noted that he had added 292 beds during his brief tenure.

In a final recommendation, Killeen urged lawmakers to set aside \$56.5 million for a secure 300-bed mental-health prison in 2007, and to review the need for new facilities and other issues.

The Board of Correction will conduct a national search for his replacement, Killeen said.

Otter spokesman Jon Hanian declined to comment

on Killeen's departure and said the governor-elect is focused now on finding the best person for the job.

Tibbs, meanwhile, said his reasons for exiting as drug czar are twofold.

"The former interim Boise police chief said he hadn't really expected to stay past Jan. 1 when Iltis assigned him the newly created post in July. The czar coordinates drug enforcement, treatment and education efforts among state agencies, local governments and Indian tribes.

Also, the time required for the job, which pays \$98,000 annually, has created conflicts with his role as a Boise City Council member.

"When I took the position, what was important for me was to help get this started," Tibbs told The Associated Press. "It's a desperately needed effort. I really didn't have any aspirations of continuing down the road."

Tibbs thought to be interested in replacing Boise's Democratic mayor, Dave Butler, declined to comment on his political aspirations.

During a 90-day review of Idaho's efforts to fight and treat drug abuse, Tibbs catalogued 133 different state-sponsored programs that use public money to fight drug abuse. More are needed, he said.

Tibbs said that report will provide a good foundation for the next drug czar — or czarina — to continue fighting abuse of illegal substances such as methamphetamine, the illegal stimulant identified by many Idaho counties as their top law-enforcement problem.

Otter said earlier this week that Field, who lost her Nov. 7 re-election bid to Democrat Brandon Durst, was a viable candidate to succeed Tibbs. Field's served as chairwoman of the House Judiciary Rules and Administration Committee. She also was

Otter's campaign manager and remains in charge of his schedule as he awaits his move into the governor's office on the Idaho Capitol's second floor.

"I will tell you, there are several good candidates," Otter said. "Debbie would certainly be one of them."

Field also mentioned as a replacement for Ahrens at Administration, said she'd interviewed with the transition team about a job but declined to say what it would be.

"If they make an announcement on what they'd like to do, I'll refer to them to me," she said.

Charbonneau said in the letter to Otter that he's ready to leave law enforcement after 36 years.

"I have made a personal decision to retire," he wrote. "Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for continuing my present position as Director of Idaho State Police."



A Christmas display in Boulder, Colo., captures the essence of a major snowstorm that blew across Colorado, Wednesday. The snow dumped more than a foot of snow in some places and forced the Denver airport to close, grounding hundreds of flights full of holiday travelers.

Blizzard buries Colorado

DENVER (AP) — A powerful blizzard virtually shut down Denver and Colorado's main population corridor on Wednesday, stranding thousands of holiday travelers at the airport and on highways and emptying businesses, schools and government offices.

Gov. Bill Owens declared a state of emergency and activated the National Guard in case it was needed to rescue stranded motorists.

By mid-afternoon, Denver, Colorado Springs and other cities along the Rocky Mountain Front Range were becoming ghost towns, with cars and SUVs slipping, sliding and crawling through thick snow toward the suburbs.

Major malls closed early, just five days before Christmas. Denver International Airport was closed to all flights at mid-afternoon. More than 1,000 flights were canceled through Thursday.

Long stretches of Interstates 70 and 25, the main east-west and north-south routes through the Mountain West, were closed.

More than a foot of snow fell in some places, with snow predicted to keep falling through Thursday morning. Winds cut visibility and whipped up drifts

of at least 3 feet on the plains.

"They pulled everyone off the highway," said Leon Medina, manager of a truck stop on Interstate 25 in Walsenburg, about 130 miles south of Denver.

"Cars are all around the building. Trucks are all over, trucks and cars pulled into ditches," he said.

United Airlines canceled more than 670 flights into and out of Denver International Airport on Wednesday and 160 that had been scheduled to take off before noon on Thursday.

Frontier canceled up to 150 flights. The airport planned to set up hundreds of cots although officials urged passengers to return home or check into hotels because its emergency supplies were limited.

"It's gotten progressively more hectic," airport spokesman Chuck Cannon said.

Long lines formed at ticket counters as people frantically tried to get information or rebook flights. They gathered on benches or the floor, surrounded by luggage, calling relatives and booking hotels on their cell phones.

"I'm trying to book another

flight, but I'll probably be spending the night at the airport," said Michael Heine, a 54-year-old Denver resident bound for Oregon to visit relatives for the holidays.

Environmentalists to fight Bonners Ferry logging

BONNERS FERRY (AP) — Environmental groups in northern Idaho say they will fight a U.S. Forest Service plan to log 2,200 acres in Bonners Ferry's municipal watershed.

About 3,500 acres of the watershed in Myrtle Creek Valley burned in 2003, and the Forest Service wants to thin the forest to prevent another fire. The plan won't be officially released for another month.

But environmental groups say slash piles left by a logging project helped fuel the fire three years ago, and that the new logging project is much more than just thinning.

"Clearly it has nothing to do with forest health," Mike Petersen, director of The Lands Council, told The Spokesman-Review newspaper. "It's a huge logging project. The Idaho Panhandle

(National Forests) continues to call everything 'forest health projects.'"

Bonners Ferry Mayor Darrell Kerby backs the project, and said the 2003 fire knocked out the town's water system when mud and ash filled Myrtle Creek. "For all his belief he is the savior of the Earth, I can't rely on him to provide rescue information on my watershed," Kerby said of Petersen. "I have to live with the results. I have a community that needs to drink that water year in and year out."

"It continues to be shocking to me that they plan to do regeneration cuts in a municipal water supply," Petersen said. "Ultimately, a lot of towns don't log their municipal water supply."

Kerby and Boundary County Commissioner Dan Dinning said lawsuits preventing

logging have hurt the area's economy, and Dinning blamed them for the loss of 60 positions that are being permanently cut from a sawmill in Myrtle Springs.

"It just rubs me the wrong way," Dinning said. "Our local citizenry is having to bear the burden, of outside people shutting down our woods."

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge in Boise dismissed a lawsuit to stop work on the 7,200-acre Mission Branch project north of Bonners Ferry. The Lands Council and Wildwest Institute based in Missoula, Mont., argued that the logging would have harmed the forest that supports grizzly bears and other animals.

The Forest Service said the logging was needed for fire suppression, and Lodge agreed.

Eastern Idaho city casts \$60,000 lure to troll for federal money

REXBURG (AP) — Facing an influx of new citizens and a shortage of money to improve streets and other infrastructure, this eastern Idaho city has hired a lobbying firm based in Washington, D.C., to bring in federal money.

The Rexburg City Council signed a \$60,000 contract with the National Group in hopes of getting money to fix streets, improve its wastewater treatment facilities and buy emergency equipment.

City officials say they are making the move because 9,000 people have moved to the city in the last six years, many drawn after Brigham Young University-Idaho announced it would become a four-year school.

But voters in 2005 rejected a \$950,000 levy to repair city streets, and the Idaho Legislature declined a proposal to the state law that would have allowed college towns to raise local sales taxes.

"We never promise that the client will get what they're asking for," said John Harmer, a partner in the National Group. But "there is a very good probability that some of the

requests will succeed." City officials hope the investment pays off.

"Sixty-thousand dollars doesn't go a long way when building a new road," said Rexburg Mayor Shawn Larsen. "Our hope is that this will help us bring significantly more money into the city." Improvements the city wants to make include expanding a street that leads to a new temple built by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and another street that leads to where a new high school will be built. The city also wants to improve systems that handle storm drain runoff and sewage, and buy a new ladder truck for the fire department.

About half of the property in the city is tax-exempt, including churches, Madison Memorial Hospital, and BYU-Idaho.

Rexburg will be competing with many other areas in the state for money to improve roads. Idaho has about \$20 billion worth of projects, said Tom Cole, district engineer for the Transportation Dept. in eastern Idaho.

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Parents who try to be friends with kids often lose control



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Here I go, sounding like an old fogey, but "Feeling Lost and Guilty" (11/5), who said she and her loudmouthed, snotty son are "best friends," has brought her problem on herself. The No. 1 problem of parents today is that they try to be friends with their children rather than parents. Back when I was his age, parents were parents to their children — not friends. There is a difference!

She asked how to undo what she has done. She now knows there is a difference between being a parent and being a friend, something she should have realized 14 years ago.

"I see that all too often in parents today, including my own daughter, whose teenage daughters walk all over her because "it's easier and less stressful" to allow it than, provide guidance. In cases like this, the cart is down the path and the horse is still in the barn.

—DISAPPOINTED GRANDFATHER, EASTON, PA.
DEAR ABBY: You are correct in saying that some parents shirk their responsibility by refusing to be firm with their children as well as responsible role models. However, before painting all parents of children with social problems with the same broad brush, please read on.

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for advising the mother of "Todd."

the teen who doesn't know how to keep his mouth shut, to seek an evaluation. If the boy has a problem with empathy, it could be that he has Asperger's syndrome, an increasingly more common form of mild autism. This is a social disability, often more noticeable in the teenage years, when social expectations are more sophisticated. I should know — I am a school psychologist and also the mother of a 13-year-old with Asperger's.

—MOM IN BERKELEY, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: It's time that mother, whose son hasn't learned that "discipline is the better part of valor," teach her son "active listening" skills. These include reading body language and nonverbal cues, withholding opinions until all facts are in, and learning to discern when someone actually wants to hear our opinion vs. just wanting to vent. (I have had some really bad employees who could have benefited from that last one.)

I learned active listening skills more than 30 years ago as a peer counselor in junior high

school, and while I was able to adapt some of the skills to immediately others have taken literally decades to sink in. However, this is why we plant, seeds. Some bloom right away, while others take time to germinate.

—HAPPY ACTIVE LISTENER

DEAR ABBY: My son has Asperger's, and one of the traits of this condition is the person is very literal in his or her speech and usually says whatever comes to mind. These young people do not understand the social taboo of being brutally honest. (I am not saying that her child has Asperger's syndrome.) We have to try to teach our kids to not say everything that comes to mind in public.

One method that I have found helpful is social role playing. That mother can make up situations and role-play how her son might respond so that the other person's feelings are not hurt. We have to practice with our kids. This is not a "common sense" that is learned just by mimicking what others do.

These children often do not understand the "little white lies" that we tell in polite society. On the other hand, if you want an honest answer as to whether you look fat, just ask an Aspie.

—PROUD MOTHER OF AN ASPIE IN MONTANA

First crossword published this date in 1913



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS
Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

This day in history: A national mania began on Dec. 21, 1913, when the New York World newspaper published the first-ever crossword puzzle. The fad led to cowboy philosopher Will Rogers' observation: "The best thing about the crossword puzzle craze is that they've taught the general public the difference between 'horizontal' and 'vertical.'"

The speed of a typical golfer's swing is 100 mph. How can a 17-year-old legally cast a vote in the United States? It can happen if they fill out an early absentee ballot for an election that's a few days after their 18th birthday.

Minioner of the week: The "crab-eater seal" eats krill, not crabs.

Even many finger-snappers don't realize that the snapping sound doesn't come from the friction between

your finger and thumb. It comes when the finger breaks free and smacks against the fleshy pad at the base of your thumb.

The sound from a whip is a different thing completely. If flicked just right, the tip of the lash gets propelled faster than 700 mph, breaking the sound barrier and creating a small sonic boom.

Fleeing fame: Disco diva Donna Summer is the only recording artist with three consecutive Number 1 platinum albums. She also won five Grammy awards.

Fossil remains of gigantic extinct armadillos have been found in South America. This Ice Age "megadillo" was the size of a VW bug; and it had a cluster of spikes on its self-defense. It died out about 10,000 years ago — and for that, we're mighty thankful.

Traditionally, those shrill catcalls always appeared at the end of the circus parade. It was not just to save the ears of the circus performers, but their lives as well — the steam-powered contraptions blew up rows and then.

About 150 people die each year in more than 1.5 million collisions between cars and deer. The deer do much worse of course.

Useful pay for a cowboy in the Wild West days: chow a bed in the bunkhouse, and a dollar a day (the equivalent of about \$20 in today's money).

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

Infant X-rayed at LA airport

LOS ANGELES — A woman mistakenly put her 1-month-old grandson through an X-ray machine at Los Angeles International Airport, authorities said.

A startled security worker noticed the shape of a child on the carry-on baggage screening monitor and immediately pulled him out, the Los Angeles Times reported for a story in Wednesday's editions. The infant was taken to a local hospital, where doctors determined he did not receive a dangerous dose of radiation. "This was an innocent mistake by an obviously inexperienced traveler," said Haney, deputy executive director of airports and security for the city's airport agency.

"The incident happened early Saturday, airport officials said. Haney said in 1988, an infant in a car seat went through an X-ray machine at LAX.

ODDS & ENDS

married his high-school sweetheart.

"I got a wedding ring and a badge, and I closed on a house in one weekend," he said.

Before embarking on his journey to better fitness, Warren said he couldn't do even one push-up and didn't have the endurance to run very far. Now he can do 30 push-ups and he runs nearly every day.

Warren said his wife Theresa was the "angel on my shoulder" who helped him curb his appetite. "She whacked my hands a few times," he said.

He said he limited his daily intake to no more than 30 grams of fat a day. Lifted weights and worked up to running a mile or two every day.

Warren said he doesn't expect to gain the weight back because he is in a job surrounded by people who are committed to fitness.

"I'm happy to be where I am now," he said.

Change lost on rides given to charity

SANDUSKY, Ohio — Cedar Point Amusement Park roller coasters and rides shake a lot of loose change from its visitors' pockets during the summer.

Now, the park is giving all of it to charity — to the tune of \$7,500.

The amusement park on the shores of Lake Erie will donate the money to Victory Temple Soup Kitchen here from its loose change fund, officials said.

Cedar Point employees collect and turn in any loose change found underneath rides, on the midway or in the park's fountains.

The park has donated more than \$170,000 to local organizations since 1988.

Woman complains about her drugs to cops

HAWTHORNE, Fla. — A woman was arrested after complaining to a police officer that the crack cocaine she had just purchased wasn't very good, authorities said.

Eloise D. Reeves, 50, approached a Putnam County sheriff's deputy at a convenience store Friday, telling him that a man had sold her "bad crack" that contained wax and cocaine.

She pulled an alleged crack rock out of her mouth and placed it on the deputy's car for inspection, the Palatka Daily News reported in Tuesday's editions. The deputy told Reeves she would be arrested if the crack tested positive for cocaine. Reeves was charged with possession of cocaine and bonded out for \$1,500.

—The Associated Press

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 Bil Keane



"Belle on bobtails ring, Making spareribs bright..."

"IN CASE YOU CAN'T MAKE IT DOWN THE CHIMNEY, HERE'S THE KEY TO OUR FRONT DOOR."

WASHINGTON

Ex-security adviser Berger hid documents

Former national security adviser Sandy Berger removed classified documents from the National Archives in 2003 and hid them under a construction trailer, the Archives inspector general reported Wednesday.

The report was issued more than a year after Berger pleaded guilty and received a criminal sentence for removal of the documents.

Inspector General Paul Brachtel reported that when Berger was confronted by Archives officials about the missing documents, he said it was possible he threw them in his office trash.

The report said that when Archives employees first suspected that Berger — who had been President Clinton's national security adviser — was removing classified documents from the Archives in the fall of 2003, they failed to notify any law enforcement agency.

Berger, who pleaded guilty to unlawfully removing and retaining classified documents, was fined \$50,000, ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and was barred from access to classified material for three years.

NEW YORK

Wall Street CEO bonus record broken again

John Mack's record for the biggest bonus ever paid to a Wall Street CEO didn't last even a week. It was smashed by the \$52.1 million that Goldman Sachs gave its chief executive, Lloyd Blankfein.

The bonanza for Blankfein included a cash bonus of \$27.3 million, with the rest paid in stock and options. He took the helm of the investment bank in June after President Bush nominated Henry Paulson to be Treasury secretary.

The record payday, disclosed by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday, breaks the one set just last Thursday when Morgan Stanley disclosed that it paid CEO Mack \$10 million in stock and options. Mack, who is 62, rejoined Morgan Stanley 18 months ago to turn around the company after the loss of Philip H. Purcell. Mack's short-lived record lasted one set in 2005 by Goldman's Paulson, who was given \$38.3 million.

CHINA

Concrete proposals called for at Korean nuclear talks

BEIJING — The top U.S. envoy at the North Korean nuclear talks urged delegates Wednesday to start hashing out details of a disarmament deal, warning that the latest round of negotiations could end with no real progress.

China's foreign minister echoed the call, urging all sides to live up to promises made in a September 2005 agreement for North Korea to disarm in exchange for economic aid and security guarantees. The six-nation talks started Monday after Pyongyang ended a 13-month boycott during which it tested its first nuclear bomb.

"The urgent thing is to make some plans to enact the joint statement and to realize all the commitments every party made," Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said, according to a ministry statement. "We should make concerted efforts to overcome all differences in order for the talks to move forward and reach practical results."

ENGLAND

Mysteries abound in case of poisoned ex-spy

LONDON — When Alexander Litvinenko was buried in London earlier this month, his body was so corrupted by polonium-210 it had to be encased in a lead coffin. By then, the Russian ex-spy's surreal death by radiation poisoning had already started not one, but two, rival murder inquiries in different countries.

With dozens of other people testing positive for polonium-210 on a radiation trail reaching from London to Germany

AROUND THE WORLD

to Russia, the case has again highlighted fears about contemporary Russia's political dark side.

Litvinenko, an avowed enemy of current Russian authorities, died in a London hospital Nov. 23, after accusing Russia's President Vladimir Putin of killing him. He had been fed a fatal dose of a radioactive isotope many times more toxic than cyanide. A substance experts say would

need the sophistication of a state-sponsored entity to produce.

IRAQ

U.S. troops cede control of Najaf province to Iraqis

U.S. forces ceded control of southern Najaf province to Iraqi police and soldiers, who marked the occasion Wednesday with a parade and martial arts demonstrations, but doubts remain about whether the Iraqis, vulnerable to insurgent attacks and militia infiltration, can handle security in more volatile provinces

anytime soon.

In one of those provinces, Baghdad, police found 76 bodies, some of them blindfolded and handcuffed, on Wednesday. Many of the victims had been shot and some showed signs of torture, a police officer said on condition of anonymity for safety reasons. Two suicide car bombings also killed at least 19 people in the capital. Home to 930,000 people,

Najaf saw heavy fighting two years ago, but has been relatively peaceful lately. It was the third of Iraq's 18 provinces to come under local control. British troops handed over southern Muthana province in July, and the Italian military transferred neighboring Dhi Qar in September.

PENNSYLVANIA

Amish school shooting victim may be discharged

NICKEL MINES — The last of five Amish girls hospitalized after being shot nearly three months ago in a schoolhouse

massacre is scheduled to go home before Christmas, according to a family friend.

Sarah Ann Stoltz was expected to be released from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on Friday, said Leroy Zook, the father of Stoltz's teacher, Emma Mae Zook, and a close friend of the victim's parents.

Five other girls were killed in the Oct. 2 attack at West Nickel Mines Amish School, including Sarah Ann's 12-year-old sister, Anna Mae. The 12-year-old gunman, Charles Carl Roberts IV, committed suicide as police surrounded the one-room school — compiled from wire reports

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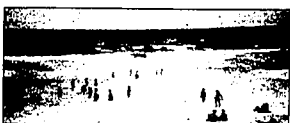
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INSIDE: Stocks and commodities, D2 | Comunidad, D3 | World news, D4

President, or decider-in-chief? Unusual job titles are a sign of the times

By Amy Joyce
The Washington Post

Chief something or other. Senior blah blah. Director for the whatever region. Vice president of lots of stuff. It used to be much more common that titles meant the same thing across industries. You knew where a vice president stood. Or a director. But now we've got titles for everything, and some things that don't really exist. Just spend a few more hours on the job and watch that title grow.

The dot-com boom was the start of major title creativity for

many workplaces. No longer were there human resource directors. Instead: chief people officers. Sieve jobs called himself chief know-it-all. And workers at Wal-Mart and other stores were no longer employees, but rather associates.

Lee Burbage does not consider titles when looking at resumes. (He doesn't care what he's called unless he needs someone to call him back — and then he is the vice president of human resources for Motley Fool.) It's the job description that matters, he said. If he receives a resume from someone at AOL and

needs to figure out what a title actually means, he will seek out a former AOL employee. "The only thing a title can tell me is a sense of progression," he said.

During the dot-com boom, Motley Fool encouraged people to make up their own titles; in general, people now aren't titled at the investment advisory company. When someone gets a promotion, the company announces the new duties, no title included. "The only time it comes into play is: If you're trying to write a resume, you get a good sense of what level you are," he said. (If you

e-mail Burbage, you may get a response that says "human resources/reality star.")

Why all the title confusion? A decade ago, there was a set group of titles, said Neils Olson, an executive recruiter with Korn/Ferry International (official title: senior client partner and sector leader, external affairs practice). But "in an economy where the job market's tight and we're seeing war for talent everywhere increasing, companies are doing everything they can to retain the best and brightest," he said. "One way to do that is giving them a more senior title."

Here are a few examples of some of the more creative job titles we found.

- At Southwest Airlines: director of culture.
- At Banana Republic: customer experience manager (until about six months ago, this person was called the operations manager).
- At Motley Fool: Several gurus and shamans of various titles. The receptionist calls herself the receptionist to the stars,

and the executive assistant is the executive aide-de-camp. We made some guesses as to what these titles in the Korn/Ferry survey meant:

- Chief cheerleader (manager)
- Chief inspiration officer (CEO)
- Director of decisions (CFO)
- Director of first impressions (receptionist)
- Process change manager (HR director, in charge of layoffs)
- General manager reporting to the general manager (Delebert?)

Do you want this job?

Selling a cut above

Christmas tree vendors bring service to sales

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — It's seasonal for sure, but Dan McClain of Buhl thoroughly enjoys the few weeks after Thanksgiving and before Christmas when the noble and Douglas firs to families seeking holiday decor.

