

FRIDAY

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50 cents

Times-News

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Public, ISP rally for Glenn

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Idaho backs officers who fall in the line of duty. Thursday proved it.

As Idaho State Trooper Chris Glenn entered his second day in critical condition at St. Alphonsus hospital in Boise, the community banded together to support him. Glenn was shot Wednesday morning while pulling over a driver south of Twin Falls who was a suspect in an armed robbery.

Adam Mower, who Twin Falls County prosecutors have charged, with shooting Glenn before fleeing for Jackpot, Nev., was taken by heli-

copter Wednesday afternoon from St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center to the same hospital as Glenn. His condition was not released.

St. Alphonsus became a mecca for law enforcement officers, at least one from out-of-state who poured in to visit Glenn. And back home in the Magic Valley, calls of support flooded Idaho State Police's Region Four office in Jerome.

A Rupert country radio station opened its phone lines and all branches of Wells Fargo and First Federal banks opened their doors to donations for the wounded trooper and his family.

"It's a somber feeling that one of



Glenn

our people has been injured," said Lorrie Oliver, office specialist at the Region Four office in Jerome. Oliver said Thursday she was overwhelmed with its high volume of phone calls from other agencies wanting to help and members of the public asking about Glenn's condition and wanting to donate money.

"It is a lot of support," she said. "We very much appreciate it." Glenn's family continues to ask that his condition be kept private.

according to ISP spokesman Rick Ohtsman. And while some troopers wait in suspense, other counties are working shifts for Region Four troopers so they can visit Glenn in Boise. But not all the traffic is headed toward Boise. A group of majors and captains from ISP's Boise headquarters met with Region Four troopers Thursday morning.

"One of the concerns when you have something like this happen is it brings the vulnerabilities home," Ohtsman said. "Troopers and other officers live with the knowledge that they work a dangerous job — as do their spouses. Every time they go to work in the morning and get in their patrol car, something can happen."

Blizzard blitz



Denver residents and nearly 5,000 travelers cope with a snowbound city and closed airport.

SEE THE FULL STORY ON A4
SEE VIDEO AT WWW.MAGICVALLEY.COM

Payment denied

Buhl School Board says no to BHS general contractor

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — Due to problems with the construction of the new Buhl High School, the school district has superintended with the last \$100,000. See Magic Valley, page C1

The money will not be released "until the building is complete to our satisfaction," school board President Ken McDonald said Tuesday. "I believe that Bateman-Hall is more than willing to bring it up."

During a recent walk-through of the building two leaks in the roof were spotted, as well as cracks in the east hall by the library.

Classes have been held in the \$3 million high school since the fall of 2005, but problems have been persistent, including a leaky roof, grass that won't grow and defects in the school's gym floor.

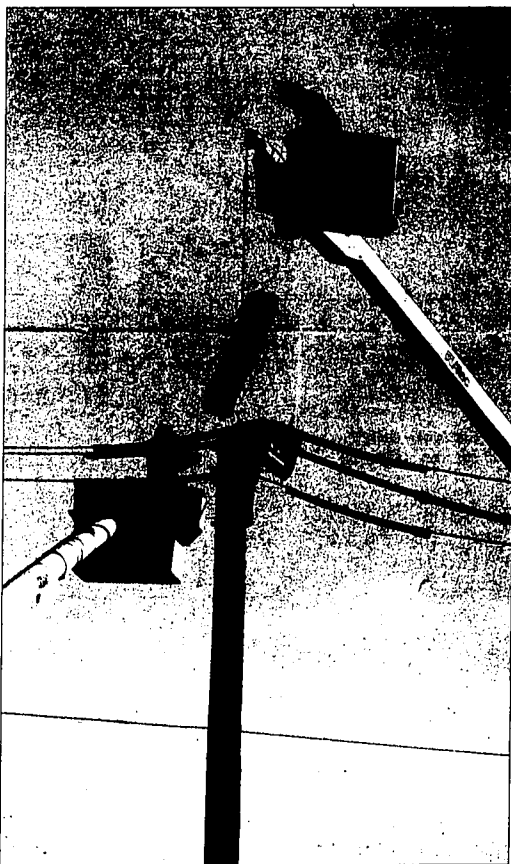
"Eighty percent of leaks on the roof have been on the pitched portion and not the flat-rubber part," McDonald said. "The problem seems to be with the workmanship and not the materials used."

A list of items has already been approved to be fixed and Bateman-Hall has given an extended warranty for an additional year to the district on the gym floor and roof.