For the past 15 years McClain has worked for Santa's Forest, an Oregon company that sells fresh-cut Christmas trees.

"You get to see so many people that you only see once a year," he said.

However, it seems that some people are missing this year. The Christmas tree market has changed a lot over the past decade, he said, with more and more folks choosing what he calls "corporate trees."

"Sales are down this year," McClain said of the Addison Avenue Santa's Forest. "In the past we have sold close to 1,200 trees and I bet this year we might move 400."

Roy Lattin is also employed by Santa's Forest and works at its Falls Avenue location.

"The goal is to sell 100 trees a week at this location, but I would say on average we are selling about 85," he said. "The price of the trees varies, but is about \$45 on average."

To lure customers back, the grower-owned operation has expanded its availability. They have long had a strong Twin Falls presence, selling trees from two locations, and three years ago, Santa's Forest started peddling trees in Poacello.

This year, they added a Jerome location to reach even more customers.

"It is hard to compete with everyone selling artificial trees, so in order to edge out that competition we have to have as best a product as possible," McClain said. "We have a greenhouse that protects the



Roy Lattin of Twin Falls prepares the trunk of a fresh-cut Christmas tree at Santa's Forest.

Christmas is about family and we want the experience to be one where people can come out with their kids and pick a tree. It's tradition and family value ...

— Logan Lloyd, Lloyd Family Trees

trees, plus it is warmer for customers and it provides as fresh a tree as possible."

They also cut the bottom of the tree to make sure it drinks well once it's snug in its holiday home. They also help haul and secure the trees to customers' vehicles for the ride home.

Quality assurance and top-notch customer service is a driving force for the other grower-owned tree sellers in Twin Falls — Lloyd Family Trees.

The Lloyd family has been setting up shop in Twin Falls for 50 years, coming from their home tree ranch in Montana. With three generations taking

part in the tradition, they say they are selling more than a tree.

"If it was just about the money we wouldn't be in the business," said Logan Lloyd, grandson to Zon and Martha Lloyd, who started the business a half-century ago. "Our trees sell on average for about \$35 apiece. Christmas is about family and we want the experience to be one where people can come out with their kids and pick a tree. It's tradition and family value and we don't want to break anyone."

Every year the Lloyd family sells about 5,000 trees in Twin Falls (they also operate sales

from two locations) and through counters made with other family members who take the trees to sell elsewhere.

"Coming to Twin Falls is well worth the drive," said Logan's mom, Angel Lloyd.

Lagan explained that while some customers have turned to fake Christmas trees, others are coming back for the real thing.

"This is a natural market economy and we have experienced fluctuations in sales — it is going to happen," Logan said. "But we have seen an increase in demand for our trees the last couple of years. People seem to be coming back."

Remaining competitive is a challenge, he confessed, when so many supermarkets and big-box retailers push not only low-priced real trees, but conveniently pre-decorated fake ones as well.

"We did have to raise the price of our trees about \$10 last year because of gas prices, but we haven't raised prices again," he said. "The most important thing in our business is selling a quality tree — one that is going to last through Christmas before the needles start falling off."

Santa's Forest has the same idea.

"Sure, you can go and buy a \$10 tree, but you're going to get what you pay for," McClain said.

Times-News correspondent Blair Koch can be reached at 316-2607 or by e-mail at blairkoc@gnail.com.

Multiple lawsuits by farmers over escaped biotech rice combined

By Christopher Leonard
Associated Press writer

ST. LOUIS — Lawsuits filed by hundreds of rice farmers in three states over genetically contaminated rice have been consolidated, creating a single legal action that is one of the largest of its kind.

The farmers claim their profits were hurt after an experimental form of genetically altered rice escaped from test plots run by Bayer CropScience AG.

The so-called Liberty Link rice wasn't approved for human consumption, and rice prices dropped after traces of it were discovered in U.S. grain elevators. It has since been approved for use.

The federal judicial panel on Multidistrict Litigation ruled Tuesday that all the cases should be consolidated and tried before U.S. Judge Catherine Perry in the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis. Farmers from Arkansas, Louisiana and Missouri filed the suits.

The numerous lawsuits deal with the same legal issues and merging them will streamline the litigation, according to the ruling signed by U.S. Judge Terrell Hodges.

The ruling said 12 lawsuits will be consolidated and that 21 additional similar lawsuits should be considered "tag alongs" to the litigation, meaning those lawsuits could be included in the main litigation.

Bayer CropScience, a German company with U.S. headquarters in Research Triangle Park, N.C., did not return calls seeking comment Tuesday.

Chicago-based attorney Adam Levitt said the most similar case to the Bayer lawsuit is litigation filed in 2000 over the release of genetically engineered StarLink corn.

Market Watch

Dec. 20, 2006

Dow Jones Industrials	-7.48
12,463.87	
Nasdaq composite	-1.84
2,427.61	
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.02
1,423.53	
Russell 2000	+3.48
785.56	

Stocks of local interest

Con Agri	26.85	▲ .06
Deli Inc.	25.77	▲ .36
Klepp	28.99	▼ .01
Libia Motors	26.89	▲ .23
Micron	13.47	▲ .12
Supervalu	36.10	0

Commodities

Feb. Oil	63.72	▲ .26
(Light sweet crude by barrel)		
Liv cattle	87.37	▲ .57
Dec. gold	620.60	▼ 1.0

For more, see page D2

Illinois horseradish growers watching yields after dry summer

By Jim Sahr
Associated Press writer

COLLINSVILLE, Ill. — In this kitschy town where a giant ketchup bottle doubles as a 100,000-gallon water tower, Barry McMillin regards the sinus-clearing horseradish as the true king of condiments.

After all, the rich river bottomland around Collinsville, just east of St. Louis, produces two-thirds of the nation's supply of the garsty root. The town is the self-anointed Horseradish Capital of the World and home to a yearly Horseradish Festival. But dig a little deeper and you'll find something else taking root here: worry among some of last summer's dry weather could mean lower horseradish yields, by some

accounts perhaps 15 percent to 50 percent.

People including McMillin say the effects of a smaller crop wouldn't be seen on store shelves, where there will still be plenty of horseradish and horseradish-containing products, such as cocktail sauce, to jack up a roast beef sandwich, a Passover meal or a shrimp feed.

But the area's drought, or so horseradish growers could feel a pinch, given that prices they'll get for their yet-to-be-harvested crops already have been locked in contractually, meaning lower profit for lower output.

"It's really our main income-producing crop. If it's down, it's tough," said McMillin, a third-generation horseradish farmer from Caseyville, where each of



A jar of prepared horseradish sits with a few horseradish roots at J.R. Kelly Co., the nation's largest shipper of horseradish roots in Collinsville, Ill.

his 200 acres generally yields about 3.5 tons of horseradish. "I'm sure it's going to be off some, but nothing drastic."

The true picture won't emerge for months because the harvest that begins in late October or early November will stretch into next spring.

"Even if the weather's right, we may delay the harvesting to let the crop grow," said Jeff Heupke, president of the Horseradish Growers of Illinois and a fourth-generation horseradish grower on about 150 acres near Edwardsville and Granite City. "We're still looking

at this crop."

So it goes as growers, who devote some 2,000 acres to horseradish in Madison and St. Clair counties, play a waiting game for a crop that's never been much of a picnic to grow or harvest.

Dry weather can wreak havoc on horseradish, usually planted by hand in early spring as offshoots the size of carrots. So can verticillium, a soil-borne fungus that's been a longtime, yield-cutting nemesis. Floods — including the record 1993 deluge — can and have devastated the crop. Then there's labor and costs such as fuel and machinery.

Horseradish has proven amazing resilient, enduring for 3,000 years because of its versatility and popularity.

MONEY

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including fund names, share classes, and various performance metrics.

Table of mutual fund performance data, continuing from the previous table, listing various fund categories and their respective metrics.

COMMODITIES FUTURES

Table of commodity futures prices for various contracts such as oil, wheat, and soybeans.

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for different commodity contracts.

POTATOES

Textual information regarding potato market conditions, prices, and regional reports.

LIVESTOCK

Textual information regarding livestock market prices and trends.

BEANS

Textual information regarding bean market prices and forecasts.

GRAINS

Textual information regarding grain market prices and analysis.

METALS/MONEY

Textual information regarding metal prices and market activity.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange market data including volume, index levels, and sector performance.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table summarizing market activity across different sectors and indices.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market data including volume, index levels, and sector performance.

DIARY

Table of dairy market prices for various products like milk and cheese.

DIARY

Table of dairy market prices, continuing from the previous table.

DIARY

Table of dairy market prices, continuing from the previous table.

INDEXES

Table of major market indices and their current values.

INDEXES

Table of major market indices, continuing from the previous table.

INDEXES

Table of major market indices, continuing from the previous table.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock market activity and price changes.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock market activity, continuing from the previous table.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock market activity, continuing from the previous table.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text for the Market Report section, detailing symbols and abbreviations.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text for the Market Report section, continuing from the previous table.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text for the Market Report section, continuing from the previous table.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange market data including volume and index levels.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange market data, continuing from the previous table.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange market data, continuing from the previous table.



Maria Barnes sitting on the Pyramid of the Sun outside of Mexico City (Teotihuacan).

Christmas wish: A trip to Mexico

A guide to getting there

All I want for Christmas is a trip to Mexico. If the thought of getting away from it all entices you, why not make your Christmas wish become reality for you and someone you love? Booking a trip to Mexico is just a click away on your computer, or a phone call away if you're not wired to the Internet.



BUENAS VISTAS
Maria Barnes

If you're uncertain about how to make your wish come true, let me guide you through the process of deciding where to go and how to get there.

The options for a trip to Mexico are endless. You need to make a geographical decision — which region of Mexico you would like to visit? You can appreciate some time on the beach in Mazatlan or Puerto Vallarta, or party till the sun goes down in Cabo, the choice is up to you. Adventure travelers may delight in the beaches and Mayan Pyramids on the Yucatan Peninsula, or a trip to one of the largest cities in the world, Mexico City. For the senior traveler who yearns to go south, a train ride through the breathtaking Copper Canyon would be enjoyable.

The choice is up to you. If I had my way, I would choose a trip to the Yucatan. The white sandy beaches and blue water will mesmerize your spirit and the Mayan culture will send your mind spinning with thoughts of the amazing people who flourished in this region hundreds of years ago.

Anyone who can locate the Google or MSN home page can book a trip to Mexico on the Internet. Hundreds of thousands of sites, attempt to lure you to their pages to check out what they have to offer. The deals I found today will probably not be available when you go to book, but they will help to lead you in the right direction.

Log on and check out www.sidestep.com. This is a fun site that moves quickly. You can choose your departure city and destination, plug in your



Wish you were here!

Church at Yellow City, Izamal, Mexico

dates and you are searching your options within minutes. Flights are fun and fast to check on this site and you can also find vacation packages that are sometimes unbelievable. I found a two-star Cancun hotel for seven nights with round trip air for \$640 per person, and a three-star Cancun hotel for seven nights with round trip air for \$695. Taxes and airport fees are often additional, but sometimes are plugged into the prices listed.

Another fun site is www.pleasantholidays.com. This site has some great deals and options that you should spend a little time checking out. Those with the idea of going next week might consider visiting www.lastminuteaveil.com for more great vacation bargains.

Visitors to Mexico should be savvy when deciding on any package deal. Check details to see if your trip price includes air. Also, gain an understanding for trip lingo. For example, all-inclusive

means a room with food and drinks. European means your room only, no food. When my husband and I travel to Mexico, we are often gone from the hotel for the majority of time, so the European plan works best for us.

Before you book anything, check out the deals you find on trip advisor.com, see what other travelers have to say about the hotel you are considering. Don't accept their comments as gospel, but this site tends to be helpful when choosing a hotel.

Keep in mind that some deals are routed out of Los Angeles, Miami or Houston. Be sure you know what you are getting before booking on the Internet. I like to call the company and ask a few questions before giving out any billing information.

With these tips in mind, you and your loved one could be basking in the sun on Valentine's Day while your neighbors are freezing here in Idaho.

There is nothing like Mexico to soothe your spirit after enduring a long, cold Idaho winter. If this is your wish for Christmas, wait no longer. Surf the Web for some great vacation ideas, or call a local travel agent and get some help finding your way to paradise.

Maria Barnes of Bentley and her husband are frequent visitors to Mexico.

Wrong song can be fatal in drug turf wars

The Dallas Morning News

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — With their polka-inspired music and gritty lyrics, norteno groups along the Mexico-Texas frontier have long documented the trials of border life and have turned the north's drug lords into living legends.

Now some of the musicians are apparently in the crosshairs of the rough-beaten men they croon about in narcocorridos, the narrative songs with journalistic-like details of drug shipments, boastful taunts and bloody revenge.

Last Wednesday, its norteno singer Javier Morales Gomez of the group Los Implacables del Norte was gunned down in the plaza of Huehama in Michoacan state. Three days earlier, singer Lupillo Rivera was shot at while driving his SUV in Guadaluajara.

Last month, singer Valentin Elizalde was shot to death in Reynosa, Texas — across from McAllen, Texas — after singing a song regarded as sympathetic to the Sinaloa cartel from his home state. The song is called "To My Enemies."

Analysis says the attacks are an alarming indication of how bad things have become in a turf war between the Sinaloa cartel and the Nuevo Laredo-based Gulf cartel.

"It's obvious that for these guys (the narcos), it's not just about making money anymore. They want to do whatever they feel like. And so, if you insult me, if you show a lack of respect in your song, then you die," said Javier Ibarra, who writes on drug trafficking and the military for Milenio magazine.

The drug fight has become President Felipe Calderon's first item of business since taking office Dec. 1. He sent thousands of army troops and federal police to Michoacan last

week in his first attempt at a crackdown.

Analysts say the attacks against musicians also represent another sign that this cartel turf war is different from previous ones, when there were unwritten rules that protected musicians and other "civilians."

The fight today is more like a mafia free-for-all, with no rules or protocol. Captured rivals are typically tortured and sometimes beheaded, and there was a report last week of victims being thrown from an airplane.

One beheading victim this year was a 17-year-old boy, whose killing was later boosted about on an Internet blog where sympathizers of the Sinaloa and Gulf cartel exchanged taunts. And threats were made against Elizalde, the singer killed in Reynosa, in Internet chat rooms before his death.

A video posted on the YouTube Web site showed images of dead men allegedly belonging to the enforcement arm of the Gulf cartel, the Zetas. It was set to the tune of the Elizalde song "To My Enemies."

Since the killing of Elizalde, similar other threats have been made against other norteno musicians, like the Tucanes of Tijuana, although it's impossible to tell whether the threats are real.

Likewise, police don't have any suspects in the two recent killings of norteno musicians, nor the attack against Rivera. Media speculation has taken the place of police work, although the two slayings fit the style of drug hits in Mexico.

"This is the first time I have seen violence in the entertainment industry. I have been doing this for a long time," said Pat Chappin, who conducts the entertainment television show Ventanacando.

Hispanic culture activity day planned at Extension office

TWIN FALLS — Que Rico Day will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 28 at the Twin Falls County Extension Office.

Participants will learn about Hispanic culture while creating projects. Activities include stepping stones, rain sticks, wood bead necklaces, tin picture frames and team-building activities. Snacks and lunch will be provided. The cost is \$20 for food and all crafts, and children and parents are welcome to attend.



Noticias

Call 734-9590, ext. 23 or mail to Twin Falls County Extension Office, 246 3rd Ave. E. In Twin Falls by Dec. 27 for a reservation.

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Comunidad

*The 2003 Report Study of reading. The Hispanic Institute at the Media Management Center at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

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U.S.-backed anti-Castro TV Marti starts broadcasting in Miami

The Associated Press
MIAMI — A South Florida Spanish-language TV station has begun broadcasting programs produced by TV Marti, the federally owned station that beams anti-Castro programming into Cuba, U.S. officials said.

The first show, a half-hour news broadcast, came as Miami-based TV Marti faced a new round of criticism for spending \$10 million annually to produce programs rarely seen by the network's intended audience.

Radio and TV Marti have always had the option of using U.S. frequencies in case the stations were jammed in Cuba, said Joseph O'Connell, a spokesman for the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees the Cuban broadcasting stations.

WORLD

Palestinians don't have much faith in truce

By Karin Lamb
Associated Press writer

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — As a cease-fire took hold in Gaza on Wednesday after more than a week of factional fighting, residents were angry at the Palestinian gunmen and despondent about the future.

Violence can erupt again at any moment, they said, because the enmity between followers of Hamas and those loyal to President Mahmoud Abbas has only become more intense, and there's no political solution in sight.

Emotions were so pitched that hospitals couldn't handle wounded from different factions in the same room for feisty clashes between their relatives. Schools and Gaza City's universities were shuttered, and gunmen guarded Hamas ministries and Abbas' seaside residence and offices.

Many said it's the darkest chapter in Gaza's blood-soaked history. "I feel bad. If I'm going to die this way, it's very stupid, by stupid people with guns, and not one cares about the civilians," said human rights

lawyer Iyad Alami, who lives in the line of fire between the Hamas-controlled Foreign Ministry and Abbas' compound.

He said he and his family stay away from the windows and crowd or crouch on the floor, for fear of stray bullets.

Others said the internal fighting, which has killed 16 Palestinians, including five civilians, in the past week, is far harder to take than years of Israeli military strikes.

"I think the Israeli shelling is easier to deal with," said 13-year-old Khaled Khatib, who fled a gun battle in his neighborhood Tuesday and saw two children wounded by gunfire. "We are used to the shelling, and we know who the target is."

The factional fighting, which intensified with Abbas' weekend announcement that he is seeking new elections, has sparked a flurry of diplomatic activity. Jordan's King Abdullah has tried to mediate between Abbas, of Fatah, and Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas, and is also trying to arrange a summit between the king and Abbas, president of Israel and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

IRAQ Al-Zawahri says U.S. is talking to wrong people in Iraq, hints al-Qaida is main power broker

By Maggie Michael
Associated Press writer

CAIRO, Egypt — The deputy leader of al-Qaida, Ayman al-Zawahri, told the United States it is negotiating with the wrong people in Iraq, suggesting in a video released Wednesday that his terror group was the real power broker in the country.

The terrorist chief warned that al-Qaida would keep fighting U.S. troops in the Muslim world and target Western nations in retaliation. But he also criticized radical Islamic militant groups, such as the Palestinian Hamas, for being too soft in waging "filth" or holy war.

The mujahedeen (holy warriors) will keep their weapons pointed at you until you leave our lands and cease backing our corrupt leaders," al-Zawahri said, addressing Americans in excerpts of the video aired on Al-Jazeera television.

The video — which bore the logo of al-Qaida's media production unit — was the 14th time this year that al-Zawahri has issued a statement. As in previous videos, he appeared in a black turban and white robe with a rifle slung over his shoulder against a plain brown backdrop. He frequently wagged his finger at the camera for emphasis.

In his comments on Iraq, al-

Zawahri appeared to suggest that Washington should be negotiating with al-Qaida over the fate of the country. The Bush administration has been reaching out to numerous players in Iraq and to allied Mideast governments in an attempt to calm escalating violence amid calls in the U.S. for a troop reduction.

"I want to tell the Republicans and the Democrats together... you are trying to negotiate with some parties" to secure your withdrawal, but these parties won't find you an exit" from Iraq, al-Zawahri said.

"It seems that you will go through a painful journey of failed negotiations until you will be forced to return to negotiate with the real powers," he said, referring to al-Qaida's branch in the country, which has allied with some Sunni Arab insurgent groups.

But Diaa Rashwan, an Egyptian expert on radical Islamic groups, said al-Qaida had no intention to negotiate with Washington over Iraq. Al-Zawahri's statement was largely rhetorical and aimed at destabilizing U.S. opinion, he said.

"It's just trying to tell the American public that their government is failing in peace as it has failed in war in Iraq," Rashwan said.

In a January audiotape, al-



Ayman al-Zawahri speaks to the press in this 1998 photo taken in Khosr, Afghanistan. Al-Zawahri, the Qatar-based satellite channel, said Wednesday they would shortly broadcast a tape by the No. 2 leader of the al-Qaida terror group, Ayman al-Zawahri. The Qatar-based satellite channel did not say whether it would be a video or audio tape.

Qaida leader Osama bin Laden offered a "truce" to the United States for unspecified conditions — the only previous suggestion of a negotiation with Washington. But al-Zawahri said in a later video the offer was retracted after the U.S. rejected it.

In Wednesday's video, al-

Zawahri vowed that al-Qaida would "never stop striking" at the United States and other countries that sent soldiers into Muslim nations such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

He addressed a range of topics in a video that appeared aimed at emphasizing al-Qaida's leadership of jihad and mobilizing support against the U.S. and a range of Middle Eastern players — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah, Hamas and Iran and its Shiite allies in Iraq and elsewhere.

Al-Qaida's leaders "see the jihad as a global effort and all issues as interconnected," said Ben Venke of the U.S.-based IntelCenter, a U.S. government contractor that studies al-Qaida messaging. He noted that al-Zawahri was increasingly responsive to regional developments and fast at broadcasting al-Qaida's take on recent news events.

Al-Zawahri made references to the call made by Abbas for early elections, indicating the video was made since the Palestinian president spoke out on Saturday.

A technical analysis of the tape indicated that the voice was al-Zawahri's, said one U.S. intelligence official. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about it on the record.

Europe seeing extra warm temperatures

By Peter Fier
The Washington Post

MOSCOW — Scattered flurries teased Moscow on Tuesday afternoon with the promise of a real winter, the blizzard of a city whose people take pride in trudging through snow and in ice fishing and cross-country skiing in white countryside beyond the outer beltway.

The winter of 2006 has yet to arrive, however, and Muscovites are deeply discomfited. "I want snow, I want the New Year's feeling," said Viktoriya Makhovsky, a street vendor who sells gloves and mittens. "This is a disgusting winter. I don't like it at all."