Concern about the extended warranty arose from the company's declining in writing that it would finish work started

Please see BUHL, Page A3

CUTTING POWER



Under blue skies, an Idaho Power line crew puts the finishing touches on part of a new transmission line Thursday along Filer Avenue West in Twin Falls. Today's forecast calls for a chance of snow with a high of 30.

Arizona is the fastest-growing state in nation

Idaho places third in growth

By Stephen Oltzschner
Associated Press writer

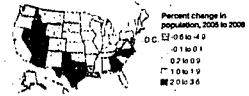
WASHINGTON — Arizona: It's not just for retired Midwesterners anymore.

Arizona led the nation with a population growth rate of 3.6 percent in the past year, followed by Nevada, Idaho, Georgia and Texas.

Arizona is attracting people from across the U.S. and across the border at such a pace that it is now the fastest-growing state in the country.

Please see GROWTH, Page A3

Idaho posts a 2.6 growth rate — 37,098 people



Rottweiler that bit students dead

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

JEROME — Stanley, a 2-year-old Rottweiler that bit two Horizon Elementary School students, is dead.

Chris Barber, who owned the dog and its 80-pound mother that also got loose on school grounds on Nov. 28, voluntarily made the tough decision before his arraignment on Dec. 14.

A police report depicts Stanley and the other dog, Cori, escaping Barber's yard two blocks south of Horizon Elementary school and attacking first-graders Wyatt DeWitt and Andres Jaimas in the playground.

Barber, a Jerome City Council member who declined to comment for this story, pleaded guilty to having a dog at large.

Because he had already had Stanley euthanized last week, the prosecutor dismissed a vicious dog at large charge.

Barber was ordered to pay a \$50 fine, \$72.50 in court costs and restitution within 30 days.

Index

Business and service directory . . . E6
Classifieds . . . E18
Comics . . . D45
Crossword . . . E5
Dear Abby . . . D5
Horoscope . . . D4
Magic Valley . . . C1
Money . . . C8
Movies . . . C3, C5
Obituary . . . C2
Opinion . . . A6,7
Outdoors . . . D1
Sports . . . C7
Stocks . . . C7
Sudoku . . . E2
Weather . . . B8

The ethics of 'designing' babies with Mom or Dad's defective genes

By Lindsey Tanner
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — The power to create "perfect" designer babies looms over the world of prenatal testing. But what if doctors started doing the opposite?

Creating made-to-order babies with genetic defects would seem to be an ethical minefield, but to some parents with disabilities — say, deafness or dwarfism — it just means making babies like them.

And a recent survey of U.S.

clinics that offer embryo screening suggests it's already happening.

Three percent, or 4 clinics surveyed, said they have provided the costly, complicated procedure to help families create children with a disability.

Some doctors have denounced the practice, others question whether it's true. Blogs are abuzz with the news, with armchair critics saying the phenomenon, if real, is taking the concept of designer babies way too far.

"Old fear: designer babies. New fear: deformer babies,"

the online magazine Slate wrote, calling it "the deliberate crippling of children."

But the survey also has led to a debate about the definition of "normal" and inspires a glimpse into deaf and dwarf cultures where many people do not consider themselves disabled.

Cara Reynolds of Collingswood, N.J., who considered embryo screening but now plans to adopt a dwarf baby, is outraged by the criticism.

Please see DESIGNER, Page A3






Cara and Gibson Reynolds, whose newborn died last year from a genetic condition linked to dwarfism, pose on the porch of their home in a Dec. 16 photo in Collingswood, N.J. Cara says she is outraged by opposition to using embryo screening to allow dwarf people to have dwarf children.



TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today  Rain and snow ending, clouds clearing High 34	Tonight  Partly cloudy and chilly Low 14	Saturday  Cold and dry, nighttime snow possible 29 / 21
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MINI-CASSIA

Today: A blustery day with clouds and snow showers moving out of the area. Highs to 30s.
Tonight: Becoming partly cloudy and cold with a chilly breeze. Lows low teens.
Tomorrow: Generally a dry and chilly day. A little snow may surface overnight. Highs near 30.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

"A Christmas Carol: The Musical," 7 p.m., neoStago Theater, Ketchum, \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, 726-4TKS.
A Magic Valley Christmas Celebration, with the musical production "A Tulip for Momma," sponsored by the Kimberly Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7 p.m., Roper Auditorium, Twin Falls, no cost, 316-2307.
William Inge's "Bus Stop," 8 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, \$25 reserved seats and \$18 for senior citizens and students, (208) 578-9122.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Raffle drawing for a Sony 20 Dig Playstation III, Jerome Rotary Club fundraiser for the Christmas back project, noon, Jerome County Annex, \$5 per ticket or five tickets for \$20, 324-7000.

CHURCH EVENTS

"Everything Glorious" Christmas Cantata, with traditional and contemporary music presented by the Burley Christian Center Assembly of God choir, 7 p.m., at the center, 317 W. 27th St., Burley, no cost (free-will offering), 678-5460.

EXHIBITS

"The Circle" by Amber Scoon, former College of Southern Idaho art instructor, 9:30 a.m. to 9 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

Santa Claus visit, for preschool children at story hour, 10:30 a.m., Burley Public Library, 1300 Miller Ave., Burley, no cost, 878-7708.
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 10 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., 736-4068.

HEALTH

Weight-Loss Surgery Support Group, for those who are preparing for surgery, have had the surgery or who have questions about it, 7 p.m., Sally's Office Solutions, 338 Main St., Gooding, no cost, 934-4412.
CANCELLED: TOPS #1048, Jerome (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a weight loss support group, 4 p.m., Jerome Public Library, 420-3823.

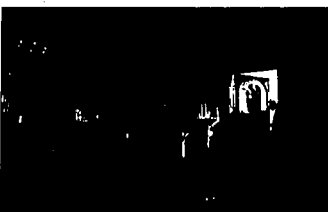
MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium, "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m. and "Steamrolling" 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.

To have an event listed, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to Suzanne Browne by e-mail at sbrowne@gmagicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.

COMING UP

SATURDAY



Christmas a biannual event for Orthodox Christians

The Eastern Orthodox tradition of celebrating Christmas on Jan. 7 makes the Nativity a double holiday for some Orthodox Christians.

Saturday in Religion

SUNDAY

The last-minute man

Watch reporter Matt Christensen scramble to make a gift for his wife.

Sunday in Family Life

MAGIC VALLEY



Twin Falls district restructures staff

TWIN FALLS — When Dale Thorstorsorey retired as an administrator for the Twin Falls School District six years ago, he never thought he would return during one of the most turbulent times in the school district's history.

SEE PAGE C1

Buhl welcomes new school leader

BUHL — Richard Hill's 12-year tenure as Buhl school superintendent will end in June.

SEE PAGE C1

Troopers stand with fallen peer

TWIN FALLS — Idaho backs officers who fall in the line of duty.

Thursday proved it.

SEE PAGE A1

Rotweiler put down after attack on kids

JEROME — Stanley, a 2-year-old Rotweiler that bit two Horizon Elementary School students, is dead.

SEE PAGE A1

Buhl won't pay for bad high school building

BUHL — Due to problems with the construction of the new Buhl High School, the district has withheld the last \$100,000 payment to the building's general contractor, Bateman-Hall of Idaho Falls.

SEE PAGE A1

Community college question asked again

POCATELLO — Southeast Idaho legislators are questioning whether the state needs more community colleges, citing money concerns and pointing out that Idaho State University can train students.

SEE PAGE C1

State department offers good news

BOISE — There was some good news coming out of the state Department of Education — even amid the flurry of activity as Tom Luna, the incoming state superintendent of public instruction, restructured the department's staff.

SEE PAGE C1



Trees to go to families in need

TWIN FALLS — Once again, Kimberly Nurseries is giving away free Christmas trees to those in need.

SEE PAGE C1

OBITUARIES

No obituaries were reported to the Times-News. To see death notices and service times, see page C2.

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

The rising cost of the 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Since 1984, Pittsburgh's PNC Financial Services calculates the cost of the 12 days each year during the holiday season.

This year, buying all 364 items — from a partridge in a pear tree to a dozen drummers drumming — repeatedly on each day as the song suggests would set you back \$75,122, up from \$72,668 in 2005.

For that price, you could get a brand new, fully-loaded special edition Hummer 2 sport utility vehicle, a fully-loaded Cadillac XLR two-door roadster, a cruise around the world, a 5 karat diamond ring or Cartier or Piaget watch.

Buying each item in the song just once will cost you \$18,920 — 3.1 percent more than last year.

Trying to find cheaper deals online won't help. The 361 items online would cost \$125,767, including shipping costs, compared to \$123,846 last year. You would spend \$30,330 online for each item just this one year.