Moscow is not alone in the unexpected warmth — it stretches across the continent.

Preliminary data from the Met Office, Britain's national weather service, and the University of East Anglia indicate that 2006 has been the warmest year in Britain since record-keeping concerning weather conditions began in central England in 1659.

Trees are sprouting leaves in Switzerland. And low-altitude ski resorts across the Alps look more like spring-time meadows.

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development warns in a report this month "that climate change poses serious risks to the snow reliability of Alpine ski areas, and consequently to the believe spring has come."

IRANIAN ELECTIONS Rafsanjani's star rising

Election shows Switzerland and low-altitude ski resorts across the Alps look more like spring-time meadows.

By Nasser Karimi
Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Elder statesman Hashemi Rafsanjani, a mercurial cleric who has played both sides of Iran's reformist-conservative divide, is rising again as a key challenger to Iran's president after local elections show deep discontent with the president's hard line.

Last week's elections for local councils in towns and cities across Iran were seen as a referendum on President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's 18 months in

power tourism." Up to 80 million people visit Alpine resorts each year, and they are a key contributor to the local economies, the report says.

"The Alps are particularly sensitive to climate change and recent warming there has been roughly three times the global average," the report says. On average, 90 percent of 666 medium to large Alpine ski areas now have adequate snow cover for at least 100 days a year. The remaining 10 percent are already operating under marginal conditions.

A rise in average temperature of 1 degree Celsius (about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) could reduce the number of winter days the report calls "snow-reliable" ski areas to about 500. A rise of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) would cut that number to 400.

The Washington area has logged record high temperatures recently as well, which meteorologists attribute to atmospheric and oceanic disruptions in the tropical Pacific Ocean known as El Niño.

In Moscow, the streets have been stubbornly dry and gray in recent weeks. Parks, fields and forests are carpeted in alien hues of green and sprouting mushrooms. At the zoo, some birds, according to zoo spokeswoman Elena Mendosa, "are making love in ponds because they appear to believe spring has come."

office, and results so far were showing widespread victories for his opponents.

Since taking power, Ahmadinejad has escalated Iran's confrontation with the United States and the West on multiple fronts, in particular drawing the threat of U.N. sanctions for pushing ahead with uranium enrichment in Iran's nuclear program. He has also sparked widespread international outrage for his comments against Israel and casting doubt on the Nazi Holocaust.

On Wednesday, a leading newspaper that usually reflects the thinking of many in Iran's conservative clerical leadership said in a blistering editorial that the election results showed it was time for Ahmadinejad to moderate his tone and concentrate on improving the ailing economy.

Radical cleric ponders cease-fire

Shiite summit aims to bring al-Sadr back into government

By Qasim Abdi-Zahra
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who heads a militia feared by Iraq's Sunnis, is considering a one-month unilateral cease-fire and may push his followers to rejoin the political process after a three-week boycott, officials close to him said Wednesday.

The issue is expected to come up at a meeting Thursday in the holy city of Najaf — which saw its security responsibilities handed over to Iraqi forces from U.S.-led coalition forces on Wednesday — between al-Sadr and a delegation representing the seven Shiite groups that form the largest bloc in Iraq's parliament, the Shiite officials said on condition of anonymity because of the secrecy of the talks.

In perhaps an even more important session, the delegation will also sit down with the country's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Officials from several factions confirmed the planned trip to Najaf.

The visit is intended to allow the Shiite bloc, the United Iraqi Alliance, to work through the biggest political obstacles in front of al-Sistani, and to pressure al-Sadr to rejoin his fighters



Iraqi army soldiers celebrate and raise their rifles during a security control handover ceremony in Najaf, 150 kilometers (100 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday. The U.S.-led coalition handed over security responsibilities in Iraq's Najaf province to Iraqi forces, a key step in troubled efforts to get the fragile government to stand on its own, though U.S.-led forces will remain on standby in case the security situation deteriorates.

and rejoin politics — or face isolation, participants said. Until the walkout, al-Sadr's faction had been an integral part of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's governing coalition. Cabinet ministers and legislators who belong to al-Sadr's movement called the boycott after al-Maliki met with President Bush in Jordan three weeks ago. Al-Sadr's militia and its offshoots have been increasingly blamed for sectarian attacks.

As violence rages across Baghdad and much of Iraq, a new coalition taking shape among Shiites, Kurds and

one Sunni party is seen as a last-ditch effort to form a government across sectarian divisions that have split the country. While al-Sadr's movement would not be part of this coalition, such an alliance — which reportedly is supported by the Bush administration — might pressure the radical cleric to soften his stance.

In Thursday's meeting, the group wants to assure al-Sistani that the new coalition would not break apart the Shiite bloc, said officials from several Shiite parties. Potential members of the coalition said they have been

negotiating for two weeks, and now want the blessing of al-Sistani, whose word many Shiites consider binding.

The movement is backed by the U.S. government, said Sami al-Askari, a member of the Dawa party and an adviser to al-Maliki. "I met the American ambassador in Baghdad and he named this from the front of the moderates," and they (the Americans) support it," al-Askari said.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad could not comment on the ambassador's meeting or his position on the possible coalition deal.

New defense chief Gates makes surprise trip to Iraq

Commanders wary of possible troop surge

By Lotta C. Baldor
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Defense Secretary Robert Gates found American commanders wary of the prospect of sending more U.S. troops to Iraq as he visited the war-ravaged country Wednesday.

President Bush is considering that idea and others in his quest for a fresh path in a 3 1/2-year war that has lost the

support of the American public.

On his third day in charge of the Pentagon, Gates made the unannounced trip with the administration under intense pressure to forge a new strategy — and just hours after the president conceded, for the first time, that the U.S. is not winning the conflict.

After meeting with top U.S. generals at Camp Victory, Gates acknowledged concerns that rushing thousands more American troops to the battlefield could allow the Iraqis to slow their effort to take control of the country. He said no decisions have been made.

"It's clearly a considera-

tion," Gates said of how an infusion of American troops might affect Iraq leaders. "I think that the commanders out here have expressed a concern about that."

Gen. George Casey, the top U.S. commander in Iraq and one of several generals who met with Gates, said he supports boosting troop levels only when there is a specific purpose for their deployment. Other military leaders have expressed uncertainty over the purpose and results of injecting more troops.

"I'm not necessarily opposed to the idea, but what I want to see happen is when, if we do bring more American troops here, they help us progress to our strategic

objectives," Casey told reporters during a news conference with Gates and other military leaders.

Gen. John Abizaid, top U.S. commander in the Middle East, sounded a more favorable tone. The military, he said, is "looking at every possible thing that might influence the situation to make Baghdad in particular more secure."

Bush said Wednesday he is considering sending more troops to Iraq, but has not made up his mind. No timetables or troop totals have been mentioned publicly, but by some accounts roughly 20,000 troops would be added to the 140,000 already there.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the City Council for the City of Twin Falls, Idaho, that a public hearing will be held on Monday, January 9, 2007, at the hour of 6:00 o'clock P.M., in the City Council Chambers, located at 305 Third Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho, to hear a request by:

PROPERTY ACQUISITION, INC., c/o GARY R. PERRON, Inc. Requests a Zoning District Change and Zoning Map Amendment from SU1 CRO to SU1 CRO PUD for 70.87 (1+/-) acres of property located west of 3400 East and south of the Snake River Canyon Rim.

NORTH POINTE PARK C/O GERALD MARTENS Requests the annexation of C-1 PUD Business Park, currently zoned R-2, for property located west of Wendell Street and north of Cheney Drive West.

ST. LUKE'S/MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER Requests the annexation of 40 acres (+/-) with a zoning designation of C-1 PUD Business Park, currently zoned R-2, for property located at the southeast corner of F-16, Lanes Road and Grandview Drive North.

TWIN FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #411 Requests the annexation of 80 acres with a zoning designation of R-2 and C-1 PUD, currently zoned R-2 and R-4, to develop a new high school on property located at the northwest corner of North College Road and Washington Street North.

Any and all persons desiring to comment may appear and be heard at the appointed time. A complete description to go file with the Twin Falls City Planning and Zoning Administrator at City Hall, 321 Second Avenue East, 735-7269. Persons needing special accommodations at a public meeting are asked to contact the City of Twin Falls at 735-7267 at least five (5) working days prior (4) to the meeting. /s/ Lance W. Clow, Mayor

PUBLISH: Thursday, December 21, 2006

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV 2005-2748 ORDER, NOTICE AND SUMMONS FOR HEARING

In the Interest of: KRISTIA M. BENITEZ, Plaintiff, vs. JUSTIN D. BENITEZ JR., Defendant. ISAIAM M. ELLIS d.o.b. 6-11-01 ANTHONY M. ELLIS d.o.b. 12-25-03 Children Under Eighteen Years of Age

A Petition under the Termination of Parent-Child Act has been filed by the Department of Health and Welfare. The merits of the petition will be determined in an evidentiary hearing on January 18, 2007 at 9:30 AM in the Magistrate's Court, Twin Falls County Courthouse, Twin Falls, Idaho.

The following individuals shall personally appear at the hearing: KAREL, BENITEZ, Mother of above-named children MATTHEW ELLIS, Father of Isaiiah & Anthony Ellis

The above-named individuals are further notified that they are entitled to be represented by legal counsel. If they are financially unable to retain an attorney, they may apply to the Court prior to the hearing, for appointment of counsel. Said father is further notified that pursuant to 16-5113 of the Idaho Code that he may register his claim as father of a child born out of wedlock with the Department of Health and Welfare, Bureau of Vital Statistics, on forms available for such purposes from the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Department of Health and Welfare. Said father is further notified that he shall mail the completed form to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, and it shall be signed and witnessed before a Notary Public. Your failure to so register can result in your being deemed to have abandoned an action to establish paternity of the said child and constitutes a prima facie case of abandonment pursuant to section 16-2005 of the Idaho Code. /s/11/2006 /s/Magistrate

PUBLISH: December 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

Case No. CV 06-4722 SUMMONS ROY, NELSON, BARIN-GARCIA & PLATTIS, a partnership, Plaintiff,

v. AARON KEYES, Defendant.

NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SEEN BY THE ABOVE NAMED PLAINTIFF. THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

TO: AARON KEYES: You are hereby notified that in order to defend this lawsuit, an appropriate written response must be filed with the above designated court within 20 days after service of this Summons on you. If you fail to so respond, the court may enter judgment against you as demanded by the Plaintiff in the Complaint.

A copy of the Complaint is served with this Summons. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be filed in time and other legal rights protected.

An appropriate written response requires compliance with Rule 10(e)(1) and other Idaho Rules of Civil Procedure and shall also include: 1. The title and number of this case. 2. If your response is an Answer to the Complaint, it must contain admissions or denials of the material allegations of the Complaint and other defenses you may claim.

3. Your signature, mailing address and telephone number, or the signature, mailing address and telephone number of your attorney. 4. Proof of mailing or delivery of a copy of your response to Plaintiff's attorney, as designated above.

To determine whether you must pay a filing fee with your response, contact the Clerk of the above-named Court. DATED this 5th day of October 2006. CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT By: Doreen Clark

PUBLISH: December 14, 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-06-336 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of SELMA S. MORRELL, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against said decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned Personal Representative of the estate 2006 Stevenson P. O. Box 5827, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-5827, and filed with the Clerk of the Court, in the form prescribed by:

DATED this 13th day of January, 2006. /s/Shawna Morrell 4847 S. 2nd Ave. S. Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98116

PUBLISH: December 7, 14 and 21, 2006

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-06-4918 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of JUNE LOUISE SKINNER, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or her estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented both to the undersigned at the address indicated, and filed with the Clerk of the Court. DATED this 13th day of December, 2006. /s/ Rene Y. Carraway, Attorney for the Estate 2006 Stevenson P.O. Box 5827 Twin Falls, ID 83303-0321

PUBLISH: December 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Idaho Code 45-1506

2006 File No.: 7023.12455 Sale date and time (local time): April 02, 2007 at 10:00 AM Sale location: in the office of First American Title Company, 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Property description: 2628 JOSHUA WAY TWIN FALLS, ID 83301 Successor Trustee: Northwest Trust Services, a subsidiary of Corporation P.O. Box 997 Bellevue, WA 98009 (425) 586-1900 Deed of Trust Information Originator: Michael J. Sines, 1120 E. Main Street, as his sole and separate property Original trustee: Pioneer Title Company Original beneficiary: Wells Fargo Bank, f.d.b. No. 2006 June 23, 2004 Recorder's instrument number: 2004-013558 County: Twin Falls Sum owing on property: \$140,060.38 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due at the time of sale may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive your payment for further information write or call the Successor Trustee listed at the address or telephone number provided above. Basis for sale: failure to make payments when due. Please take notice that the Successor Trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, taxes and equivalent the property described in Block 2, recording date: Subdivision No. 6, Twin Falls County, Idaho, recorded in Book 18 of Plats, Page 10. The sale is subject to conditions, rules and procedures as described at the sale and which can be reviewed at www.northwesttrust.com or USA-ED.com

Any and all persons desiring to represent, warranty or covenant of any kind. (TS# 7023.12425) 1002.66411-FE1

PUBLISH: December 14, 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given by the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Twin Falls, Idaho, that a public hearing will be held on January 9, 2007, at the hour of 6:00 o'clock P.M., in the City Council Chambers, located at 305 Third Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho, to hear a request by:

PHAT EDDY'S, c/o RANDY PAULINO Requests a Special Use Permit to serve alcohol for consumption on the premises in conjunction with a restaurant/nightclub and operating under the permitted hours of operation on property located at 233 and 243 5th Avenue South.

SALLY WILLIAMSON Requests a Special Use Permit to operate a LED message center sign on property located at 2013 Addison Avenue East.

MARVIN HEMPLEMAN Requests a Special Use Permit to construct a detached accessory building larger than 1000 sq. ft. on property located at 2916 East 3600 North.

CENTERS OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP, c/o REV. PEDRO CONTRERAS Requests a Special Use Permit to expand an existing religious facility by more than 25% on property located at 835 Blue Lakes Boulevard South.

KIDA TV, c/o NATHAN FULLER OF LITTLE SIGNS, INC. Requests a Special Use Permit to operate an LED message center sign on property located at 1440 Blue Lakes Boulevard North.

CHRISTY EVANS Requests a Special Use Permit to operate a dog grooming business as a home occupation on property located at 2333 Falls Avenue East. A complete description is on file with the Twin Falls City Planning and Zoning Administrator at City Hall, 321 Second Avenue East, 735-7269. Any and all persons desiring to represent, warranty or covenant of any kind may appear and be heard at the appointed time. Persons needing special accommodations at a public meeting are asked to contact the city of Twin Falls at 735-7267 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. /s/ Rene Y. Carraway, Zoning and Development Manager

PUBLISH: Thursday, December 21, 2006

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

Case No. CV-06-5666 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of LURLINE MYRTLE SELLEN, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or her estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented both to the undersigned at the address indicated, and filed with the Clerk of the Court. DATED this 18th day of December, 2006. /s/John J. Sellen RAYBORN and RAYBORN v. R.E. Rayborn Attorney for the Estate P.O. Box 321 Twin Falls, ID 83303-0321

PUBLISH: December 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE

Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise those citizens who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings.

IMPORTANT

Please address all legal advertising to: LEGAL ADVERTISING The Times-News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0548 email to legal@timesvalley.com

Deadline for legal ads: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby, legal clerk, at 208-735-3324.

LEGAL NOTICE

Effective December 24, 2006, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services will terminate its Medicare/Medicaid agreement with Shoahone Rehabilitation & Living Center of Shoahone, Idaho. This action is being taken because this skilled nursing facility is not in compliance with requirements for participation in the Medicare/Medicaid programs as established by the Social Security Act (Sections 1819(b) and 1919(b)), and its underlying regulations.

The Medicare and Medicaid programs will not make payment for services furnished to residents who are admitted on or after December 24, 2006. For residents admitted prior to December 24, 2006, payment may continue for up to 90 calendar days for covered services. Steven Checkering Western Conservancy Survey and Certification Office

Division of Survey and Certification

PUBLISH: December 21, 2006

1. INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals for non-preference towing service will be received by the City of Twin Falls, Idaho at the office of the City Clerk until 2:00 P.M., prevailing local time, on January 4, 2007.

Instructions for proposals are available at the Police Station Lobby, 356 Third Ave E, Twin Falls, Idaho.

/s/Sharon Bryan Deputy City Clerk City of Twin Falls 321 Second Avenue East P.O. Box 1500 Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-1907

PUBLISH: Thursday, December 21, 2006 and December 28, 2006.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

T.S. No.: HC-9057-C Loan No.: 043663819 A.P.N.: RP10517E010055 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, FIDELITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY the duly appointed Successor Trustee, will on 2/27/2007 at 11:00 AM (preappointed local time), AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO ALLIANCE TITLE & ESCROW, 1411 FALLS AVENUE EAST, SUITE 1315, TWIN FALLS, ID 83301, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States, all payable MENDIOLA, Twin Falls County, Idaho Section 1: A parcel of land located in Government Lot 1, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 1 said point lies South 89°13'00" East, 2391.75 feet from the North quarter corner of Section 1; Thence South 00°18'24" East 1321.41 feet to the Southeast corner of Government Lot 1; Thence North 89°58'43" West 1304.23 feet along the South boundary of Government Lot 1 to the Southeast corner of Parcel 1; as shown on the map of Meadow Ridge recorded under instrument No. 740500, and being the Real Point of Beginning; Thence North 01°56'43" East 493.12 feet along the West boundary of said Parcel 1; Thence South 47°40'06" East 288.67 feet, along the Northerly boundary of said Parcel 1; Thence North 01°56'43" West 209.40 feet to the South boundary of said Parcel 1; Thence North 89°58'43" West 220.00 feet to the Real point of Beginning. Subject To: Any encumbrance on said described property shown on the map of Meadow Ridge recorded in the Twin Falls County Recorder's Office in Miscellaneous Book 28 of Plats, page 2077, as Instrument No. 740500, records of Twin Falls County, Idaho. Together with: The benefit of all easements shown on the map of Meadow Ridge recorded in the Twin Falls County Recorder's Office in Miscellaneous Book 28 of Plats, page 2077, as Instrument No. 740500, records of Twin Falls County, Idaho. The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above described real property which is presently held by DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FKA BANKERS TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE; BY: RESIDENTIAL FUNDING CORPORATION, ATTORNEY IN FACT, THE ABOVE GRANTORS ARE NAMED TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 45-1506(4)(A) IDAHO CODE. NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT THEY ARE, OR ARE NOT, PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OBLIGATION. The Defaulter for which the sale is to be made is the obligor to pay when due, under Deed of Trust and Note dated 8/19/2003. The monthly payments for Principal, Interest and Impounds (if applicable) of \$1,113.84, due per month from 8/1/2006 through 2/27/2007, and all subsequent payments until the date of sale or reinstatement of principal balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust is \$626,584.77, plus accrued interest at the rate of 6.25% per annum from 5/1/2006. All delinquent amounts now due, together with accruing late charges, and interest, unpaid and accruing interest, assessments, attorney's fees, and any amounts advanced to protect the security associated with this foreclosure. The Beneficiary elects to sell or cause its trust property to be sold to satisfy said obligation. Dated: October 10, 2006 FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY, Doe C. Ortega, authorized signatory/ EXECUTIVE TRUST SERVICES, LLC15455 San Fernando Mission Lane, #1002Mission Hills, CA 91345 Phone: (818) 637-2300 State Fax: (818) 331-6959 ASAP 766037

PUBLISH: 11/30/2006, 12/07/2006, 12/14/2006, 12/21/2006

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-06-5608 NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR PUBLICATION I.C. § 15-3-801 In the Matter of the Estate of MELVIN A. FULLMER, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SHIRLEY J. HOWARD has been appointed personal representative of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned at the address indicated and filed with the Clerk of the Court.

STEPHAN, KWANIG, STONE & TRAINOR /s/Russell G. Kvanvig Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 1007 Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0003 Telephone: 208-733-2721

PUBLISH: December 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007

SUVs TRUCKS SUVs TRUCKS SUVs TRUCKS SUVs

Autos The Times-News 208-733-1100

Talk To The Tail... FUR YOUR INFORMATION... Boog and Eliot know that reading the paper every day is the best way to stay informed about the happenings in Timberline. You can bet that if it's in the falls in the going to hear about it. So, pick up a newspaper - it's the best way to stay informed of what's going on in your community, too.



NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On Friday, March 23, 2007 at 11:00 a.m., TitleFact, Inc., 183 Fourth Avenue North in Twin Falls, Idaho, as Trustee, will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, the real property of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, the following described real property, situated in the County of Twin Falls, State of Idaho, and described as follows, to wit: LOTS 27 AND 28, BLOCK 80, BUHL TOWNSHIP, TWIN FALLS COUNTY, IDAHO, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN BOOK 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 33, RECORDS OF TWIN FALLS COUNTY, IDAHO.

The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above-described real property, but for the purposes of compliance with Idaho Code Section 55-1114, the Trustee has been informed that a street address of 408 Broadway North, Buhl, Idaho may sometimes be associated with said real property. Further information may be obtained by calling TitleFact, Inc. in Twin Falls at 208-735-3222. This sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale conferred by a Deed of Trust executed by Lyman D. Jones and Carol R. Jones, husband and wife, as Grantors to TitleFact, Inc., as Trustee, and American General Financial Services (DE), Inc., as Beneficiary, dated August 10, 2004 and recorded on August 11, 2004, as Instrument No. 2004-017409, in the RECORDS OF TWIN FALLS COUNTY, IDAHO, to secure the principal sum of FIFTY SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$56,000.00).

The above grantors are named to comply with section 45-1506 (4)(a) Idaho Code. No representation is made that they are, or are not, responsible for this obligation.