The nine ladies dancing are the costliest items on the list at about \$4,800. The nine earned \$4,759, a 4 percent more, according to Philadelphia Dance Co. Philadance.

The seven swans run about \$4,200. As always, the partridge is cheapest; this year, it'll cost \$15.

While prices for the partridge, two turtle doves, three French hens, six geese and seven swans remained the same as last year, higher wages made the lords a-leaping, ladies dancing and pipers piping costlier. The lords a-leaping got a 3-percent pay raise, while the drummers drumming and pipers piping earned a 3.4 percent more.

The maids a-milking, however, weren't as lucky. They make the federal minimum wage, which has been \$5.15 per hour since 1997.

— The Associated Press and Lee Newspapers columnist Christopher Bennett

SPORTS



T.F. girls end losing streak to Highland

TWIN FALLS — The number four looks pretty good to the Twin Falls Bruins girls basketball team right about now.

That numeral that's shaped like a lopsided arrowhead means that the Bruins beat the Highland Rams 42-28 — Twin Falls' first victory over its Region Four-Five-Six rival in three years. It also means that the Bruins control the conference at 4-0.

"This is a big win, psychologically," Twin Falls head coach Joe D. Shepard said. "None of these girls were here when we beat them three years ago, but they knew the history."

SEE PAGE B1

CSI men, women win on the road

PHOENIX — Another one bites the dust.

After surviving a tooth-and-nail, double-overtime scrap against Mesa (Ariz.) Community College on Monday, the No. 9 College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team picked up its 11th win of the season Thursday night, pummeling Phoenix Phonic 105-79 in Phoenix.

Brad Garrett scored a team-high 17 points and freshman post Art Pankowski added 11 in his first start for CSI as the 11-1 Golden Eagles got up early and ran away with the game.

SEE PAGE B1



BYU drubs Oregon in Las Vegas Bowl

LAS VEGAS — Five years of frustration and a decade of postseason futility are over for BYU.

The No. 19 Cougars completed their best season since 2001 by beating Oregon 38-8 Thursday night in the Las Vegas Bowl, ending the year with 10 straight victories and their first bowl win since the 1996 season.

John Beck passed for 375 yards and two touchdowns and Curtis Brown ran for 120 yards and two TDs. Jonny Harline caught nine passes for 181 yards and Justin Robinson intercepted two passes for BYU (11-2), which shut out the Ducks (7-6) through three quarters.

SEE PAGE B1

IDAHO/WEST



Man pleads guilty to N. Idaho rapes

COEUR D'ALENE — A northern Idaho man pleaded guilty Thursday in 1st District Court to 10 felony charges related to a series of rapes in 2003 in which he forced his way into the homes of women and violently sexually assaulted them. Paul E. Hawkins, a 34-year-old carpenter, cried as he pleaded guilty to the rapes of three women, the attempted rape of another and charges of aggravated battery, penetration with a foreign object, infamous crimes against nature, burglary and attempted robbery.

SEE PAGE C2

NATION/WORLD



Marines charged in murders of Iraqis

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Eight Marines were charged Thursday in the killings of 24 Iraq civilians last year in a bloody, door-to-door sweep that came after one of their comrades was killed by a roadside bomb. In the biggest U.S. criminal case involving civilian deaths in the Iraq war, four of the Marines were charged with unpremeditated murder in the killings in the town of Haditha.

SEE PAGE A4



Subsidies turn farms into big business

WASHINGTON — The cornerstone of the multibillion-dollar system of federal farm subsidies is an iconic image of the struggling family farmer: small, powerless against Mother Nature, tied to the land by blood. Without generous government help, farm-state politicians say, thousands of these hardworking families would fall, threatening the nation's abundant food supply.

SEE PAGE C4

Grant program to preserve internment camps established

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed legislation Thursday establishing a \$38 million grant program to preserve notorious internment camps where Japanese-Americans were kept behind barbed wire during World War II. The money will be administered by the National Park Service to restore and pay for research on 10 camps helping to preserve them as stark reminders of how the United States turned on some of its citizens in a time of fear.

SEE PAGE C2

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Designer

Continued from page A1

"You cannot tell me that I cannot have a child who's going to look like me," Reynolds said. "It's just unbelievably presumptuous and they're playing God."

Embryo screening, formally called preimplantation genetic diagnosis, is done with in vitro fertilization, when eggs and sperm are mixed in a lab dish and then implanted into the womb. In PGD, before implantation, a cell from a days-old embryo is removed to allow doctors to examine it for genetic defects.

The entire procedure can cost more than \$15,000 per try. The survey asked 415 clinics to participate. 190 responded and 137 said they have provided embryo screening. The most common reason was to detect and discard embryos with abnormalities involving a missing or extra chromosome, which can result in miscarriage or severe and usually fatal birth defects.

The survey is being published

in an upcoming print edition of the medical journal *Fertility and Sterility*. It appeared in the online edition in September. Clinics were asked many questions about PGD, including whether they provided it to families seeking to select an embryo for the presence of a disability.

"We asked the question because this is an issue that has been raised primarily by bioethicists as something that could happen," said Susannah Baruch of Johns Hopkins University's Genetics and Public Policy Center.

"It's sparking a lot of conversations," she said. "These are difficult issues for everybody."

While it's technologically possible whether any deaf or dwarf babies have been born as a result of PGD is uncertain. The survey didn't ask. Participating clinics were promised anonymity, and seven major PGD programs contacted by The Associated Press all said they had never been asked to

use the procedure for that purpose. PGD pioneer Dr. Mark Hughes, who runs a Detroit laboratory that does the screening for many fertility programs nationwide, said he hadn't heard of the technology being used to select an abnormal embryo until the survey.

"It's total nonsense," Hughes said. "It couldn't possibly be 3 percent of the clinics" doing PGD for this purpose "because we work with them all."

He said he wouldn't do the procedure if asked. "To create a child with a disability because a parent wanted such a thing... where would you draw the line?" Hughes wondered.

"It's just unethical and inappropriate, because the purpose of medicine is to diagnose and treat and hopefully cure disease," he said.

Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg, whose

fertility institutes clinics in Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Guadalajara, Mexico, screen embryos for sex selection, said he'd likely consult ethicists if he were ever asked to help couples select a deaf or dwarf baby.

"Clearly it crosses some bounds," he said. He'd get a provocative response from University of Minnesota bioethicist Jeffrey Kahn.

"It's an ethically challenging question and certainly it will trouble people, but I think there are good, thoughtful reasons why people who are deaf or ... dwarves could say, 'I want a child like me,'" Kahn said.

The traits are, for some, an important part of their cultural identity. "If people in a shared culture all have the common clinical defect, then it's maybe not a defect in the traditional sense," Kahn said.

Buhl

Continued from page A1

in the warranty year past its expiration, in August of 2007.

Due to those concerns the warranties were not yet accepted by the district.

"I think that we should get it in writing," said board member Jackie Frey. "August is coming up pretty fast and if something goes wrong in the meantime we need to be certain it will be covered."

With every new storm that blows through the area the roof seems to bring a headache and board member Grant Loveless thought extensive testing of the surface should be conducted before the warranty runs out. "We should flood test it before the warranty runs out," he said.

"I mean take a hose up there and spray it all day to check for leaks."

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Growth

Continued from page A1

replacing Nevada, which had held the crown for 19 straight years. The new population figures were released Friday by the Census Bureau.

"It used to be merely a retirement magnet for Midwest seniors," said William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "Now it's also a front door for immigrants from Mexico and an escape hatch for Californians seeking affordable housing." At the other end of the scale, Louisiana lost nearly 220,000 people — more than any other state — in the year following Hurricane Katrina.

Arizona added about 32,000 immigrants in the past year. It added four times that many people who were relocating from other states. The biggest donor state: California.

"Every area where there's some form of development going on or being considered," said Merrill Wuerch, who owns Century 21 real estate offices in Phoenix and Sierra Vista. "I've been in

the business 24 years and I have never seen anything like this, what we went through."

The Census Bureau estimates annual state population totals using local records of births and deaths, IRS records of people moving within the United States and census statistics on immigrants. The bureau does not distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants, and most experts believe that the number of illegal immigrants is underestimated.

Among the findings for 2006: Texas gained the most people, about 500,000, followed by Florida, California, Georgia and Arizona.

North Carolina broke into the top 10 in total population, nudging New Jersey to 11th. The West had a net gain of 53,000 people from other parts of the U.S., even though California lost nearly 300,000 people to other states.

Many other states lost people who relocated elsewhere in the country, increasing their populations only through births and immigration.

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NATION

COLORADO

Blizzard shuts down major highways; Denver airport now closed through today

By Kim Nguyen Associated Press writer

DENVER — Thousands of travelers who got stranded at Denver's airport trying to beat the Christmas rush experienced a second frustrating day Thursday, forging through a snowbound city, 50 hotels or opting to bed down again in the terminal.