- a) the breach and failure to make the variable monthly payments for seven (7) months (May through November) in 2006, and the amount of FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE AND 30/100 DOLLARS (\$4,275.30), with future accruing payments, interest and other charges after November 9, 2006;
b) the failure to pay the real property taxes which are in default for two years (2005-2006) in the amount of \$363.90;
c) the failure to insure the premises for damages by fire or other causes to protect the interests of the Beneficiary American General Financial Services as required by the Deed of Trust; and
d) the allowance and recording of a Deed from Lyman D. Jones and Carol R. Jones, husband and wife, to Stewart Title Company of Boise, Inc., Trustee, and Household Finance Corporation II, Beneficiary, dated June 23, 2005, recorded July 20, 2005, as Instrument No. 2005-015745, records of Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Further, the Note secured by said Deed of Trust so providing, the Beneficiary of said Deed of Trust, declares all sums secured by said Deed of Trust immediately due and payable, and that the balance due and owing on said Deed of Trust is SIXTY THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR AND 30/100 DOLLARS (\$63,343.30) as of October 26, 2006 plus interest at the variable contract rate of 8.57% per month on each and every day after October 26, 2006 accumulating on said principal sum of \$147,411.00 per day for each and every day until paid in full; plus accruing late fees, costs, and attorney's fees until paid.

DATED this 13th day of December 2006.
By: R. Todd Jones
Vice President of TitleFact, Inc.

PUBLISH: December 14, 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-2006-5413
CHILD PROTECTIVE ACT SUMMONS
In the Matter of:
CHLOE JORDAN NUZZO,
a.o.b. 11-13-94
A Child under the age of eighteen.

THE STATE OF IDAHO SENDS GREETINGS TO:
JAMIE ANDORF

YOU ARE NOTICED THAT:
A Petition, copy of which is attached, has been filed in the above-entitled matter in the Magistrate's Division of the District Court of Twin Falls County, Idaho, by the Prosecuting Attorney, alleging the above-named child came within the purview of the Child Protective Act. You are hereby directed to appear personally for a Review Hearing at the Twin Falls County Courthouse, 425 Shoshone Street, Twin Falls, Idaho, on March 22, 2007, at 9:30 AM.

You are notified that service of the attached Petition upon you, as the parent(s), guardian, or custodian of this child, confers personal jurisdiction of the Court upon you and subjects you to the provisions of the Child Protective Act.

You are notified that if you fail to appear without reasonable cause, the Court may proceed in your absence or you may be proceeded against for contempt of Court.

You are notified that the parent(s), guardian, or a custodian may file a Petition for the support and/or treatment of the child of the Court upon you and subjects you to the provisions of the Child Protective Act.

You are further notified that the child and parent(s), guardian, or custodian have the right to be represented by an attorney of your choosing, or if financially unable to pay, have the right to have an attorney appointed by the Court to represent the child or the parent(s), guardian, or custodian at county expense. If you request to have an attorney appointed at county expense, you must appear before the date of the hearing given above, at which time the Court shall consider appointment of an attorney for the child and inquire whether the parent(s), guardian, or custodian require that separate appointment of an attorney.

You are further notified that there shall be a rebuttable presumption that if a child is placed in the custody of the IDHW and was also placed in care out of the home for a period not less than fifteen (15) out of the last twenty-two (22) months from the date of adjudication, the IDHW shall initiate a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights. This presumption may be rebutted by a finding by the Court that the filing of a Petition for Termination of Parental Rights is not in the best interests of the child and their family, or that the children are placed permanently with a relative.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of said Magistrate Court this 13th day of December, 2006.

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT
By: Deputy Clerk

PUBLISH: December 21 and 28, 2006

Keep up with the auctions. You never know what you'll find! Check The Times-News Magic Valley and Classified sections, and log on to www.magicvalley.com for local auction information and times. For More Information, Contact Jill Holton: 208-735-3222. The Times-News magicvalley.com

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-06-5688
NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR PUBLICATION
I.C. § 15-3-901
In the Matter of the Estates of
ARTHUR H. TATTERSALL AND
MARTHA TATTERSALL,
Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT KATHLEEN H. DUFFO AND JAMES A. TATTERSALL have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned at the address indicated and filed with the Clerk of the Court.

By Russell G. Kvanvig, Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
P.O. Box 3330, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-0083
Telephone: 208-733-7721

PUBLISH: December 14, 21 and 28, 2006

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

Case No. CV-06-5268
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of the Estate of
HOWARD ROONEY THOMPSON,
Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned has been appointed representative of the above named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to the undersigned at the address indicated, or filed with the Clerk of the Court.

DATED this 31st day of October, 2006.
s/ Paula Thompson
c/o Jill Steiker
P.O. Box 1597
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303-1597

PUBLISH: December 14, 21 and 28, 2006

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On Thursday, the 5th day of April, 2007, at the hour of 10:30 o'clock a.m. of said day at the Court House of the Twin Falls County Courthouse, County of Twin Falls, State of Idaho, TITLEFACT, Inc., an Idaho corporation, as trustee, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, the following described real property, situated in the County of Twin Falls, State of Idaho, and described as follows, to-wit: Lot 2, SWEAVER SUBDIVISION, Twin Falls County, Idaho according to the official plat thereof recorded in Book 3 of Plats, page 13, records of Twin Falls County, Idaho. The Deed for which this sale is to be made is failure to pay: (1) Monthly payments, collection charges and late charges through November 22, 2006, all in the amount of \$3,109.60; and the unpaid principal balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said deed of trust is \$66,299.28 plus interest, late charges and foreclosure costs. Dated: November 22, 2006.

TITLEFACT, Inc., Trustee
By: Linda D. Rushton, Vice President

PUBLISH: November 30, 2006, December 7, 14, and 21, 2006

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS

Case Number CV-06-5301
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
KEVIN T. BRONER,
Plaintiff.

KASENDA C. BRONER,
Defendant.

NOTICE: YOU HAVE BEEN SEED BY THE ABOVE-NAMED PLAINTIFF, THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

TO: KASENDA BRONER
You are hereby notified that in order to defend this lawsuit, an appropriate written response must be filed with the above designated court within 20 days after service of this summons on you. If you fail to so respond, the Court may enter judgment against you as demanded by the plaintiff. The Complaint: The nature of the Complaint against you is an action for divorce.

A copy of the Complaint is served with this summons. If you wish to seek the advice or representation by an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that you and your attorney can file a response to this summons. If you wish to file in time and written legal rights protected.

An appropriate written response requires compliance with Rules 101(1) and other Idaho Rules of Civil Procedure and also include:

- 1. The name and number of this case.
2. Your response is an Answer to the Complaint. It must contain admissions or denials of the separate allegations of the Complaint, and other defenses you may claim.
3. Your signature, mailing address, and telephone number, or the signature, mailing address, and telephone number of your attorney.
4. Proof of mailing or delivery of your response to plaintiff's attorney, as designated above.

DATED this 11th day of December, 2006.
By KRISTINA GLASCOCK, Clerk
By Deputy Clerk
PUBLISH: December 21, 28, 2006 and January 4, 2007.

ORDINANCE NO. 2889
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, AMENDING TITLE 4 OF THE TWIN FALLS CITY CODE BY THE ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE, AND PROVIDING REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, Chapter 50 of Title 4 of the Idaho Code permits cities to enact mechanical codes, and provide for the collection of fees and enforcement of such codes; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO:

Section 1: That Title 4 of the Twin Falls City Code is amended by the addition of Chapter 5, providing for the adoption of the International Mechanical Code, and providing for the collection of fees and enforcement thereof, as follows:

CHAPTER 5
MECHANICAL CODE

5-1 ADOPTION OF CODE:
The 2003 International Mechanical Code published as published by the International Code Council and the 2003 International Fuel Gas Code as published by the International Code Council, and parts V and VI of the 2003 International Residential Code as published by the International Code Council, applicable to the industry and amendments as adopted by the Idaho heating, ventilation and air conditioning board, and as they shall be amended, revised, completed and published from time to time and as such amendments or revisions shall be adopted by the Idaho heating, ventilation and air conditioning board, is hereby adopted as the official mechanical code for the City of Twin Falls.

The following amendments shall be applicable to the codes adopted:
Section M1601.1 of the international residential code is amended to delete the words "except appliances listed and labeled for unvented use."

Section M1804.2.5 of the international residential code, direct vent terminations, is replaced as follows: "The vent termination of a direct vent appliance shall be located not less than 5' from any opening through which flue gases may enter the building, or in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions, whichever is more strict."

Section 103.2 of the international mechanical code shall be amended to read: "Appointment. The code official shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction."

Section 103.2 of the international fuel gas code shall be amended to read: "Appointment. The code official shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction."

4-5-2 PERMITS REQUIRED:
It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, co-partnership, association or corporation to do, or cause or permit to be done, whether acting as principal, agent, employee, any construction, installation, improvement, extension or alteration of any heating, ventilation or air conditioning system in any building, residence or structure without first procuring a permit from the City of Twin Falls authorizing such work to be done.

4-5-3 FEE - PERMIT INSPECTION:
The applicant shall pay to the City at the time of application, a permit fee in accordance with the schedule fixed by resolution of the City Council.

4-5-4 VIOLATION - MISDEMEANOR:
Any person, or a firm, co-partnership, association or corporation by and through a member, representative or agent, who shall engage in the business, trade, practice or work of heating, ventilation or air conditioning without a certificate of competency or without registration, or perform work without a permit as provided by this code, or who shall violate any provision of this code, or who shall refuse to perform any duty lawfully imposed upon him by the Building Official within the prescribed time, or who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to obey any lawful order given or made by the Building Official shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or to imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six (6) months, or both. Each such violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 2: That Twin Falls City Code §4-1-1 is amended as follows:

"4-1-1: ADOPTION OF CODES:
The latest editions of the following documents are adopted as the official building codes of the city: International building code, including all rules promulgated by the Idaho building code board to provide equivalency with the provisions of the Americans with disabilities act accessibility guidelines building and the federal fair housing act accessibility guidelines, but excluding all appendices except as referred to by rules promulgated by the Idaho building code board to provide equivalency with accessibility codes, and excluding all references to the international electrical code, international plumbing code, international existing building code and international property maintenance code. International residential code, parts 1-11 and part IX, and including appendices A and B.

International energy conservation code.
Table A.10.1, 1994 uniform building code (first printing May 1, 1994), building permit fees.

When submitted documents are required by section 106.1 of the international building code, a plan review fee shall be paid at the time of permit application. Said plan review fee shall be 65 percent of the building permit fee.

Building valuation data, as published by "Building Safety Journal" in February 2005, as modified by the building department.

Uniform code for the abatement of dangerous buildings.

International-mechanical-code.
International-fuel-gas-code.

Section 3: That Twin Falls City Code §4-1-2 is amended as follows:

"4-1-2: AMENDMENTS:
The following amendments shall be applicable to the codes adopted:

Section 903.2.7 of the international building code is amended by adding the paragraph: "Exception: automatic sprinkler systems are not required in 3- or 4-unit group R buildings"

Section 1608 of the international building code is amended to include that the minimum uniform distributed roof design snow load shall be 25 psf. The live load of 10 psf in uninhabitable attics without storage of residential buildings need not be simultaneously applied with this minimum roof snow load.

Table 1607.1 of the international building code is amended to require a minimum uniform live load of 40 psf in item 27 for habitable attics and sleeping rooms.

Section R101.2 of the international residential code is amended to delete: "Exception: Existing buildings undergoing repair, alteration or additions, and change of occupancy shall be permitted to comply with the international existing building code."

Section R102.7 of the international residential code is amended to delete the words "the international property maintenance code or" Section R105.2, of the International residential code, from 1. under building is amended to read: "One-story detached accessory structures, provided the floor area does not exceed 120 square feet"; delete the entire paragraph titled "Electrical"; delete the last two paragraphs beginning with "The stopping of stairs..." and "The clearing of stoppages..." in their entirety.

Section R301.2.3 of the international residential code is amended to include that the minimum uniformly distributed roof design snow load shall be 25 psf. The live load of 10 psf in uninhabitable attics without storage need not be simultaneously applied with this minimum roof snow load.

Table R301.5 of the International residential code is amended to require a minimum uniformly distributed live load in sleeping rooms of 40 psf.

Section R403.1.1 of the international residential code is amended to add the subsection R403.1.1.1. "Foundations with stemwalls. Foundations with stemwalls shall be provided with a minimum of one 4" x 4" bar at the top of the wall and one 4" x 4" bar at the bottom of the footing. Where a construction joint is created between a concrete footing and stem wall, a minimum of one 4" x 4" bar shall be provided at the top of the wall and one 4" x 4" bar at the bottom of the footing. The vertical bar shall extend to 3 inches clear of the bottom of the footing and extend a minimum of 14 inches into the stem wall."

Table R404.1(1)2) of the international residential code is amended as follows: Add footnote reference "4" after the word concrete in the title. Add footnote "1. one 4" x 4" bar horizontal reinforcement is required at 4 feet on center, with the top bar to be placed 3" to 6" below the top of the wall. One no. 4 bar is required horizontally and vertically around floor openings, extending 2 feet beyond the opening. One no. 4 bar shall be placed diagonally at corners of openings subject to cracking"

Section M1801.1 of the international residential code is amended to delete the words "except appliances listed and labeled for unvented use."

Section M1804.2.5 of the international residential code, direct vent terminations, is replaced as follows: "The vent termination of a direct vent appliance shall be located not less than 5' from any opening through which flue gases may enter the building, or in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions, whichever is more strict."

Section 103-2 of the international-mechanical-code shall be amended to read: "Appointment. The code official shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction."

Section 103-2 of the international-fuel-gas-code shall be amended to read: "Appointment. The code official shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction."

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL December 11, 2006.
By Mayor Lawrence S. Sanchez
By Deputy City Clerk Lois Sanchez

PUBLISH: Thursday, December 21, 2006



ORDINANCE NO. 2890 OF THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE 4 OF THE TWIN FALLS CITY CODE BY PROVIDING FOR CITY ENFORCEMENT OF THE ELECTRICAL CODE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of Title 4 of the Twin Falls City Code permits cities to enact electrical codes, and to provide for the collection of fees and the enforcement of such codes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TWIN FALLS, IDAHO: That Chapter 2 of Title 4 of the Twin Falls City Code be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 2 ELECTRICAL CODE

4-2-1: ADOPTION OF CODE:

The 1991 Edition of the National Electrical Code published by the National Fire Protection Association, as now or hereinafter amended is adopted as the official Electrical Code of the City, together with all subsequent editions of said Code.

4-2-2: SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS: The City Idaho Department of Labor and Industrial Services shall appoint a qualified electrical inspector...

4-2-3: DEFINITIONS: "Basic wiring" shall consist of all wiring from the point of attachment to the power suppliers service drop or lighting service entrance...

4-2-4: APPLICATION AND PERMIT: New basic wiring shall be covered by an application for a wiring permit at the City Building Department.

Should the electrical inspector discover any electrical wiring installed but not covered by a permit as required by this chapter...

Every electrical permit issued by the city shall expire by limitation and become null and void if the work authorized by such permit is not completed within 180 days from the date of issuance...

4-2-5: INSPECTION OF WORK: Upon receiving a request for inspection of installations covered by a wiring permit, it shall be the duty of the electrical inspector...

4-2-6: CORRECTION OF WORK; CONDEMNATIONS: An owner or electrical contractor who shall be notified by the electrical inspector...

4-2-7: REMOVAL OF OBSTRUCTIONS: For the purpose of inspection of any electrical work, the electrical inspector...

4-2-8: INSTALLATION OF SERVICE CONDUCTORS: Any new entrance electrical system hereafter installed in or about any building...

4-2-9: CONNECTION TO POWER LINES: No person engaged in the business of furnishing electricity for lighting, power, heating or cooking purposes...

4-2-10: FEES: Fees shall be in accordance with the electrical permit State of Idaho Electrical Fee schedule which may be obtained at the City Building Department...

4-2-11: LIABILITY: Nothing contained in this Code shall be deemed or construed to relieve any person owning, operating, constructing or installing any electrical work from any liability for damages...

4-2-12: VIOLATION - MISDEMEANOR SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE BUILDING CODE: The provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed supplemental to the Building Code of the City...

101 Lost and Found

FOUND cat, black & white with collar. Please call 208-432-4706

FOUND dog small dark brown mixed breed by the south Idaho Mall Saturday night. Wearing red collar...

FOUND kitten at East Minico Middle School. 12 weeks old, has brown stripe on nose. Call 208-436-9720.

FOUND 20 adorable kittens. Long hair, yellow with white. Free to good home. 324-3731 leave message.

LOST ?? Baby Jesus from the Joy Shere jewelry set at Everybody's Business. If returned...

LOST Black Lab, 2 years old, male, no collar, not neutered. Found south end of Buhl. 208-308-1444.

LOST Chiuhauas on 25th Normal in Buhl. Black, male, long hair, named Simba. Reward: Massed by FBI. 208-312-5474 or 879-0919 or 878-374.

LOST Family hair. Long, gold chain, 30" long. Last night winter while running somewhere on the street between Smiths and Fred Meyers/26 of CES. Call 208-738-0321.

LOST Great Pyrenees (Husky). Male, 120 lbs. \$50 Reward. Call 208-738-0321.

LOST kitten, 10 month old, long haired, gray & white. 4 white paws, corner of Canyon Ridge Dr & Ridge Rd. 208-1217-7314

LOST kitten, white with brown/gray markings and a brown standard of acceptance. The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or properly classify any ad.

LOST purse, at Twin Cinema, Jan 12/17, small black purse w/ \$3 inside, 8 yr old borrowed from Grandma and really want it back. 208-738-7041

LOST Yorkie, on 1215 from Monroe St, le black approx 4 lb, cream color, 7 yrs old, has seizures. 410-510 or 734-7164

LOST young male brown X Brindle spaniel on Monroe St on 12/11, 734-8041 or 420-1714. Mom & Tyes.

Times-News will be closed Nov. Dec. 25th for Christmas and Jan. 1st for New Years.

Deadline for Fri. Noon for Sat. Fri. 3pm for Sat. Mon. & Tues.

Editorial: Cassidy Friedman 733-0931, ext. 1

All of us at the Times-News wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

106 Professional Services: Bankruptcy Chapter 7. Guaranteed lowest price for attorney representation. We are a debt relief agency. Free Consultation. Call 1-888-888-2399.

FAX YOUR CLASSIFIED AD: TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT 208-734-5538

BIRTHDAY PHOTOS: Have you forgotten to pick up birthday photos? We have some photos we are sure you don't want us to toss. These can be picked up at The Times-News Classified Dept.

108 Professional Services

Do you need a Santa? Sure, give your children at home for only \$20. City limits or outside extra. Call Santa at 734-5194 or 731-5193

SANTA FOR HIRE: Larry Evans 208-326-5258. Leave message: scus@firtel.com Available Days & Evenings

110 HOME/HEALTH CARE: COOK part-time mornings in Buhl for retired couple. Hospital or institution, exp. direct. Hours on Bet-ty days 731-3187.

113 Child Care Services: DAY CARE has openings. Call 208-734-1056 for info.

Licensed Child Care day and evening shift. Meats & snacks, ICCP and CPR. Refs. Call 208-735-4153

115 Community Events: ART WORKSHOP: Beginners-Advanced. Call 208-738-0321

120 Employment: All advertising is subject to the review of the Times-News. We reserve the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or properly classify any ad.

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su do ku

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle. Numbers are placed in some cells, others are empty.

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for today's puzzle on page E-10.

EASY #8

200 Employment: Classified Private Party Ads. Requires pre-payment prior to publication. Major credit/debit cards, and cash accepted. Check processing over the phone. 733-0931. The Times-News

200 Employment: DRIVER: Tow Truck Drivers, Jackson WY area. Good pay. For more information call 208-308-0222

200 Employment: DRIVERS: CDL-A Truck Drivers. Van/Reefers. 45 states, walking floors, 11 weeks. Per diem. Annual pay increases. Paid vacation. Medical insurance. 208-731-0234

200 Employment: Classified: The answer to all your questions. 733-0931 ext. 5

200 Employment: BANKING: Magic Valley Bank. Join our growing business bank as a Customer Service Rep (Teller) in our Guiding Branch. Full-time, excellent benefits.

200 Employment: Do you enjoy working with people and handling money? Then this is a great job for you. We're looking for a detail-oriented person with excellent customer service skills.

200 Employment: Previous retail experience preferred. Mail resume to Human Resources Department, Panhandle State Bank, Ref:CSR Guiding, PO Box 967, Sandpoint, ID 83864. E-mail: hr@panhandlebank.com

200 Employment: DENTAL: Dental Hygienist Part-time dental hygienist needed for the Burley/Idaho area. Send resume to FHS, Attn: A. Snyder, 724 Eastland Drive, Twin Falls, ID 83401. EOE

200 Employment: DRIVER: Bus Driver to drive shuttle van or limo, to/from Salt Lake or Boise, Part or fulltime. Class B CDL req. Call Kathy at 208-317-4211.

200 Employment: DRIVER: Driver for gas & diesel wanted in Gooding area. Class A & Hazmat req. Call 208-934-4151.

200 Employment: DRIVER: Now hiring Bus Drivers. Paid Training. Western States Bus. Call 208-733-8003

200 Employment: DRIVER: Now hiring F/T class A CDL driver. Doubles req. Must be willing to work in plant as well. Paid. Inducted Pay DOE. Please Call 733-2277 or come to 1201 Falls St, Suite 214, Twin Falls

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<p>200 Employment</p> <p>DRIVERS CDL Class A local delivery / good pay. Call 208-733-7300 This year will be our best. Classifieds: 733-0931</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>DRIVERS TOP GUN TRUCK DRIVING ACADEMY Class "A" CDL Instruction 735-6656</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>DRIVERS Rich Thompson Trucking Inc. WANTS YOU, DRIVER! NW OTR: Plant to plant Home Weekly Local routes, home daily also avail. 0.6% Quarterly Safety Bonus \$11000 Sign-on Bonus For Qualified Haulers Schedules Pay Increases, Full Benefits Package Avail P/T/F/T Welcome, Class A CDL W/10 End. Come see us @ 23 West 100 South in Jerome or call (208) 324-3511!</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>DRIVERS OUR TOP DRIVERS EARN \$65,000 ANNUALLY REGIONAL & LONG HAUL AVAILABLE CLASS A CDL REQ. IDAHO MILK TRANSPORT 800-967-2911</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>DAIRY Part-time or Full Feeder for local Dairy. Call 208-733-2158</p> <p>DRIVERS O/O's & Cattle Truck Drivers. CDL Req. New equipment. Team and local Drivers. Call 208-733-2979</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>MAINTENANCE Maintenance Tech needed for 36 unit apartment complex. 20-25 hrs/wk. \$14.00/hr. Call 208-677-2405.</p> <p>MANUFACTURING Spears Mfg Co. is accepting applications for the following job positions: •Packaging •Production •Material Handler •Aerofab •Production •Mechanical \$9-\$12/hour (depending on position) Company benefits, employee health, dental, life insurance, vacation, paid holidays, & 401k plan. Applications available. Spears Mfg Plant Security Office 2152 S. Lincoln Jerome, Idaho Spears is an Equal Opportunity Employer</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>MANAGER Full-time Maintenance Manager for 1600 apartments. Pay DOE. Call 208-677-2405.</p> <p>MEDICAL Aide for small Twin Falls assisted living center. 8am-11pm Saturday and Sunday 402-8384 or 735-9796</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>MEDICAL NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY \$150 \$ Sign On Bonus Direct Care \$7 to start Individuals w/ight language start at a higher wage DOE. Great Benefits! Must have drivers license & car insurance. Assist persons with menial disabilities to live w/ greater independence. Apply at Inclusion South, Inc. 1411 Falls Ave. #205 Local 11 in the Locust Grove Business Park, Twin Falls, ID 83301</p>	<p>200 Employment</p> <p>MEDICAL Part-time Loss Prevention person needed. Must be over 18 years old. Must be applicable at the Killebrew Hotel & weekends. Apply at the Killebrew Hotel or online at www.shopko.com</p> <p>SALES TOYOTA sales are great with a superb new model lineup! We'll be looking for a part-time PM dishwasher. Need someone with experience in dishwashing in a fast paced kitchen. Must be able to work weekends, and some holidays. Must be dependable. Please fill out application at: Twin Falls Care Center 674 Eastland Dr Twin Falls, ID EOE</p>	<p>201 Business Opportunities</p> <p>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, visit the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center 1-800-876-7060</p>
<p>TECHNICIANS WE NEED TECHNICIANS! YEAR ROUND EMPLOYMENT! No Experience? No Problem! Must have own Truck or Car. We Van. Piece Rate Wages \$25 and Up per Job! Get Paid for the work you do! Great Bonuses! Paid Training and Certification! EOE/DFW Free Fax to 208-461-2108 Attn: Chris or email mnaogor@starwestsatellite.net For Details Call 866-317-9399</p> <p>STAR WEST SATELLITE</p>	<p>EDUCATION Filer School District is taking applications for a part-time (10.5 hours a week) Duty Aide at Filer Elementary School. Responsibilities include supervising playground recesses, and other duties as assigned. This position will remain open until filled. Please apply to Sandra Roberts Filer School District 700 S Stevens Ave Filer, ID 83328 or 208-326-9881</p>	<p>MEDICAL SunBridge Healthcare Fun, Challenging, Focused, Loyal, Positive, Multi Tasked, Flexible Does this sound like you? NACNA's We will be offering the certification class for those caring individuals that are anxious to begin an adventure in nursing. Full-time and part-time positions. \$25 differential for PM & NOC. 6am-2pm 2pm-10am 10pm-6am Dawn Otero 208-734 8645 or apply in person 640 Filer Ave W, Twin Falls, ID 83301</p>	<p>GENERAL DISCOVERY Need money for the holidays? Need a new car? Positions Available! •No Sales Involvement •Base Pay Up To \$11.00 an hour! •All Field Training! •Flexible Scheduling - You Pick the Days You Want to Work! •Shift Start Times Coincide with School Schedules! •Bonuses offered on monthly basis! •Fun, Positive work environment! Great for first time job or career!</p> <p>Please apply at 840 Meadows Dr #1 Twin Falls or please call (208) 735-6601 and mention this ad for bonus opportunity! Walking distance from CSI!</p>	<p>MECHANIC The Idaho Transportation Department is accepting applications for a Mechanic in Shoshone. The state of Idaho offers a competitive benefits package. For a copy of the announcement or information on applying please contact Idaho Transportation Department, P.O. Box 41A, Shoshone, ID 83352; phone (208)885-7800; or apply on line at this website: www.dtr.idaho.gov Close 122906 EOE/AA</p>	<p>MECHANIC Twin Falls Mechanic needed to do repairs on a point loading equipment. experience in electrical and hydraulics needed. Experience and own tools required. CDL A plus. Benefits include medical, 401(k) and vacation. Please call 733-6657 or 731-2495</p>	<p>MEDICAL RN or LPN Full-time RN or LPN needed for busy clinic. Send resume to FHS Attn: A. Snyder 792 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE</p>	<p>MEDICAL RN or LPN Full-time RN or LPN needed for busy clinic. Send resume to FHS Attn: A. Snyder 792 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE</p>	<p>201 Business Opportunities</p> <p>DRACO INVESTMENT CORP CASH for Deeds of Trust, Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts Call today for a free, no obligation quote. (208)733-3821.</p> <p>PERSONAL INVESTORS wanted to fund purchases of American Express 208-961-1905 Kado.</p> <p>Times-News will be closer Mon. Dec. 25th for Christmas and Monday, Dec. 26th for New Years.</p> <p>Deadline for Classified: Fri. Noon for Sat. Fri. 2pm for Sun. Mon. & Tues.</p> <p>Editorial: Cassidy Friedman 735-3241 Circulation: 733-0931, ext. 1</p> <p>All of us at the Times-News wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!</p>	
<p>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 2:30 to 11:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.</p> <p>We offer an excellent benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, half-price health club and paid holidays and vacation. We are an equal opportunity employer and a drug-free workplace.</p> <p>Send a resume, reference list and work samples to: Chris Baldua News Editor Times-News P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or by e-mail to cbaldua@magicvalley.com</p>	<p>MEDICAL BYRON HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE Come grow with us.... Due to our high volume of clientele, Idaho Home Health & Hospice is now accepting applications for a Full-time DME Support Clerk, a Part-time RN, LPN & CNA. IHH&H offers a GREAT benefits package after 90 days, continuing education and GREAT incentive programs to all staff. Come be a part of a caring environment! Apply at 826 Eastland Drive or call 208-734-0661 for questions. EOE/AA</p>	<p>MEDICAL IRIGATION Doris' Irrigation is hiring 2007 Irrigation Technicians. Will train the right candidates. We offer competitive pay & benefits. Apply in person 294 S 300 E in Jerome</p>	<p>MECHANIC Twin Falls Mechanic needed to do repairs on a point loading equipment. experience in electrical and hydraulics needed. Experience and own tools required. CDL A plus. Benefits include medical, 401(k) and vacation. Please call 733-6657 or 731-2495</p>	<p>MEDICAL RN or LPN Full-time RN or LPN needed for busy clinic. Send resume to FHS Attn: A. Snyder 792 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE</p>	<p>MEDICAL RN or LPN Full-time RN or LPN needed for busy clinic. Send resume to FHS Attn: A. Snyder 792 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE</p>	<p>MEDICAL RN or LPN Full-time RN or LPN needed for busy clinic. Send resume to FHS Attn: A. Snyder 792 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE</p>	<p>CLASSIFIEDS If you're ready to read the line print! Call The Times-News to place your ad at 208-733-0931 ext. 2</p> <p>VETERINARY Veterinary Tech. Exp with large animals rock. Some resume to: P.O. Box 38 Gooding ID 83330</p> <p>WELDER Position opening for a Welder. Rebuilding of semi tractors, experience helpful. Benefits. Must be able to work. Barclay Truck Builders. Kenny or Marty 208-438-5559</p>	<p>201 Business Opportunities</p> <p>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, 1-800-876-7060.</p> <p>202 Homes For Sale FILER 4 acres, 3 bed room, 1 bath house, oak siding, water shares small orchard. \$199,000. Call 208-252-7474 or visit www.sallyowner.com</p> <p>GOODING 3 bdrm., 1 bath home. Owner carry - \$10,000 down. \$79,500. GOODING 6500 sq. ft. shop. Owner carry. \$39,000. GOODING 30 acres w/ low power pool. \$159,900. SHOSHONE 160 acre oak siding, water. WENDELL Now 2,000 sq. ft. custom home. \$189,450. Call Anthony 731-9800 Triple 7 Realty</p>	

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Carriage Ln. Eastgate Dr. Sagebrush Dr. TWIN FALLS	Morning Sun Dr. Sumbear Dr. Carriage Ln N. TWIN FALLS	Bitterbrush Dr. Sagebrush Dr. Trotter Dr. TWIN FALLS	Twin Parks Dr. Park Meadows Cir. Parkway Dr. TWIN FALLS
11th Ave. E. Addison Ave. E. Maple Ave. TWIN FALLS	Crestwood Dr. Red Mar Dr. Sherry Dr. TWIN FALLS	Jackson St. Monroe St. Quincy St. TWIN FALLS	Town Routes Sign On Bonus KIMBERLY
16th - 19th 18th St. - 18th In Almo - Hansen BURLEY	Oakley - Burton Spencer - Teton 21st - 27th BURLEY	Atlantic - Birch Fairmont Boardwalk BURLEY	Oakley - Contant Yale - Park Ave. 11th - 16th BURLEY
4th Ave. E. 3rd Ave. E. Link Apartments JEROME	S. Lincoln Ave. W. Ave. G W. Ave. I (Sign on Bonus!) JEROME	Motor Route Town Route Excellent Profit FILER	Town Routes Sign On Bonus FILER

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602 Homes For Sale

GOODING New home for sale in Willow Sage Subdivision. Still under construction and time to pick colors, 175 sq. ft., 4 bdrm., 2 1/2 bath, living room and family room. Asking \$205,000. Call 208-338-8300.

HANSEN cute 3 bedroom 2 bath, remodeled inside. Walking distance to great schools. \$91,260. Call 308-648-0404-8300.

JEROME New construction 3 bdrm 2 bath 1250 sq. ft. available for immediate occupancy \$129,000. Jerome Homes 324-2268 or 539-3613

JEROME PURCHASE NEW CONSTRUCTION 3 bdrm, 2 bath quiet cul-de-sac location. Pay approx. \$120 per month for the first 6 months (Principal Amortized) only. Call Melinda 731-7582 for more information Western F.I.E. Group

TWIN FALLS 1768 square foot, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, \$117,500. We must sell now! Please call 208-208-0700.

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom 2 bath, 1566 sq. ft. Great location. 451 New 2200 location. \$164,500 make offer. Call Suzie Helgeson 208-208-3785 or 208-208-3785

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1600 sq. ft. real property. Close to golf course \$95,000. 655 Catalina Dr. Call 734-4100.

TWIN FALLS brand new 3 bedroom 3 bathroom in Pleasant Hill. Trotter Drive, extra. 1,218 sq. ft. \$139,300. Call 208-639-5581

TWIN FALLS brick home, 2 bdrm possibly 3, 2 bath, 1718 sq. ft., 150 Lakeway Dr. my web catalogue, no overcoats 423-4224

TWIN FALLS By owner 1993 Tamtrak Loop. Amazing, lots that \$100 a sq. ft. 5 bdrm, 3 bath home, 3087 sq. ft. with fully finished main floor & basement. 3 car garage. Sawtooth School. Over \$25,000 of picturesque landscaping. \$229,950. Agents welcome. Call 208-420-2010

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For more information please call toll free 208-737-1470 or 1-866-335-2087

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602 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS duplex with (2) units, 2,000 sq. ft. total. Great income property. New siding, storm windows and roof. \$94,000. Call 11177 Avenue East Call 208-720-2506

TWIN FALLS New home to be completed March. In Rock Creek Trail Estates, 1.536 sq. ft. Buy now! you pick color, flooring and upgrades. \$173,800. Call 208-731-1415

WENDELL 3 bedroom 2 bath home, 1,500 sq. ft. fenced yard, close to elementary school. \$105,000. Call 208-670-3707

TWIN FALLS North Pointe 1412 Annie Dr. E. New 2200 location. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 story, 2 car garage, pool, hot tub, dishwasher, microwave, oak cabinets, laminate flooring, open floor plan, 475 sq. ft. front porch. 2 hours, \$265,000. By appointment. 208-308-4920

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1600 sq. ft. real property. Close to golf course \$95,000. 655 Catalina Dr. Call 734-4100.

TWIN FALLS brand new 3 bedroom 3 bathroom in Pleasant Hill. Trotter Drive, extra. 1,218 sq. ft. \$139,300. Call 208-639-5581

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TWIN FALLS Remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 bath, garage, 1,168 sq. ft. in main level with basement. Large fenced lot with RV parking. \$119,000.

TWIN FALLS New home to be completed March. In Rock Creek Trail Estates, 1.536 sq. ft. Buy now! you pick color, flooring and upgrades. \$173,800. Call 208-731-1415

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618 Mobile Homes

Buhl 3x3 Marlette 2x56 3 bdrm, 2 bath, central air, full kitchen, garage, very nice located at Moon Lake Village. Call 208-543-6687 or 208-539-6632.

KIMBERLY E-Z down, 1/2 and 2 bedrooms. Call 208-410-2332.

601 Furnished Homes Classified Department Classified Sales Representatives are available from 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday-Friday Call our office in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2

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Buhl 2 bedroom 1 bath home, clean, \$450. No smoking/pets. Appls. Incl. 208-733-6339

Buhl 2 bedroom 1 bath, mobile home, \$450 month + deposit. No smoking/pets. 12th Avenue North Call 208-661-0197

JEROME Cozy 1 bdrm, appls, HD w/hookup, lg storage shed, \$395 + dep. Call 208-420-2098

JEROME Small 1 bdrm, between Jerome & Wendell, no a/c, \$250. Call 208-358-0674

Buhl 2 bedroom, 1 bath, mobile home, \$450 month + deposit. Call 208-543-4238

Buhl 3 bdrm, 1 bath, fenced yard, close to depot. \$575 mo + dep. Call 208-735

Buhl 3 bedroom 1 bath, detached garage, appls. incl. No smoking/pets. \$485 month + deposit. Call 208-643-2633

615 Commercial Property Equal Housing Opportunity WHO can help YOU sell your property? Classifieds 733-0931 ext. 2. 733-0931 ext. 2. 733-0931 ext. 2. 733-0931 ext. 2.

616 Classified Department Classified Sales Representatives are available from 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday-Friday Call our office in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2

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602 Unfurnished Home

HAZELTON Cozy 2 bedroom, 1 bath, unfurnished yard. Deck, central air, close to town, storage/garage, no smoking. Pets extra. \$425. \$200 dep. Call 820-5688 dep.

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JEROME 2 bedroom, \$350 month + deposit. Call 208-420-1669 or 208-420-2098

JEROME 3 bedroom 1 bath in town, \$700 month + deposit. Pets nsg. No smoking. Call 208-420-2098

JEROME brand new 5 bedroom, 4 bath, neighborhood, 1590 sq. ft., 5 min to Wal-Mart, \$550 deposit. 788-3188 or 720-5973 labagang77@hotmail.com

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JEROME Small 1 bdrm, between Jerome & Wendell, no a/c, \$250. Call 208-358-0674

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Buhl 3 bedroom 1 bath, detached garage, appls. incl. No smoking/pets. \$485 month + deposit. Call 208-643-2633

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SHOSHONE place 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath; good location. \$550 + 1st, but \$200 cleaning dep. 886-7011 eyes.

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LOADERS JD 5440 85% rubber, \$49,000. \$200-4442 or yard paint, \$39,000. 208-3064
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BUFFET table oak, with 4 drawers. \$225. Call 208-420-5395 for more information.

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ELMO TRX, only 1, brand new. \$100. Call 208-948-0482, for more information.
HOTV Panasonic 53", 5700. Trampoline. \$208-326-4202
Deville, needs water pump, \$600. Call 208-326-4202

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REFRIGERATOR Frigidaire, 20 cu. ft. white. 4 years old. excellent cond. \$250. Call 208-324-9558
REFRIGERATOR/E FREEZER Kenmore frost free, 19 1/2 cu. ft. \$250. Washer/compressor (Crosley) heavy duty, extra large tub. \$200. Dryer Kenmore, electric, 575. Stove Kenmore self cleaning oven, \$200. Patio Drier, glass. \$50. Call 208-324-4272.
STOVE G.E. electric, self cleaning, really good condition. \$125. Call 208-536-4669
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710 Appliances
ALL types of models. Staring price \$65 with warranties. Steamtable. \$100. Delivery available. Call 208-733-0114
FRIGIDAIRE refrigerator, side-by-side, almond finish. \$550. Steamtable. \$100. Call 732-5702 or 948-0471.
REFRIGERATOR Frigidaire, 20 cu. ft. white. 4 years old. excellent cond. \$250. Call 208-324-9558
REFRIGERATOR/E FREEZER Kenmore frost free, 19 1/2 cu. ft. \$250. Washer/compressor (Crosley) heavy duty, extra large tub. \$200. Dryer Kenmore, electric, 575. Stove Kenmore self cleaning oven, \$200. Patio Drier, glass. \$50. Call 208-324-4272.
STOVE G.E. electric, self cleaning, really good condition. \$125. Call 208-536-4669
STOVE gas, sealed burners, very clean & works great. \$350/offer. Frigidaire. \$100. Call 208-324-4272.
WASHER & DRYER, matching set, white, \$250. Call 738-1855 after 5 pm or iv. msg.

711 Furniture & Carpet
ANTIQUE '50s solid wood dining table 67" x 40". 22" high. 2 captain chairs & 6 side chairs. \$100. Call 208-736-9339
BED king size, iron frame, double pillow top mattress and box springs. \$500/offer. Call 208-731-2976.
Trying to find a good used automobile? Check out the classifieds. Our largest selection available in your area today. 733-0011

712 Miscellaneous AG
LEARN TO FLY pigeons from 100-500 miles with a great group of people in the Twin Falls Area. Racing pigeons. \$100. Call 208-423-4247
COMPOST TURNER Brown Box 300, self propelled, good condition. Call 208-731-8813
JD 3-bottom plow, 3200/offer, 40 gal. super. \$200/offer. Hammer mill, \$50/ offer. 208-645-2421.
JD 4450, power shift, 2 hour on major engine. Overhaul. \$200 hrs on tractor, 3 remotes, wide front, 18 1/4 tire. Call 208-423-4247
KABOTA M9000 4x4 1000 total hours, like new. \$1000. Call 208-788-3080.
LINCOLN who feed welder attachment to instantly utilize your AC stick welder and DC portable stick welder to wire feed. \$550. Overhead A frame with two chain hoist pull engine. Call 208-324-5856

713 Farm/Pasture Rentals
EDEN Dairy for rent. Permit for 800. Double stall. 80 stalls. 2 hrs on tractor, 3 remotes, wide front, 18 1/4 tire. Call 208-423-4247
PASTURE Looking for horse pastures to lease. 43-8956 or 623-261-2339
PASTURE, wanted. Good horse country. 530-6602. 925-308-1173

714 Pastures Wanted
PASTURE Looking for horse pastures to lease. 43-8956 or 623-261-2339
PASTURE, wanted. Good horse country. 530-6602. 925-308-1173

805 Electronics
HDTV, 51" Surround, 5.1 Surround, Insignia Entertainment Center, \$1499. Prices negotiable on lots to the car. Call Travis 208-948-5889.
PLAYSTATION 3 60 games, with receipt. \$900/offer. Call 208-490-0246
PLAYSTATION 3 60 GB, in box with receipt. \$1100/offer. Call 208-731-4660
PLAYSTATION 3 60 GB, in box with receipt. \$550 to \$650. Call 208-733-9131.
SOUV. Play Station 3, 60GB, brand new in box. Get it Now before Christmas! \$900/offer. Call 208-423-1579. Sony Venium 4 laptop 2.6GHz 4GB, 512MB RAM, CD-RW/DVD works great! \$450/offer

806 Hot Tub & Pools
HOT TUB COVER 2' x 6' x 6'. Cover ASP, 87x74, \$275. Call 208-734-7395
COMPUTERS (1) Pentium 3's, (2) Pentium 3's, (1) Dell Pentium 3 All serviced and ready to go. \$175-\$225 or best offer. Call 208-324-9558

807 Firewood
FIREWOOD Cut to length, unseasoned, 300. Pick up load, you own. Call after 5pm or leave message, 208-312-4666
Furniture & Carpet
ANTIQUE '50s solid wood dining table 67" x 40". 22" high. 2 captain chairs & 6 side chairs. \$100. Call 208-736-9339
BED king size, iron frame, double pillow top mattress and box springs. \$500/offer. Call 208-731-2976.
Trying to find a good used automobile? Check out the classifieds. Our largest selection available in your area today. 733-0011

813 Heating and Air Conditioning
FIREPLACE SAVE \$\$ like new propane/gas. 2500-3000 sq. ft. black w/wood trim, incl. pipe & vent. \$1,600. 423-5306
WOOD STOVE Black King princess. good cond. \$425. Call 720-5176 or 788-2788 after 5pm

814 Auctons/Auctioneers
WARD AUCTION & APPRAISALS
Pricing Value to your Advantage!
Personal Property Appraisals
Auction Service (208)590-0253

704 Farm/Ranch Supplies
CORRAL POLES nice pine, 21' long. \$10/ea. Perfect for Christmas. Call 208-431-3263.
SEED AND FERTILIZER
FREE COMPOST. Semi loads only. Call 208-308-2239.