The nation's fifth-busiest airport wasn't expected to reopen until noon today, creating a ripple effect that disrupted air travel around the country just as the holiday travel crush began to build.

"We can't go home; the highways are closed. We can't get to the car; it's 10 miles away. And the hotels are not cheap," said Jodie Hartfield of Colorado Springs, who spent a sleepless night squeezed between a signboard and a phone booth with her husband and three young children.

The closure of Denver International prompted cancellation of more than 2,000 flights through today, according to airline officials.

Nearly 5,000 travelers had been stranded at the airport. But by Thursday afternoon, buses and shuttles were making regular pickups, and a steady flow of people headed toward the parking lots. By nightfall, about 1,500 remained, spokesman Steve Snyder said.

On Wednesday night, airport authorities provided a few heated cots for the estimated 4,700 stranded travelers and doled out scratchy Red Cross

blankets, along with diapers and baby formula. But there wasn't nearly enough bedding to go around.

Flows managed to clear one runway, but de-icing areas, plane "push-back" areas and other stretches of tarmac were still buried, Snyder said. Additionally, ticket crews, Transportation Security Agency workers and other logistics were needed before the airport could open.

All day Thursday, airport managers persuaded travelers to leave. Public-address announcements stressed there would be no flights for another day, and plows cleared parking lots and worked the 10-mile access road to Interstate 70.

The storm brought life to a standstill for 3.8 million people along the Front Range — a 170-mile urban corridor along the eastern edge of the Rockies that includes Denver, Police and National Guardsmen stuck hundreds of people stuck in cars.

Some mountain areas got more than 3 feet of snow, and up to 25 inches fell in the Denver metropolitan area.

Despite the slick roads and deep drifts, there were no immediate reports of any deaths or serious injuries reported.

The storm — which lingered through midday Thursday — also shut down I-70 and I-25, major routes through the West.

It moved eastward Thursday afternoon, snafuling air and road travel in Nebraska and Kansas.

8 Marines charged in deaths of 24 Iraqi civilians

Murders followed 2005 roadside bombing that killed fellow Marine

By Thomas Watkins Associated Press writer

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Eight Marines were charged Thursday in the killings of 24 Iraqi civilians last year in a bloody, door-to-door sweep that came after one of their comrades was killed by a roadside bomb.

In the biggest U.S. criminal case involving civilian deaths in the Iraq war, four of the Marines were charged with unpremeditated murder in the killings in the town of Haditha.

The other four charged were officers who were not there but were accused of failures in investigating and

reporting the deaths, the Marine Corps said.

Staff Sgt. Frank Waterich, 26, a squad leader, was charged with the unpremeditated murder of 18 civilians, including six people inside a house members of his squad cleared with deadly force. Waterich also was charged with one count each of making a false official statement and soliciting another sergeant to make false official statements.

Sgt. Sanick P. Dela Cruz, 24, was accused of the unpremeditated murders of five people and making a false official statement with intent to deceive.

Lance Cpl. Justin Sharratt, 22, was charged with the unpremeditated murder of three Iraqis.

Lance Cpl. Stephen Tatum, 25, was accused of the unpremeditated murders of two Iraqis, negligent homicide of four Iraqi civilians and a charge of assault upon two Iraqis.

The highest ranking defendant, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Chessani, 42, was accused of failing to obey an order or regulation, encompassing dereliction of duty.

The other officers charged were 1st Lt. Andrew Grayson, 25, Capt. Lucas McConnell, 31, and Capt. Randy Stone, 34, a military attorney.

Defense attorneys have said their clients were doing what they had been trained to do: responding to a perceived threat with legitimate force. The Marines remained in combat for months after the killings.

The Marine Corps initially reported that 15 Iraqis died in a roadside bomb blast, and Marines killed eight insurgents in an ensuing firefight. That account was widely discredited and later reports put the number of dead Iraqis at 24.

A criminal probe was launched after Time magazine reported in March, cit-



U.S. Marine Colonel Stewart Narvaez addresses the media at a briefing Thursday at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he announced charges against a group of Camp Pendleton-based Marines for their role in the killings of Iraqi civilians in the town of Haditha in November 2005.

ing survivor accounts and human rights groups, that innocent people were killed.

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Study: more teens turning to medicines to get high

By Lara Jakes Jordan Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Teens increasingly are getting high with legal drugs like painkillers and mood stimulants, and they're turning to cough syrup as well, says a government survey released Thursday.