709 Hay Grain & Feed
ALFALFA OR GRASS mix hay, all cuttings, covered. 2' string bale. \$100/ton. Corvallis area. 324-5082 or 208-0073

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PASTURE, wanted. Good horse country. 530-6602. 925-308-1173

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006

THE ACES ON BRIDGE Bobby Wolff

"The chief benefit, which results from philosophy, arises in an indirect manner, and proceeds more from its secret, insensible influence, than from its immediate application."

Bridge score table with columns for NORTH, SOUTH, WEST, and EAST, showing card counts and scores.

Vulnerable: Both Dealer: South The bidding: South West North East

Opening lead: Club jack BID WITH THE ACES

South holds: A 7 6 5 3 K 4 Q 10 4 A 3 2

South West North East A 7 6 5 3 K 4 Q 10 4 A 3 2

ANSWER: Not all 12-counts are equal. You would happily drive to game if you had the combination of a fit, but here a rebid of two no-trump is entirely adequate.

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Miscellaneous For Sale SANTA FOR HIRE



Larry Evans 208-326-5258 Leave Message: slouis@netnet.com Available Days & Evenings

SEWING MACHINE Nochi heavy duty, Model 3101FA, \$125, 208-543-1339

SHELVING 196 ft. of gorforda commercial shelving units with end caps, \$1750, 738-6046 or 420-6085

SMOKER TABLE 10x5 Brunswick with smoke table & bar seat, \$1000, See @ Woody's, 213 5th Ave. South, Call 208-732-0077.

SOFALOVEASET set. Royal Blue velvet micro suede Slain Guard material, new cond., \$450/lot, Call 208-948-0426

Times-News will be closed on Dec. 25th for Christmas and Mon. Jan. 1st for New Years.

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Wanted To Buy

Wanted fiberglass shell for '01 Ford Crown Vic, approx. size 70x33, 352-1160, 208-543-1339

WANTED Old gas pumps or gas station items. Top motor and tank. Tony 208-866-0274

WANTED TO BUY 2WD Chevy long bed pickup in new running cond. 208-929-7174

WANTED TO BUY any old estates: Pottery, pictures, Indian items, jewelry, clocks, tools, toys, and tokeans. 208-324-4721 or 538-4721

WANTED TO BUY or cash pay for other US models, badges, patches, uniforms, etc. 208-326-4044

WANTED TO BUY old hard copy of a floppy disk and Morgan silver dollars. Call 208-734-7900

WANTED TO BUY Older outboard 70-80 HP. 208-731-2251

WANTED TO BUY Tractors, repair/salvage Call Bob 208-312-3746, evs

WANTED TO BUY W/vee truck. Need a new one! Honda, Ford, Small, great gas mileage, reliable, under \$3,000. Call 208-344-2813

WANTED wood working tools and machinery. Call 208-316-7220

HOSPITAL BED, \$400. Lift chair, \$250. Show room, \$100. 208-543-1339

WHEELCHAIR elect. Quackie, \$750. Come. 208-543-1339

BROWNING A-Bolt, stainless steel, 7mm mag. new, low price, fired about 100x. \$500 208-738-4576

CUSTOM GLOCK TP, 9mm, mag. new, full-size, built as pit. carbine kit, mags, extra good. 208-326-4044

MIRAGE '68 Vespa motorcycle trailer with living quarters, kitchen, TV, stereo system, refrigerator and many features. \$16,000. Call 208-732-1215

MONACO '90 Knight. Bank Repo. Public Auction. Sat 12:00, Sun 10:00. www.musicauction.com

ARCIC CAT '06 M1 153 Attack 20 ft. with D&D slinger, 460 miles always run on full synth. New Mint condition. Never wrecked. Call 208-324-4527

ARCIC CAT '07 M1000, brand new black 162 track, must sell. \$13,000. Call 208-423-6125

ARCIC CAT '86 5000 Elite, \$650 or best offer. Call 208-423-6125

ARCIC CAT '95 M7, low miles, perfect condition, need TO SELL! Call 280-0681

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Motorcycles

HONDA '05 CRF90, \$1350 Honda V4 CRF 50, \$750 exc cond. 208-130 or 734-0454

HONDA '06 70F approx. 10 hrs. \$1,350 or best offer. Call 208-948-0251

HONDA '95 XR650, \$800. Honda CR250, \$1,800. Call 208-431-6721

KAWASAKI '06 ZZR1400, \$2,500. Best offer. Suzuki '04 Model 85, \$1,900 or best offer. Call 208-420-4638

RM 250 '01 Excellent condition. Call Wade at 208-308-0444 for more information.

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Snow Vehicles

POLARIS '01 700 RMK, 136" track, 2008 miles, nice sled. 208-130 or 734-0454

POLARIS '01 Sport Touring 550, fan cooled, high engine. \$1,500. \$43-9900

POLARIS '03 RMK 800 Vermin Escape with Srimons & gold lined gear. 208-423-5177

POLARIS '03 Vertical Edge, great cond. \$2,000. Call Wade at 208-308-0444

POLARIS '03 Vertical Edge RMK 800, \$4500 pipes & skis. \$2000. Yamaha '95 V-Max '91 Phazer '136" track. \$500. All run great. \$5000/lot 208-800-8009

POLARIS '05 200RMK, \$2500. Yamaha '95 V-Max '91 Phazer '136" track. \$500. All run great. \$5000/lot 208-800-8009

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Auto Parts And Accessories

Yamaha '98 Cavalier for car, body is straight but car does not run. 208-348-9545

TIRES New Michelin all season tires. 24x75x16 4 ply tires. \$400. 208-431-5454

Engines 401 Buck 2400 cc. 1978 Lincoln Mark IV. 345 In. 239 Ford Flathead. Call 208-607-4089

SHELBY '96 Cobra Kit, Call 208-420-9709 for more information

SEMI AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT DUMP TRUCK Ford 79-7000, Single 16' x 6' yd dump, Cat engine, 525A, 25P hammer, heavy duty business and controls, \$6,500. Call 208-720-3251 or 208-898-2860

Freightliner '88 Cummins, 9 spd with 3300/4000/6000, \$12,500. Call 208-731-3322

KW '74 W-900 350 Cummins, 5x4 11' 24.5 tall on Budds, w/41 Cam, good 35 ton hauler, 112,500 for the pair. 208-635-4360

VOLVO '06 VN-145-900, 530 hp 180K miles, Faxite 12,500. X-Rate 38,000. Must sell. \$37,900. Call Anthony 208-731-8900

CONNECT WITH CUSTOMERS WHO NEED YOUR SERVICE

Advertise in the Business & Service Section. Call 733-0931 ext. 2

Trucks CHEVROLET '84 Pick-up \$1500 4x4, lift kit, 151K miles, 678-8521

CHEVY '03 Extra cab Duramax 3500, 100K miles, Duracab, \$15,850. 2811 So. Lincoln Call 208-423-4002

CHEVY '04 1500 SLE, 4WD, white, chrome rims, 100K miles, 678-8521

CHEVY '03 Duramax 3500, 100K miles, Duracab, \$15,850. 2811 So. Lincoln Call 208-423-4002

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Trucks

CHEVY '85 Silverado 4x4, short box, loaded, many extras, exc cond. \$3,000. 733-2001

CHEVY '90 shortbox 350, AT, custom wheels, toolbox, rem. stereo, lots of extras. Call 208-731-5459 or 825-5566.

DODGE '04 Dakota Ext Cab, 4x4, 100K miles, 208-732-8282

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DODGE '04 Dakota Ext Cab, 4x4, 100K miles, 208-732-8282

DODGE '04 Dakota Ext Cab, 4x4, 100K miles, 208-732-8

Sugar Coated Deals!

Classified Line Ad Specials

5 LINES \$2
10 DAYS

For items \$1500 or less.

5 LINES \$17
10 DAYS

For items \$1000 or less.

5 LINES \$12
10 DAYS

For items \$500 or less.

12 each additional line. Private Party only. Merchandise only. Prices must be included in ad. Maximum of 4 items.

Times-News Call 733-0931 Ext. 2 or 800-658-3883 ext. 2
magvalley.com

Sudoku Answers:

9	5	7	2	1	6	4	3	8
2	1	8	3	4	5	6	7	9
4	6	3	8	9	7	1	2	5
7	8	4	1	2	9	3	5	6
3	2	1	6	5	8	7	9	4
6	9	5	4	7	3	8	1	2
1	4	6	5	3	2	9	8	7
8	7	2	9	6	1	5	4	3
5	3	9	7	8	4	2	6	1

1006 SUVs

FORD '92 Bronco 302 V-8, new engine and rebuilt transmission, 3,500 miles, in excellent condition, \$8,000. Call 208-735-6320



FORD '99 Explorer, 4 door, V6, 4.0L, auto, 4WD, 59,998. MIDDLEKAUFF 208-736-2480



GMC '04 Donal, one owner, sun roof, load ed, \$24,950. 324-0089



CHEVY '92 Suburban 3T, 4WD, newer 301, 4 cyl, 2.9K mi, \$2900/offer. 308-3626



CHEVY '97 Suburban LT, loaded, leather, very nice, \$6,950. 204-0089



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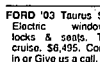
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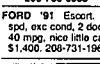
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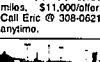
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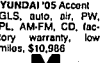
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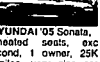
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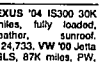
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2/51



**Picking the
right music
for the holidays**
Page 3



**Rupert
anthropologist
decries 'Apocalypto'**
Page 14

**Getting fresh
at Pandora's**
Page 12



Also inside: Video-game ghouls.....page 2

Rocky in the ringpage 4

'Idol' Nicks releases CDpage 15

Staples

Movies Pages 4-6
 New on DVD Page 7
 Events calendar
 Pages 8-9
 Dining guide Page 12
 Restaurant
 rowlow Page 12
 Karaoke Corner Page 13

On the cover

Washington Post photo
 Some of the 12 Discs of Christmas cho-
 sen by Washington Post music critic
 Richard Harrington.



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TOP 5

The week's most popular media, compiled by The Associated Press

TELEVISION

- "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS.
- "NBC Sunday Night Football," NBC.
- "Deal or No Deal" (Monday), NBC.
- "60 Minutes," CBS.
- "Survivor: Cook Islands," CBS. — From Nielsen Media Research

FILM

- "Apocalypse," Disney.
- "Happy Feet," Warner Bros.
- "The Holiday," Sony.
- "Casino Royale," Sony.
- "Blood Diamond," Warner Bros. — From Exhibitor Relations Co.

HOT FIVE

- "Irreplaceable," Beyonce. Columbia.
- "I Wanna Love You," Akon (feat. Shoop Dogg). SRC.
- "Smack That," Akon (feat. Eminem). SRC.
- "Fergalicious," Fergie. will.i.am.
- "My Love," Justin Timberlake. Jive. — From Billboard magazine

ALBUMS

- "Light Grenades," Incubus. Imortals.
- Soundtrack: "Hannah Montana." Walt Disney.
- "Daughtry," Daughtry. RCA.
- "Now 23," Various Artists. Sony BMG Strategic Marketing Group.
- "Love," The Beatles. Apple. — From Billboard magazine

CONCERT TOURS

- Elton John.
- Cirque Du Soleil — "Dellifium."
- Eric Clapton.
- Shakira.
- Red Hot Chili Peppers. — From Pollstar

VHS RENTALS

- "Ice Age: The Meltdown," 20th Century Fox.
- "The Da Vinci Code," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
- "You, Me and Dupree," Universal Studios Home Video.

- "Cars," Walt Disney/Pixar.
- "Accepted," Universal Studios Home Video. — From Billboard magazine

VHS SALES

- "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Special Edition)," Walt Disney Home Video.
- "Dora the Explorer: World Adventure," Nick Jr.
- "Frosty the Snowman," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
- "The Red Velvet Show," Madacy Video.
- "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (Unrated)," DreamWorks Home Entertainment. — From Billboard magazine

DVD SALES

- "Ice Age: The Meltdown," 20th Century Fox.
- "The Da Vinci Code," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
- "Cars," Walt Disney/Pixar.
- "The Notebook," New Line Home Entertainment.
- "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," Warner Home Video. — From Billboard magazine

TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS

- "Wintersong," Sarah McLachlan.
- "Eminem Presents the Re-Up," Eminem.
- "James Taylor at Christmas," James Taylor.
- "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Vince Guaraldi Trio.
- "Daughtry," Daughtry. — From Apple Computers Inc.

BEST-SELLING BOOKS

- "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom (hyperion) (fiction/hardcover)
- "You: On A Diet: The Owner's Manual for Waist Management" by Michael F. Roizen, Mehmet C. Oz (Free Press) (nonfiction/hardcover)
- "Next" by Michael Orlitzky (HarperCollins) (nonfiction/hardcover)
- "Eragon" by Christopher Paolini (Knopf Books for Young Readers) (fiction/paperback)
- "Cross" by James Patterson (Little, Brown) (fiction/hardcover) — From USA Today

VIDEO GAME REVIEW



In this image from video, provided by game publisher Vivendi, an elite soldier confronts enemies with paranormal abilities in "F.E.A.R.," for the Xbox 360.

Nightmares before Christmas — vampires, ghouls and Grim Reaper

BY LOU KUSTEIN
 The Associated Press

Why aren't there any Christmas-themed video games? Why not a Santa Claus stealth-action adventure? Or shopping mall wrestling? Or Three Wise Men kart racing?

Most games, with their enthusiastic embrace of mayhem and chaos, don't mesh too well with the ostensible peace-on-Earth message of yuletide. But some of us find the holidays more frightening: The crowds at Wal-Mart, the incessant Christmas carols, the dreaded office parties are enough to send us racing for the relative comfort of a graveyard full of hungry zombies. A good scare can be enough to chase away the holiday blues — or at least allow us to pretend it's Halloween and we still have two months to do our Christmas shopping. So let's give Santa a break and pay a visit to some of our favorite video-game ghouls.

"Castlevania: Portrait of Ruin" (Konami), for the Nintendo DS, \$34.99: The Castlevania series has been around for 20 years now, and the formula hasn't evolved much. This time, an evil force is trying to resurrect Dracula, and it's up to a whip-wielding hero to invade the old gait's

castle and stop the threat. The fresh twist is that the hero, Jonathan, is accompanied by a spellcaster named Charlotte; you can control either character or, in some cases, both. As they explore the castle, Jonathan can find deadlier weapons while Charlotte can upgrade to more powerful spells.

"Portrait" lets you escape the typical confines of the castle via an assortment of cursed paintings that are actually portals to different worlds, ranging from desert pyramids to a depraved circus fun house. It's essentially one giant maze with a handful of branches, all presented in the glorious 2D that fans have come to love. (The mystery remains around Konami's inability to create a decent 3D "Castlevania.")

Series regulars will enjoy the new stuff in "Portrait of Ruin," while newcomers will discover an entertaining, old-school adventure. Three stars out of four. "F.E.A.R." (Vivendi), for the Xbox 360, \$59.99: As "F.E.A.R.," begins, a mysterious army has taken over a government compound and slaughtered everyone in the joint. You're part of an elite strike force, First Encounter Assault Recon (there's your acronym), sent in to clean up the

Please see GAMES, Page 15

The 12 discs of Christmas

Essential holiday music for 2006

BY RICHARD HARRINGTON
The Washington Post

• Sufjan Stevens, *"Songs for Christmas" (Asthmatic Kitty)*

The most thoughtful, inventive, eclectic—and generous—new release is a box set collecting five EPs by the indie-pop icon who has recorded since 2001 to send out as gifts to his family and friends. Think of it as his take on Phil Spector's classic "A Christmas Gift for You," with 17 of the 42 songs originals, smartly imagined and arranged. The set includes five CDs (more than two hours of music), a 40-page booklet with lyrics and chord charts, an original Christmas essay by novelist Rick Moody, two essays by Stevens and other goodies—all for the price of a single disc.

Arranged chronologically, the discs show the evolution of Stevens' sound from banjo-centered, folk-inspired explorations to adventurous chamber-pop art with string quartets, multi-tracked chorales and odd instruments gently melded in the tradition of Brian Wilson and Van Dyke Parks. Spry and jolly originals such as "Come On! Let's Boogie to the Elf Dance!" and "Get Behind Me, Santa!" vie with the melancholy "That Was the Worst Christmas Ever!" Stevens is addicted to exclamation points.

Alongside the originals, you get idiosyncratic treatments of traditional fare such as "O Come O Come Emmanuel" (once as a haunting banjo/recorder duet, twice on solo piano). There are misses, and some too-precious moments, and Stevens' often

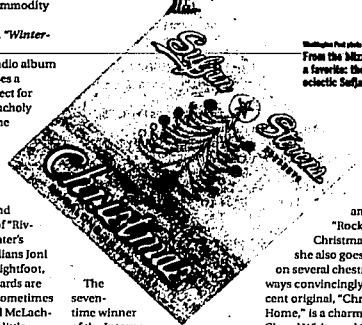
frail vocals may not be to everybody's taste, but the music is often beautiful and sweetly spiritual, less about seasonal commodity than comfort and joy.

• Sarah McLachlan, *"Winter-song" (Geffen)*

McLachlan's first studio album in three years showcases a soothing soprano perfect for sweet or slightly melancholy tracks on the season. She kicks off the album by leading a children's choir, folk through John Lennon and Yoko Ono's "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)" and offers lovely readings of "River" and "Song for a Winter's Night" by fellow Canadians Joni Mitchell and Gordon Lightfoot, respectively. The standards are solid enough, though sometimes a bit too downcast, and McLachlan seems to enjoy odd little twists (such as a needlessly re-melodized "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"). The title track is the only McLachlan original, a soft-sung, piano-driven rumination on love in the sweet season.

• Rhonda Vincent, *"Beautiful Stars: A Christmas Collection" (Rounder)*

The seven-time winner of the International Bluegrass Music Association's vocalist of the year award obviously does best in that idiom, as on Tex Logan's vintage "Christmas Time's a Comin'" and harmony-rich "O Christmas Tree," or the lively banjo-driven "Jingle Bells." Vincent and fellow mandolinist Adam Steffy power up swaying



Washington Post photo

From the hizzard of holiday CDs, here's a favorite: the thoughtful, inventive, eclectic Sufjan Stevens.

western-sounding versions of "Winter Wonderland" and Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," but she also goes the pop route on several chestnuts, not always convincingly. The one Vincent original, "Christmas Time at Home," is a charmer, and sisters Cheryl White and Sharon White Slaggs join her on a harp-enchanted "Away in a Manger" that sounds timeless.

• Brad Paisley, *"A Brad Paisley Christmas" (Arista)*
The immensely likable West Virginia native showcases his guitar prowess on a spry instrumental romp though "Jingle Bells," and acquires himself well

on Buck Owens' classic "Santa Looked a Lot Like Daddy" on an album of standards mixed with classy originals. Three tracks stand out: a 20-year-old audio clip of the 13-year-old Paisley singing his own "Born on Christmas Day" on the radio show "Jamboree USA," which segues into him singing the song today, as well as two lighthearted novelties, "Penguin, James Penguin" is a James Bond parody about using high-tech gear to find out who's been naughty and who's been nice, while "Kung Pao Buckaroo Holiday" is an old-fashioned radio skit in which the Kung Pao Buckaroos (Paisley and Grand Ole Opry pals George Jones, Jimmy Dickens and Bill Anderson) try to deal, unsuccessfully but hilariously, with the use of politically incorrect terminology in holiday songs.

Movies

Now playing

TWIN FALLS

Twin Cinema

- *"Apocalypse"
- *"Casino Royale"
- *"Charlotte's Web"
- *"Deck the Halls"
- *"Derailed"
- *"Eragon"
- *"Flicka"
- *"Happy Feet"
- *"The Inland Empire"
- *"Night at the Museum"
- *"Open Season"
- *"The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause"
- *"We Are Marshall"

Odyssey Theater

- *"Blood Diamond"
- *"Flushed Away"
- *"The Good Shepherd"
- *"The Pursuit of Happiness"
- *"Rocky Balboa"
- *"Stranger Than Fiction"
- *"Unaccompanied Minors"

The Orpheum

- *"The Holiday"

HAILEY/KETCHUM

Big Wood Cinemas

- *"Blood Diamond"
- *"Charlotte's Web"
- *"Eragon"
- *"Night at the Museum"

Ski Time Cinemas

- *"The Good Shepherd"
- *"The Pursuit of Happiness"

Magic Lantern

- *"Blood Diamond"
- *"Casino Royale"
- *"Dreamgirls" (opera Monday)
- *"Happy Feet"
- *"The Holiday"
- *"Night at the Museum"
- *"Stranger Than Fiction"

BURLEY

Century Cinema

- *"Apocalypse"
- *"Charlotte's Web"
- *"Eragon"
- *"The Inland Empire"
- *"Rocky Balboa"

Burley Theater

- *"Open Season"

JEROME

Jerome Cinema

- *"Charlotte's Web"
- *"Happy Feet"
- *"Night at the Museum"
- *"Rocky Balboa"

'ROCKY BALBOA'

Say it ain't so, Rocky

BY CHRISTY LENNIE
The Associated Press

"Rocky Balboa," the sixth (and hopefully last) installment in the underdog saga of the Italian Italian, straddles the line between nostalgia and self-parody and frequently teeters toward the latter.

Returning to his roots, Sylvester Stallone writes, directs and stars once again as the iconic title character, who long ago retired from boxing and now has carved out a quiet life as a South Philly celebrity and restaurant owner. He mourns the loss of his beloved Adrian, who died of cancer, and still hangs out with her loudmouth brother, Paulie (Burt Young). (Talia Shire appears in flashbacks at moments that ostensibly were meant to be inspiring, but instead just feel clunky.)

But when an ESPN computer simulator pits him in his prime against the current heavyweight champion, Mason "The Line" Dixon (retired light heavyweight champ Antonio Tarver), Rocky gets the bug for that tried-and-true one last fight.

No one thinks he should do it — no his son, Robert Jr. (Milo Ventimiglia), who's bitter about the burden of having famous blood run through his veins, and certainly not the media, who have a ball bashing Rocky before he even sets foot in the ring.