The annual study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, conducted by the University of Michigan, showed mixed results in the nation's longtime campaign against teen drug abuse.

It found that while fewer teens overall drank alcohol or used illegal drugs in the last year, a small but growing number were popping prescription painkillers like OxyContin and Vicodin and stimulants like Ritalin.

As many as one in every 14 high school seniors said they used cold medicine "fairly recently" to get high, the study found.

It was the first year that the government tracked the frequency of teens who reported getting high from over-the-counter medicine for coughs and colds.

"It's bad that kids are buying cough syrup and using it this way — it's not good for them," said John P. Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The study found about one in 10 high school seniors have abused the painkiller Vicodin and Walters said kids may be pilfering the pills from their parents' medicine cabinets.

He challenged the recommendations of a government audit that said the anti-drug advertising cam-

paign wasn't working and suggested Congress consider reducing its funding. The report by the Government Accountability Office found some children were actually more likely to use marijuana after seeing the ads.

The rise in prescription drug abuse was a troubling conclusion in a study that Walters described as good news overall because of the drop in teen use of alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and other illicit substances.

The annual study, in its 32nd year, surveyed 50,000 students in the 8th, 10th and 12th grades at more than 400 schools nationwide. It found, that over the last year:

• Illegal drug use at all three grade levels dropped, if only slightly. An estimated 36.5 percent of high school seniors reported using illicit drugs at some point in the year.

• Marijuana remained the single most abused drug among teens, although its use also dropped slightly, with all three grades. Nearly 12 percent of 8th graders reported using it, compared to 25 percent of 10th graders and 31 percent of high school seniors.

• One-third of 8th graders said they had consumed alcoholic beverages, compared to more than a half of 10th graders and two-thirds of seniors surveyed. That also was a small decrease among the three grade levels.

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WORLD

IRAQ

Gates discusses more military help with Iraqis

BAGHDAD — Defense Secretary Robert Gates traded ideas with Iraqi leaders Thursday about boosting military assistance for the embattled government and warned Iraq's neighbors that the U.S. will be a presence in the Persian Gulf for a long time.

But on the second day of a visit to the war zone, the new Pentagon chief would not answer the key question on the minds of many, including U.S. troops: Will he recommend a short-term increase in the number of American forces in Iraq?

Speaking to reporters after meetings with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other Iraqi officials, Gates said the talks were "mainly on the overall approach, including the possibility of some additional assistance." He said no numbers of additional troops were discussed.

"We were really talking in broad terms," said Gates, who is in his first week as defense secretary.

Gates' visit comes as President Bush reassesses U.S. policy in the war, which is solidly opposed by the American public after 3 1/2 years of bloodshed. Among the president's options is whether to quickly add thousands of U.S. troops to the 140,000 already in Iraq, in hopes of staunching the escalating violence in Baghdad and elsewhere.

AROUND THE WORLD

NEW ZEALAND

Fossil confirms island once had indigenous land mammals

BANGKOK, Thailand — The discovery of fossilized remains of a mouse-like animal that lived at least 16 million years ago is the first hard evidence that New Zealand had its own indigenous land mammals, a researcher said Thursday.

New Zealand paleontologist Trevor Worthy and his team say they discovered two parts of a jaw and a femur (thighbone) — about the size of a

finger nail — during digs in New Zealand's Central Otago region from 2002 until 2004. Their findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this week.

Worthy said the creature probably looked like a "little rat," weighing around 3.5 ounces and measuring about 4 inches with a pointy snout.

Until now, the only fossils discovered in New Zealand were those of flying mammals like bats as well as birds and marine mammals. Worthy said, adding that his team had earlier discovered fossils from 24 bird species and a crocodile at the same hilly site in Central Otago that once was a huge lake.

"Scientists have long held the view that New Zealand has this weird and wonderful avian biota that lived on the ground because there were no mammals to impede or compete with birds," said Worthy, of the University of Adelaide in Australia.

NIGERIA Oil facilities attacked, production halted

LAGOS — Armed men attacked two foreign oil facilities in southern Nigeria on Thursday, and both shut down production following the assaults in the restive, oil-rich region. Royal Dutch Shell P.L.C., which came under attack earlier this week, began evacuating families of foreign workers, citing worsening security.

Before dawn Thursday, about a dozen gunmen attacked a Total SA pumping station, killing three security guards. The company shut the 40,000-barrel-a-day facility to "ensure the total protection of the site," spokesman Paul Floren said by phone from Paris.