This would be an example of art imitating life — or is it the other way around? The idea of yet another "Rocky" movie writes its own punch lines, and Stallone deserves some credit for being aware of this phenomenon and having enough confidence in himself not to care.

And there is a certain allure to the ritual of revisiting the character, a comfort in the familiarity. It's mellowed a bit now as he wanders about town, incapable of making down the street without



Sylvester Stallone, 60, steps into the ring for the fifth 'Rocky' sequel.

being approached for an autobiography, yet he continues to spew those overly simplistic Rockyisms in that rumble of a voice that sounds like he's gargling with marbles. ("You know, you learn a lot talking to dogs" is among the funniest.)

He and Paulie still have that spirited banter in which neither seems to be listening to the other, and he's added a new friend: a shy single mom he knew as a girl from the neighborhood, whom he still affectionately calls Little Marie (Geraldine Hughes), who comes to work as the hostess at his restaurant.

'Rocky Balboa'

Starring Sylvester Stallone, Milo Ventimiglia, Burt Young
Rated PG for boxing violence and some language.

Now playing at Odyssey Theater in Twin Falls, Century Cinema of Burley, Jerome Cinema

The idea of yet another "Rocky" movie writes its own punch lines, and Sylvester Stallone deserves some credit for being aware of this phenomenon and having enough confidence in himself not to care.

and pampered — so poorly fleshed out, it's hard to care about him at all much less fear or loathe him. It makes you long for the broad charms of Mc T.

But let's be honest: Was anyone (besides Stallone) really curious to see how Rocky might turn out at age 60? He is in massively muscular, fabulous shape — truly a specimen to behold at any age — and maybe that's the point after all.

Stallone says he wanted to close out the franchise with a sense of satisfaction after the bomb that was "Rocky V" in 1990. But maybe he also wanted to stand there covered in fake blood and sweat, wrapped in a silk robe, and revel in the warm glow of having an entire arena full of extras chant, "Rocky! Rocky!" one more time.

Back in 1976, it all seemed so inspiring: the original "Rocky" was a small gem that became the surprise best-picture Oscar winner. In 2006, though, "Rocky Balboa" merely feels like a shameless vanity project.

It ain't over --- til it's over



ROCKY BALBOA

Sylvester Stallone
Now at Odyssey & Jerome

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Charlotte's Web

Now at the
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Birth of the CIA - From a Man Who Never Existed
Matt Damon Angelina Jolie Robert DeNiro Joe Pesci



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the Holiday

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JEROME 4

Charlotte's Web (PG)
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Sat Mon-Thurs 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Rocky Balboa (PG)
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Sat Mon-Thurs 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Happy Feet (PG)
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Sat Mon-Thurs 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Night at the Museum (PG)
In Digital Surround Sound Daily 7:15 - 9:30
Sat Mon-Thurs 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Twin 12

Apocalypse (R) Fri. - Sat 6:45 - 9:30

Santa Clause: Escape Clause (G)
Fri. - Sat 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

James Bond 007 Casino Royale (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:00 - 2:15 - 7:45

Charlotte's Web (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:30

The Nativity Story (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Night in the Museum (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Deck the Halls (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

Deja Vu (13) Fri. - Sat 6:45 - 9:30 -
Eragon (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:30 - 3:30 - 7:16 - 9:55

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Rocky Balboa (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Blood Diamond (R)
Fri. - Sat 12:15 - 3:30 - 7:45

Unaccompanied Minors (PG)
Fri. - Sat 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Stranger Than Fiction (13)
Fri. - Sat 1:30 - 5:45

Flushed Away (PG)
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Edward Speleers Jeremy Irons Sienna Guillory John Malkovich



eragon

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Movies

Movie nuggets

- "Apocalyptic" / B-** A boy's own adventure, with very adult lashings of brutality and gore, "Apocalyptic" is Mel Gibson's latest passion play, and it's even bloodier than "The Passion of the Christ." It has all the gosh-gone elements you could find in the old Tintin series: a total eclipse, perilous leaps from a mighty waterfall, a man-eating panther, man-sucking quicksand and ritualistic human sacrifices. What it doesn't have is much of a story or deeper resonance than watching an "Indiana Jones" sequence. Rude Youngblood plays a young Mayan captured for sacrifice by warriors from the city, but he escapes and runs (and runs and runs) home. There's no denying Gibson's talent behind the camera. But the highly accomplished filmmaking makes you wish all the more that he would focus his talent on a film that didn't combine such simplistic storytelling with such elaborate orchestrations of bodily mutilation. Rated R (sequences of graphic violence and disturbing images). In Vucates. 2 hours, 18 minutes.
- "Black Christmas" / No rating** A sorority house is terrorized by a killer who makes frightening telephone calls before murdering the sorority sisters during the Christmas break.

With Michaele Trachtenberg and Mary Elizabeth Winstead. R.

- "Blood Diamond" / B-** The movie's a diamond in the rough at best, but Leonardo DiCaprio's performance is a gem. He plays a cynical smuggler in Africa in 1999 who wants to get his hands on a rare pink diamond. So does Djimon Hounsou, the poor farmer who found the jewel and needs it to get back his son. Journalist Jennifer Connolly doesn't want the stone itself, but its story so she can write an exposé of the dirty dealings of the diamond industry. The movie often does itself in with its own bleeding-heart liberalism. Plus, it's much too long. But it's an ambitious effort to tell an important story, and DiCaprio may be nominated for an Oscar. Rated R (strong violence and language). 2 hours, 18 minutes.

- "Casino Royale" / A-** In a kind of Bond Begins, Daniel Craig plays high-stakes poker with a bad guy who finances terrorists, romances luscious Eva Green and slowly acquires the expected accoutrements. The best Bond since Sean Connery. Craig brings considerable acting chops to the role. Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of violent action, a scene of torture, sexual content and nudity). 2 hours, 24 minutes.

- "Charlotte's Web" / B-** Maybe it's unfair to compare the new live-action "Charlotte's Web" to the charming, Oscar-

About the rating system

The letter grades in these capsules are by reviewers for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Associated Press.

nominated "Babe" (1995). Well, it may be unfair, but it's impossible not to. And, though it's lovingly made, "Web" comes up short. Dakota Fanning plays the farm girl who saves the life of the runt pig Wilbur. But then it's up to the talking spiker, Charlotte (voice of Julia Roberts), to save the pucker again and again, making the movie a little repetitive. The barnyard's vocal cast is stary (Robert Redford, Kathy Bates, Oprah). And kids will love the jokes. But the Life Lessons are laid on a little thick (if you made a drinking game of taking a swig every time someone mentioned the importance of keeping promises, you'd be tanked). Fair warning: The bitersweet ending may provoke questions about death from young kids. Rated G. 1 hour, 36 minutes.

- "Deck the Halls" / D** This empty stocking of a film, a mirthless comedy with Danny DeVito and Matthew Broderick as warring neighbors, can be described as whatever is the opposite of a Christmas classic. 1 hour, 35 minutes PG (some crude and suggestive humor, language)

- "Deju Vu" / C-** Gives you the feeling that you've seen parts of this movie before. Only, the parts were all from better films. This hybrid time-travel, mystery/romance stars Denzel Washington as an ATF agent who travels back in time to save a young woman (Paula Patton) and 500 people killed by a terrorist bombing of a New Orleans ferry. The movie tries to fuse time-travel romances such as "Somewhere in Time" and "Time After Time" with some of the futuristic video technology of "Strange Days." But none of it really sticks. And the ending is a head-scratcher that bends the rules of time-travel action. Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of vio-

lence and terror, disturbing images, and some sensuality). 2 hours, 6 minutes.

- "Dreamgirls" / B** The title of the film is "Dreamgirls" but it could have been called "A Star Is Born." Former "American Idol" contestant Jennifer Hudson absolutely wails away with this big, splashy dazzler of a picture, based on the 1981 Broadway musical, even before performing her plaintive, showstopper number, "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going." And that's quite a feat. Writer-director Bill Condon ("Gods and Monsters," "Kinsey"), who was nominated for a screenplay Oscar for best-picture winner "Chicago," has crafted an endlessly entertaining, technically triumphant film. In following the rise of a Supremes-style Detroit trio — played by Hudson, Beyoncé Knowles and Anika Niki Rose — the music, choreography, costumes, lighting and CGI make-up are all superb. The editing is consistently fluid, the energy high./Jamie Foxx is sufficiently sleazy as the group's two-timing manager, with Eddie Murphy revisiting his "Saturday Night Live"-James Brown impression as an R&B sex machine. PG-13 for language, some sexuality and drug content. 151 minutes.

- "Eragon" / C+** More family-friendly (read: 12-15-year-olds) than sooting fantasy, this adaptation of Christopher Paolini's popular young-adult novel stars newcomer Edward Speelers as the farm boy/dragon rider who leads a revolt against nasty John Malkovich. Rachel Weisz voices our hero's blue-eyed dragon, and Jeremy Irons is the arrogant/Han Solo surrogate in the derivative flick.

Pro that he is, Irons plunges into this stuff as if it were Shakespeare, but Speelers is model-pretty and model-wounded. And Malkovich, at least on the evidence exhibited here, may be the laziest actor alive. Rated PG (fantasy violence, intense battle scenes and some frightening images). 1 hour, 39 minutes.

- "Flushed Away" / B** The folks behind Wallace & Gromit trade in their trademark stop-motion animation for a computerized version, but their nimble Brit wit remains intact. A pet mouse's (voiced by Hugh Jackman) pooh life literally goes in the toilet when he's flushed down under to a miniature London. Lags a bit after the first hour, but the voice talent (Kate Winslet, Ian McKellen) is so strong, the visuals so inventive and the jokes so clever, you won't mind. Rated PG (crude humor and some language). 1 hour, 22 minutes.

- "The Good Shepherd" / No rating** Matt Damon stars in this Robert De Niro-directed film about the early days of the CIA. R.

- "Happy Feet" / B-** Happy kids will be wowed by the stunning visuals — animated glaciers erumble and CGI killer whales barrel into the sky. Happy parents will love the classics-filled soundtrack. But some may be put off by the slushy plot and unnecessary ethnic and sexual stereotypes. Our hero, Mumble (voiced by Elijah Wood), is a dancing fool in a tribe full of singing emperor penguins (among them, Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman). The outset sets out to find his own music and discover who's causing a deadly famine. The film is inventive, colorful, fast-moving and slightly soulful. Rated PG (some mild peril and rude humor). 1 hour, 38 minutes.

- "The Holiday" / C** In this soggy, self-indulgent romantic comedy, a married L.A. type (Cameron Diaz) and a woe-begone English rose (Kate Winslet) swap houses for two weeks over the holidays, hoping the change will do them good. Jude Law and an unlikely Jack Black play the men in their lives. Writer-director Nancy Meyers has made a career out of showing us what women want in movies, but this one's a lifeless. Please see MOVIES, Page 16

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New on DVD Synopses of films recently released for home viewing.

"Step Up"
PG-13

It's been 19 years since adolescent girls around the world swooned at the sight of a muscle-bound Patrick Swayze lifting the lissome Jennifer Grey over his head before letting her plunge into a mosquito-infested pond in the Catskills.

Happily for 13-year-old girls everywhere, "Step Up" has arrived, breathing somewhat stale air into an age-old story: Girl from the right side of the tracks meets boy from wrong side, and a love of risqué dance steps and tight clothing brings them together.

While predictability and occasionally woden dialogue keep this from being a truly good movie, it's certainly entertaining enough to please its intended audience, and its wide-eyed belief in redemption through hard work is refreshingly optimistic.

Tyler Gage (Channing Tatum, who last appeared in "She's the Man") is a low-level hothead, living with unscrupulous foster parents, stealing cars with his best friend, Mac (Damaine Radell), and committing the occasional act of vandalism. It's that last talent that gets him 200 hours of community service at the Maryland School of the Arts (Baltimore's answer to the school in "Fame"), where he's swept along a hallway that resembles a Renaissance Faire (wandering violinists playing Pachelbel's Canon, small groups of students harmonizing for no apparent reason). He quickly homes in on Nora Clark (Jenna Dewan), a classically trained dancer and Type-A personality who is anxiously perfecting her senior performance, which, we're reminded incessantly, is Very Important and will make or break her career.

Under the stern gaze of the school's humorless principal, Director Gordon (Rachel Griffith), acting as if she's been hit in the back of the head with a frying pan and then pushed in front of the camera), Tyler falls under Nora's spell, seduced by her super-sassy dance moves and the ineffable al-



Jenna Dewan and Channing Tatum find chemistry on the dance floor in "Step Up."



Steve Carell, Greg Kinnear, Alan Arkin, Paul Dano and Paul Giamatti are a remarkable family of hoovers in "Little Miss Sunshine."

lure of trading in his baggy jeans for a nice pair of tighties. In the background, issues of class and race are raised, then more or less dropped. Beyond its central tenet (work hard and don't give up), this movie doesn't do much philosophizing. Every character represents a kind of cliché: Tyler is the disillusioned kid who has issues with authority, Mac is the kid being raised by a harried and overworked single mom, Nora is the coddled but misunderstood product of her mother's middle-class expectations. The good news is that no one is exempt from the ravages of fate. It's just that people with more money can wear cuter outfits.

Tatum and Dewan have a fine chemistry; Dewan seems to be a pretty good dancer and acquits herself respectably during the scenes that require "acting." Tatum, on the other hand, whose strongest asset appears to be his chiseled physique, doesn't seem to be acting so much as regurg-

tating, and he can be very difficult to understand.

"Step Up" could be called "Dirty Dancing Without the Pesky Morality Lesson," or "Footloose Without the Uplight Minister." Even "Flashdance Without the Welding Mask" works pretty well. From the over-the-head lift that convinces Nora that Tyler might have the goods to be her dance partner to the dance scenes along Baltimore's gritty, industrial waterfront, it's hard to escape the nagging feeling that we've seen all this before, albeit arranged slightly differently.

—Los Angeles Times

"Little Miss Sunshine"
R

With "Little Miss Sunshine," you should just ignore the hype entirely, tune out the buzz that's been building steadily for this movie since it was picked up at the Sundance Film Festival in January for a record \$10.5 million. Instead, just buckle up and go along for the ride.

What's even more amazing is that this is the first feature from husband-and-wife directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, as well as screenwriter Michael Arndt.

In crafting their story about a family of losers struggling to survive in a society obsessed with winning, they've come up with no stereotypes, no self-consciously quirky indie-movie clichés. Rather, these are real people

who are all hiding behind something, all trying to be someone other than what they are and headed for Redondo Beach.

But this is one of those films where the journey is, of course, the destination. Small moments reveal how brutally honest and observant the script can be, including a scene in which the slightly tubby Olive ponders ordering waffles and ice cream for breakfast, with varying responses from the male family members who've shaped her young life.

—Associated Press

"Invincible"
PG

Who among us doesn't have a soft spot for real-life sports stories rooted in the most favorable Hollywood stars? Kurt Russell as the 1980 Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks? Denzel Washington as the legendary Virginia high school football coach Herman Boone? Dennis Quaid as high school coach turned major league baseball player Jimmy Morris?

All three of those movies — "Miracle," "Remember the Titans" and "The Rookie" — are invoked, if not entirely successfully, in "Invincible." Mark Wahlberg stars as Vince Papale, who in 1976 joined hundreds of Philadelphia Eagles fans in a public stunt of an open tryout; no one was more surprised than Papale himself when he made the cut. "Invincible" tells Papale's story without frills, contextualizing his achievement in 1970s Philly, whose economic and social woes were only magnified by its football team's crummy record.

There's too much slow-mo and too many music cues, but there's a low-key buzz to Wahlberg's scenes with Greg Kinnear, who plays newcomer coach Dick Vermeil. Wahlberg, delivering a shy, emotionally muffled performance, is nevertheless sympathetic in what may be the only role in movie history where the real-life guy was better-looking than the star playing him.

—Washington Post

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Food

South-central Idaho dining guide

DECLO

• **Jaha's** Over the Top, 232 N. Highway 77 Falls (at 210 off Interstate 84) — Burgers, chicken tenders, fresh fruit shakes in season. \$2.30-\$6.49. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays 11 a.m.-10 p.m. *Debby Kavan, owner.* 654-8891.

DIETRICH

• **Eagle's Hot** — Matou chicken sandwiches, hamburgers and fries, chicken-fried steak, homemade bread pudding dessert. \$5-\$11.95. Full bar. Hours: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays, noon-2 p.m. *Robert and Darlene Gossett, owners.* 544-2954.

FAIRFIELD

• **The Prairie Kitchen**, 209 E. Highway 20 — Hot roast beef or turkey sandwiches, chicken-fried steak, home-made chicken strip platter, popcorn or jambo shrimp, signature breakfasts. \$7.20-\$15.20. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; breakfasts 7 a.m.-11 a.m. daily. *Scott and Dawn Pitone, owners.* 764-2257.

GLENN'S FERRY

• **Carmela Restaurant** — Fettucini, seafood, steak. \$3.95-\$14.95; weekend prime rib specials, \$15-\$20. Wine, beer. Hours: Daily, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; closed Christmas and New Year's Day. Weekend reservations recommended. *Roger Jones, owner.* 366-6238.

• **Nansori's Cafe**, 103 E. First St. —

GOODING

• **El Comedor**, 127 Third Ave. E. — Empanadas, burrititos/tostito combo plates, Mexican coffee. \$5-\$11.60. Hours: Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; closed Saturdays and Sundays. *Diobee Lujanosa, owner.* 934-5852.

• **Melanie Cafe**, 116 Fourth Ave. W. — Chicken-fried steak, finger steaks, burgers and soups. \$4.95-\$10.95. Hours: Mondays through Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; closed weekends. *Edson Drips, owner.* 943-9699.

• **New China House Restaurant**, 222 Fourth Ave. E. — Szechwan-style pork and seafood, grilled shrimp. \$4-\$9.75. Wine,

TWIN FALLS

• **Tomato's Italian Grill**, 1309 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. — Steak, pasta, gourmet pizzas. \$6.45-\$19.95. Wine, beer. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m.; closed Sundays. *Max Humphries, owner.* 735-9100.

• **Tee Restaurant**, 1021 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. — General Toot's Chicken, Mongolian beef, crisp ovaries. \$4.95-\$11.95. Wine, beer. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. *Lan Tse, owner.* 735-6262.

• **Wok N Grill**, 1168 Blue Lakes Blvd.

About the dining guide

Every week, TNT publishes a rotating list of restaurants in south-central Idaho, along with their hours, food specialties and price ranges. For reasons of space, not every restaurant will be listed every week, but they will be listed on a regular basis.

If your restaurant is not listed and you would like to have it in the weekly dining guide, call Steve Crump at 735-3223 or e-mail him at scrum@magicalville.com. It's a free service.



Pandora Handley, a pastry chef with 20 years' experience, works in the kitchen of her new Pandora's Bakery-Deli-Cafe in Twin Falls.

Fresh baking, ingredients live up to promise at Pandora's

BY VIRGINIA S. HUTCHINS
Times News writer



Peek inside the vegetarian calzone at Pandora's and you'll find a flavorful blend of ingredients. On the side: the restaurant's own chips, made daily from local potatoes.

"Everything is traditional — it's not commercialized," Kurt said. "If it's not right, we do it again."

I put those principles to the test earlier this month, ordering the cafe's vegetarian calzone favorite combination. Each ingredient is dialed up a notch: The onions are caramelized; the peppers, roasted; the mushrooms, crimini; the tomatoes,

TWIN FALLS — Go ahead, open the door. All that's likely to rush out of Pandora's Bakery-Deli-Cafe is great aroma.

Pandora and Kurt Handley opened the bakery in the Turf Plaza this summer to offer quiches (fresh ingredients on a handmade crust), Italian sandwiches (on fresh, soft buns, topped with salt and pepper and a squirt of oil), house-made

soups (changing daily) and calzones. She's a pastry chef with 20 years' experience — including 10 at Blue Lakes Country Club and he has 15 years in seasonal food service.

"We make everything we possibly can from scratch," Kurt said.

That includes the pizza dough, all the breads, the marinara sauce, the meatballs — even the potato chips, made daily from local spuds. And his wife won't allow cutting corners, he said. No lettuce that's past its prime.

Please see PANDORA'S, Page 13

About Pandora's Bakery-Deli-Cafe

778 Falls Ave., Twin Falls — Quiches, Italian sandwiches, calzones, soups, pastries, desserts, espresso; up to \$7.25. Free wireless Internet. Catering, baking gift baskets, theme cakes. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. *Kurt and Pandora Handley, owners.* 733-5433

Akon's No. 1 and 2 in the hearts of hip-hop fans

The Boston Globe

BOSTON — It's a bad time to be betting against the Instincts of 25-year-old R&B artist Akon.

Last week, he managed a music industry feat only three other popular recording artists — the Beatles, Usher, and Mariah Carey — have attained: No. 1 and 2 slots on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Even though it was just that achievement Akon claims he had in mind when releasing the club bangers "Smack That" (featuring Eminem) and "I Wanna Love You" (featuring Snoop Dogg) in quick succession, he admits to being amazed.

"It was like, 'Yo, we gotta take the No. 1 and the No. 2 spots!' It's hard work trying to get there, you might not make it, but at least if we get both of them in the Top 10, we made an accomplishment. And man," he says with a still astonished laugh, "it worked out, you know?"

Quite a bit has worked out for Akon since leaving behind his rap sheet — auto theft was the specialty that landed him behind bars several times — and taking up with rap's elite.

That shift is in part due to Dwyane Stephens, now vice president of Akon's label Kon Live. A talent development agent in the '90s, working with artists such as Pink and TLC, Stephens knew Akon prior to his incarceration and worked with him after his release. Shopping the young singer-songwriter-producer around to



Quite a bit has worked out for Akon since leaving behind his rap sheet — auto theft was the specialty that landed him behind bars several times — and taking up with rap's elite.

artists and labels, Stephens eventually landed him a deal with Universal.

Akon's sophomore album, "Konvicted," debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard 200 two weeks ago, and with his current double-flaming of hits, it looks to better the triple-platinum success of his 2004 debut, "Trouble." He has lent his mellifluous yet ready voice to the hooks of dozens of songs he has written and produced for other artists: They range in style from the bubbly title cut of Gwen Stefani's upcoming "Sweet Escape" album to grittier hip-hop tracks from Young Jeezy and Eminem.

"A lot of people don't know that I do so many things outside of hip-hop music," says Akon. "It just so happened that I got known first for doing hip-hop music. Like I'm about to go

"I'm the nicest guy you'll ever meet, but don't take the kindness for weakness. It's not like that."

— Akon

In the studio and do a song for Elton John, and I know I'm not going to sound nothing like a hip-hop record. I really took time to learn and understand the game. I know you have to make songs to fit the actual artist."

It's unlikely that those who know the adolescent named Allaine Thlam (Akon is his middle name) realized he had such an abundance of music in him, or that he would come to so successfully straddle thug-image rap and smooth-crooner

soul. "You can't judge a book by its cover," says Akon.

"I'm the nicest guy you'll ever meet, but don't take the kindness for weakness. It's not like that."

That said, Akon believes that the misfit who earned his gangsta rep fighting, stealing, and doing time in Newark is far removed from the genial, low-key-for-hip-hop star this diamond-encrusted medallion and watch are covered by a simple hoodie) who now dreams of the good his charitable foundation will do for Senegal.

The West African country is his parents' native land, and the place he spent his early childhood and summers growing up after his parents had moved to the States. On "Mama Africa," a lilting reggae number with a deep bass groove on "Konvicted," he calls on all people, blacks in particular, to visit the continent. "I want to rebuild Africa, that's like my main, main, main thing," he says.

While he's got that lofly goal in mind and says "I'm far from crazy now" in reference to his old ways, that doesn't mean he's stopped singing about the hustle or about grinding with strippers — as in the raucier album version of "I Wanna Love You." "There's positive and negatives, there's balance; it's a dual purpose," he says of the two versions of that song and his own raunchy-to-reflective persona. "I feel like that personality is in me, and it can't just not come out."

Music KARAOKE CORNER

DAILY (except Dec. 25)

Twin Falls

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge. No cover charge. Klover Klub is at 402 Main N.

DAILY (except Dec. 24 and Dec. 25)

Burley

Karaoke will be featured at 9 p.m. at The Steakhouse and Convention Center. No cover charge. The Steakhouse is at 1340 Oakley Ave.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21

Twin Falls

Katwalk Karaoke will be featured at 9 p.m. at Kruger's Night Life. No cover charge. Kruger's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S. P & D Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Burley

Kroskers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. Cover charge is \$2. The Riverside is at 197 W. Highway 30.

Declo

Karaoke by Lou Brown will be featured from 8 p.m. to midnight at Shakers. No cover charge. Shakers is at 826 Highway 81.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

Twin Falls

Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Burley

Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the G10 Club. No cover

Please see **KARAOKE**, Page 14

Pandora's *Continued from page 12*

fresh: the cheese, feta. That's all inside a crust with the faint sweetness of fresh pizza dough, with just enough marinara to moisten the meat without overwhelming the vegetable flavors.

My calzone was served fresh and piping hot, with those

house-made salt-and-pepper chips on the side. (You can request hot-and-smoky chips instead, and the cafe is developing other flavors.) Delicious. The side salad I added for \$1.75 showed up with dark leaves of lettuce and a more-generous-

than-usual dose of shredded carrots and cabbage — obviously not from a bag.

I took a risk by ordering a two-shot mocha (\$2.75) just a few days after two Pandora's employees returned from barista training and added

espresso drinks to the cafe menu. The gamble paid off: I detected none of the bitterness that spoils many a mocha.

I see myself becoming a Saturday-morning regular at Pandora's.

Local

KARAOKE CORNER

continued from page 13
charge. The 610 Club is at 1054 Overland Ave.

Rupert

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Bar. No cover charge. Melody Bar is at 502 South St.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23

Twin Falls

Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Burley

Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club. No cover charge. The 610 Club is at 1054 Overland Ave.

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. Cover charge is \$2. The Riverside is at 197 W. Highway 30.

Rupert

High Mountain Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is at 613 Fremont Ave.

Declo

Miller Time Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Kahuna. No cover charge. Big Kahuna is at 9 E. Main.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

Twin Falls

P & D Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Paul

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Red's Bar. No cover charge. Red's Bar is on South E. Idaho St.

Rupert anthropologist Hansen decries violence in 'Apocalyppto'

Los Angeles Times

A key consultant among several archeologists who served as advisors on Mel Gibson's "Apocalyppto" said he is disappointed that the film overlooks many of the Mayas' cultural and scientific achievements and portrays the people as "bloodthirsty savages."

"As a chase movie, 'Apocalyppto' is top-notch," said Richard D. Hansen, a professor of anthropology at Idaho State University who has written extensively about the Mayas. The sets, makeup and costumes are also "accurate to the nth degree," he noted. But it's a feature film — not a documentary — which may let down those looking for accuracy at every turn.

"This is Hollywood, first and foremost," said Hansen, who lives on a Rupert potato farm.

As with any historically based feature, whether it's "Alexander" or "All the President's Men," directors take creative license with the facts. "Apocalyppto" is no different.

"The final decision when making a film is, 'What is the right balance between historical authenticity and making it exciting, visually as well,'" said Farhad Safinia, who cowrote the script with Gibson, adding: "The film is an all out entertainment thrill ride, and that is what it was always designed to do. It is a work of fiction."

Gibson and Safinia have said they wanted the film to serve as a reminder to today's world that the precursor to the fall of a civilization is always the same: widespread environmental degradation, excessive consumption and political corruption.

But archeologists point out that nobody knows why the Mayas, who ruled in the American



The movie 'makes us think that maybe (the Mayas) were bloodthirsty savages,' says Richard D. Hansen, who was a consultant on 'Apocalyppto.'

Now playing

"Apocalyppto" is showing at the Twin Cinema in Twin Falls and at Century Cinema in Burley.

as for more than 1,000 years, abandoned their cities and allowed their majestic pyramids to become overgrown with jungle. And to watch Gibson's "Apocalyppto," one might not realize that the Mayas were in fact a highly sophisticated people: They mapped celestial objects, developed an accurate 365-day calendar, created their own writing

Gibson's long-awaited film, which opened to mixed reviews and criticism of its scenes of excessive violence, re-creates with great effect the bloody drama of human sacrifice that took place atop a Maya pyramid.

In one memorable scene, a Maya priest slashes open the chests of frightened prisoners, rips out their still-beating hearts and decapitates them. All the while, the populace screams and gesticulates wildly as each severed head comes bouncing down the steps.

Experts say that although the Mayas did practice human sacrifice, it came later to their civilization and was likely picked up from the Aztecs.

The movie "makes us think that maybe (the Mayas) were bloodthirsty savages," Hansen said.

Safinia says that reality was far more intense than the film shows. "The Mayas did engage in decapitation. They did roll bodies down the temple steps," he said, noting there is evidence that the crowds tore the bodies apart limb by limb, but "you can't show that stuff" on screen.

The film's hero, played by actor Rudy Youngblood, is a forest dweller who is taken prisoner by a Maya riding party. Later, he and other captives are given a chance to fight for their lives in a deadly game in which Maya warriors throw spears and fire arrows at them for sport.

Hansen and Safinia can't say for certain that such a game ever existed among the Mayas.

"The process of using these individuals as target practice is a real possibility," Hansen said. "I couldn't say it did happen, but I couldn't say it didn't either. [Gibson] wanted to have some reason to have the guys go after

Please see HANSEN, Page 15

system and perhaps most notably had developed the concept of zero in mathematics.

"The calendar (angle) is so rich," Hansen said. "It would have been a marvelous part of the story."

Safinia said that the film's narrative is told through the eyes of the central protagonist, Jaguar Paw, and it is his journey that we follow. "You do see aspects of the Mayan civilization in the background," Safinia said, such as their architecture, their industry and their preponderance to ornament themselves with jewelry, costumes, textiles and such.

Hansen *Continued from page 14*

Rudy Youngblood, to go after the hero...That was entirely Mel's scenario—but it's highly reasonable."

Some question why Gibson included that scene instead of a sport for which the Mayas are truly famous: ball games.

Jim Brady, who teaches archeology at Cal State L.A., said he has never heard of the Mayas staging a target practice game with prisoners, but they certainly staged sporting events on ball courts using rubber balls and stone rings. Brady, who has not seen the film, noted that there are indications that the captain of the losing team may have been sacrificed, "but we don't know how much that happened."

In the film, Jaguar Paw and other prisoners appear awed by the grandeur of the pyramids as they are led into the Maya city to meet their fate.

But Brady notes that anyone living in that region certainly would have been aware of pyramids.

In another much talked-about scene, Jaguar Paw comes upon a giant pit filled with hundreds of sacrificed bodies.

Hansen said it is "conjecture" whether those pits existed. "All (Gibson was) trying to do there is express the horror of it."

"Apocalypse" depicts the latter days—the post-classic period—of Maya civilization, but the main pyramid where the human sacrifices occurred actually comes from classic period, when the Mayas were at their zenith.

"There was nothing in the post-classic period that would match the size and majesty of that pyramid in the film," Hansen said. "But Gibson was trying to make a story here. He was trying to depict opulence, wealth, consumption of resources."

Safinia said the mixing of architectures was done for aesthetic reasons.

About 25 members of the Maya community in Los Angeles were invited to an advance screening of Gibson's film last week. Two of those who attended came away impressed, but added that they too wished Gibson had shown more of the Maya civilization.

"It was a great action film that kept me on the edge of my seat," said Sara Zapata Mijares, president and founder of Federacion de Clubes Yucatecos-USA. "I think it should have had a little bit more of the culture," such as the pyramids. "It could have shown a little more why these buildings were built."

Gill, she said, "was a great picture."

Alfonso Escalante, who teaches folk dancing, said the movie was "very exciting" and the costumes were stunning, but for people who don't know anything about the Maya culture, "It's going to be a little tough because there was more about killing than about the culture. But definitely, they are going to see how they looked at that time, how they lived."

Sound bites: RECENT CD RELEASES

Taylor Hicks "Taylor Hicks" (Arista)

Why did Taylor Hicks win "American Idol"?

Well, it wasn't just his soulful voice or Clooney-esque silver hair. It was his unbridled, passionate delivery and goofy charm (plus those rhythm-less dance moves, of course).

Hicks still has that amazing voice—somewhere between gruffness and sweetness. But the quirky appeal and fiery performance style that led him to be the unlikely king of this year's "Idol" unfortunately is in rare supply in his overproduced, self-titled debut.

Hicks, an Alabama-bred crooner with a penchant for soul, attempts to cover the hallowed ground of his forefathers: legends like Ray Charles and musicians such as Ray Crocker, Michael McDonald and Joe Cocker.



Does he succeed? Yes... and no. Sleekly produced in L.A. by Matt Serletic (Santana, Willie Nelson), Hicks' album plays on typical themes entrenched in the soul-blues tradition: heartache, journeying, mo', love loss.

He pays homage to Charles on such songs as the funky "Heaven Knows,"

which samples a riff from Charles' "What I'd Say."

Other tunes range from the horn-fueled thrust of "The Runaround" to such cheese-pop as "Dream Myself Awake," written by matchbox twenty's Rob Thomas, and the disco-funk theme "Give Me Tonight," with its slap bass line and Hicks' overt reference to gettin' jiggy.

Some of it is catchy, certainly. But there's less grit to be found here. Where is the pizzazz that drove Hicks to snatch that "Idol" crown? One wishes for the raw emotion of his heroes.

Perhaps the best song on the album is one that he wrote—"Soul Thing": "The road can be your friend, or the devil in disguise," he sings.

That track, with its ecstatic whoops, comes closer to the uninhibited soul that Hicks does so well.

—Associated Press

Killswitch Engage "As Daylight Dies" (Roadrunner)

Plenty of people feel metal is just a bunch of noise, that it requires no musicianship whatsoever. They're just here to have a good listen to the latest from Killswitch Engage.

"As Daylight Dies" is metal at its finest—engaging, intelligent, courageous. It definitely tops their 2004 breakthrough, "The End of Heartache."

It's scary to think that Killswitch may only get better after this.

The guitar assault of Joel Stroetzel and Adam Dutkiewicz is relentlessly impressive, with a pummeling wealth of riffs that hit all the more harder when juxtaposed with the softer passages. Justin Foley drums with machine-gun precision and Mike D'Antonio holds it all together with a thunderous bass.

For fans still lamenting the departure of former singer Jesse Leach: Just get over it! Howard Jones' vocal attack

against moral decay is commanding from start to finish, with a mix of guttural growling and pitch-perfect screams.

You'd be hard pressed to pluck a standout track—on all 11 could easily fit the bill—but first single "My Curse," "The Arms of Sorrow" and "Break the Silence" are highlights. But then it'd be leaving out "For You," "Reject Yourself" and... you know what? Just listen to the whole thing.

—Associated Press

Games *Continued from page 2*

mess, but your enemy isn't your everyday terror cell. Instead, you're confronted with a force of supersoldiers who are psychically controlled by a maniac named Paxton Fettel. He can get into your head too, feeding you hallucinations of a creepy, dark-haired girl in a red dress.

"F.E.A.R." is a first-rate, first-person shooter, but the paranormal elements elevate it into a much scarier experience. Some of the visions are genuinely gruesome, much more than in your standard blast-a-thon or even in "survival horror" games like "Resident Evil." "F.E.A.R.," suffers from repetitious enemies and bland

level design, but the regular doses of shock make it worth the ride. Three stars.

"Death Jr. II: Root of Evil" (Konami, for the PlayStation Portable, \$39.99): Death Jr., the insecure son of the Grim Reaper, is one of the more appealing new characters of the last few years, at least to those of us with latent goth sensibilities. Too bad the game's hero headlined haven't lived up to his potential.

In "Root of Evil," DJ and his doom-chicked Pandora contend with a deranged nature goddess named Furi, and there's something likably perverse about making Nature the villain.

The journey encompasses some colorfully weird locales, from the River Styx to a toy graveyard to a waffle house where the syrup is made of acid. Unfortunately, the gameplay gets dull quick: Most of the time you're just twirling DJ's scythe or Pandora's whip, and most of the challenges are a bit too straightforward. The controls are a little sloppy as well, making it hard, for example, to see enemies that are attacking you from off-screen.

We really do like Death Jr.—the character—and we want to see how much fun he'd be in a better-designed game.

News

Movies *Continued from page 6*

maladrofit concoction. The film does have one thing going for it: It's the only romantic comedy out there. Rated PG-13 (sexual content and some strong language). 2 hours, 15 minutes.

• **"The Nativity Story" / C+** Who knew that this Prince-Memoire Men were such Punchline-tossing cutups? In the wake of Mel Gibson's worldwide blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ" comes this new biblical film about the birth of Jesus. There's not much violence, thankfully, but plenty of greeting-card sincerity and moral fortitude. The acting is mostly just passable (real-life pregnant teen Keisha Castle-Hughes plays Mary). Oddly, director Catherine Hardwicke has chosen to drain most of the color from the film's cinematography. Her scenes are often dark and stark or just plain

gray. What we end up with is something quite a bit less than the greatest story ever told. Rated PG (some violent content). 1 hour, 41 minutes.

• **"Night at the Museum" / No rating.** Ben Stiller accidentally brings the inhabitants of a national history museum to life. PG

• **"The Pursuit of Happiness" / B-** Inspirational movies like this have been mislabeled so many times, even the ads can be nausea-inducing. But leave the Pepto at home. This one's much better than you might think, thanks to Will Smith. Based on a true story, it's about a single father (Smith) in 1981 San Francisco, trying to earn a job at a brokerage firm via an unpaid internship and, at the same time, take care of his son (Jaden Smith, the star's real-life son).

"Happyness" might bring an Oscar nomination for Smith (who got a Golden Globe nod Thursday). Rated PG-13 (some language). 1 hour, 57 minutes.

• **"Rocky Balboa" / No rating.** Rocky returns to the ring for a shot at the heavyweight championship of the world. PG

• **"The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause" / C** Tim Allen returns as Father Christmas in this slick and silly family sequel. The Mrs. is pregnant, the in-laws are barking and Jack Frost (Martin Short) is nipping at his... ahem. 1 hour, 38 minutes. G

• **"Stranger Than Fiction" / B** This ingenious celluloid Forster and first-time screenwriter Zach Helm summons up several other films ("Adaptation," "L.A. Story,"

among others) with its clever, literate script and fanciful premise. A boring IRS auditor (Will Ferrell) starts hearing a female voice narrating his life and learns he's a fictional character in a novel by a reclusive writer (Emma Thompson). The movie lacks a fully satisfying wrap-up, but the dialogue is head-spinning and the cast wonderful — especially Dustin Hoffman as a nutty professor trying to help Ferrell. Rated PG-13 (some disturbing images, sexuality, brief language and nudity). 1 hour, 47 minutes.

• **"Unaccompanied Minors" / D+** A holiday movie that has all the earmarks of a John Hughes production — something like "Home Alone" meets "The Breakfast Club." The setup: A misfit collection of precocious kids, stranded in an airport on

Christmas Eve, join together to outwit a bunch of goofy grown-ups trying to keep them from having a good time. But if you're expecting the kind of clever miscreancy Hughes is famous for, you'll be disappointed. The script is tinsel-thin, built around a series of not-so-exciting escapes and pursuits. The characters are mostly similar. Rated PG (mild rude humor and language). 1 hour, 27 minutes.

• **"We Are Marshall" / No rating.** Matthew McConaughey plays the coach charged with revitalizing the Marshall, W.Va., football program after the 1970 plane crash that killed 75 members of the team and coaching staff. PG

—Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Associated Press

Discs *Continued from page 3*

• **Bette Midler, "Cool Yule" (Columbia)**

This is a seasonal first from the veteran pop singer, who conjures "Buble Boy," an insouciance on the title track and "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm." Solid orchestral pop accompanies the sentimental standards and Midler gets a little help from the venerable Johnny Mathis on a "Winter Wonderland/Let It Snow" medley. Midler also revisits her biggest hit, "From a Distance," though this "Christmas Version" is hardly validated by seasonal garnish, and her long-time residence, Hawaii, gets a nod via "Mele Kalikimaka." The Midler/Mathis duet also appears on Mathis' "Gold: A 50th Anniversary Christmas Celebration" (Columbia), which draws from the pop smoothie's many holiday albums for the label.

• **Manhattan Transfer, "An Acappella Christmas" (Rhino)** As with "Take 6" a few years back, this is so natural, you wonder why it took so long for one of the premier vocal ensembles to

get around on a cappella take on the season (their 1992 album had loads of guests). This one features the quartet's typically sophisticated close harmony arrangements — with occasional vocal percussion and multitracking to suggest a chorus — on wisely chosen standards, ranging from the playfully elegant "Toyland" and "My Grown-Up Christmas List" to a bluesy "Merry Christmas Baby."

• **Asleep at the Wheel, "Santa Loves to Boogie" (Bluesville)** But Santa also likes to swing. Texas-style, and does so on "Hot Texas Christmas Day" (featuring a booming guest vocal from Dale

Watson) and "Santa's on His Way." The steed guitar connection between Texas swing and Hawaiian music is underscored on "Mele Kalikimaka," and Willie Nelson steps in for the umpteenth reprise of his holiday classic "Preppy Paper."

• **"New Orleans Christmas" (Putumayo)** As spirited and jubilant as you'd expect, particularly the Heritage Hall Jazz Band's propulsive "Silver Bells," James Andrews' ramble on "Christmas in New Orleans" and the New Birth Brass Bands parade strut on "Santa's Second Line." The Dukes of Dixieland celebrate their own tradition on "Holiday Time in New Orleans," while vocal standouts include Ingrid Lucila's sultry take on Louis Armstrong's classic "Zat You, Santa Claus" and Banu Gibson and the New Orleans Hot Jazz's poignant post-Katrina reading of "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

• **Israel & New Breed, "A Timeless Christmas" (Integrity Gospel)**

Almost unrelenting in its energy and high spirits, this offering by the award-winning praise ensemble from Houston's culturally diverse Lakewood Church may remind some of Sounds of Blackness — a vigorous choir, steering soloists and decidedly propulsive arrangements on tracks like leader Israel Houghton's "Everybody Knows" and "Hark" as well as Marcus Miller-propelled instrumental "Nocturnal Mist." Several guests stand out, notably Marvin Winans on "By Christmas Day" and Houghton's young son on the very funny monologue "Sonny Boy Christmas."

• **Celtic Woman, "A Christmas Celebration" (Manhattan)** A missed opportunity for the Celtic ensemble, which seems to obscure its cultural roots in favor of pop-oriented seasonal repertoire lushly underscored by the Irish Film Orchestra. The four singers (the fifth member is a fiddler) are blessed with pristine sopranos, but only occasionally power up for Anna-like chorales. You'll appreciate the

Gaelic versions of "Silent Night" and the airy "Oen Cloiche Ud i Mbeilthi," as well as a glorious "Panis Angelicus" (some things just sound better in Latin), but skip the bonus track, a misguided big-band romp through "Let It Snow."

• **Boozie Collins, "Christmas Is 4 Ever" (Silent Fire)** Funky mackeroses of mostly familiar songs, some abusing the letter "Z" ("Jingle Belz," "Christmas" (The Christmas Song) or offering playfully p-funkytone variations ("Winterfunkland," "Dis-Christmas" for Donny Hathaway's "This Christmas"). There are four originals, including "Happy Holdtaze" and the title track, and the space bassist gets some help from old pals Bobby Byrd, Fred Wesley and a bunch of P-Funksters (with a guest spot from G-funkier Snugg Dogg). So the funk quotient is as high as, well, the musicians' spirits, probably. On the downside, Boozie's rapid vocals quickly become annoying.