Gunmen later occupied a facility owned by the Italian company Eni S.p.A.

— The Associated Press

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ENGLAND

Police charge man with murder of five prostitutes

IPSWICH — Authorities charged a 48-year-old man with the murder of five prostitutes whose bodies were recovered near the English town earlier this month, police said Thursday.

Police identified the suspect as Steve Wright, who lived in the town's red-light district and was taken into custody Tuesday.

A 37-year-old man detained on Monday — identified by news reports as Tom Stephens — was released, police said.

All five victims were seen working as prostitutes, and their naked bodies were found in rural areas around Ipswich over a period of about 10 days beginning Dec. 2.

Three of the bodies were found near the main road and the rail line between Ipswich and Trimley; the two others were discovered near the same road in areas south and southwest of Ipswich.

IRAN

President unbowed by rivals' wins in elections

TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called President Bush "the most hated person" in the world on Thursday, keeping up his tirade against the West despite elections that showed Iranians want him to focus on the country's domestic problems.

In final results announced Thursday from local elections last week, moderate conservatives opposed to Ahmadinejad won a majority of seats. They were followed by reformists, making a comeback after being driven out of local councils, parliament and the presidency over the past five years.

In the capital Tehran, where Ahmadinejad was mayor before becoming president 18 months ago, his allies grabbed only three of the 15 council seats, while moderate conservatives won seven. Reformists won four, and an independent one. Though the Dec. 15 elections were local, they were the first time the public has weighed in on Ahmadinejad's stormy presidency.

But Ahmadinejad appeared unbowed. He toured cities in western Iran, telling the crowds that Iran will not be intimidated by Western demands to dismantle its nuclear program, and scolding Bush.

"Oh, the respectful gentleman, get out of the glassy palace and know that you are the most hated person in the eyes of the world's nations and you can't harm the Iranian nation," Ahmadinejad said.

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EDITORIAL

Biggest lesson in hooky court is for the parents

The formula is quite simple. Get your kids to school early in life, and you'll avoid seeing them go elsewhere later on — namely, to jail or prison.

The Twin Falls School District and the Twin Falls County Juvenile Court Office have reinstated its truancy court with a goal to get young students off the couch and into classrooms. The key is using the law to influence parents, not just the kids.

School administrators know early intervention will help families establish good attendance habits in students. If those habits don't develop, students resort to other ways to fill their time. Before long they're in trouble with the law, starting with status offender laws for truancy. But the trend usually shows them headed toward bigger felony crimes.

Rather than wait for those issues to grow, school administrators act proactively to tag truancy when it first starts.

"The younger kids kind of rely on parents to get them to school, or to the bus, so the bus can get them to school," said Twin Falls "As Superintendent Wiley Dobbs. "As kids get older they make more and more decisions on their own. A high school student can make the decision to skip school, but rarely do you see a kindergarten skip school. If they're not showing up, it's on the parents."

A big advantage with the new truancy program is that it doesn't rely on one single agency. School principals notify parents after five, 11 and 17 absences. Parents don't respond, the schools refer the matter to the court at the juvenile detention center. The case, then includes a representative from the county prosecutor's office, the district's dropout prevention coordinator, as well as case workers from the College of Southern Idaho.

Lincoln Elementary Principal Beth Olmstead said her 500-student school has referred eight cases since the program began in the fall. "All have improved their attendance except one, and five have graduated from the program," she said.

The truancy program — administered by Magistrate Judge Roger Hartley — requires three months of follow-up visits in homes, and interviews with caseworkers and schools. Olmstead said parents may cite a reason for the absences, such as medical issues, lack of transportation, or a change in family status. But usually, the child isn't coming because parents don't emphasize discipline.

"Very rarely is it the kids fighting the parents to come to school," she said. "There's a point we have to draw a line. We're expected to educate all these kids, and bring them to adequate weekly progress. We can't do it if kids miss 20, 30, or 60 days of school."

Those folks who fear government intrusion may not applaud a court system that goes after 7-year-olds with four different agencies. But state law is clear that all children age 6 and older attend school somewhere. And most parents recognize that an education enhances the future for any child.

"It's not rocket science," Dobbs said. "If kids are with us hooky, they will do better. Hooky court may not be an easy fix for truant kids, nor is it a supreme solution for kids' problems later in life. But any advantage it can provide for non-performing students is worth the old college try."

Our view:
Truancy court could be a worthy program to push parents into getting kids to school. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Time thinks it has you figured out

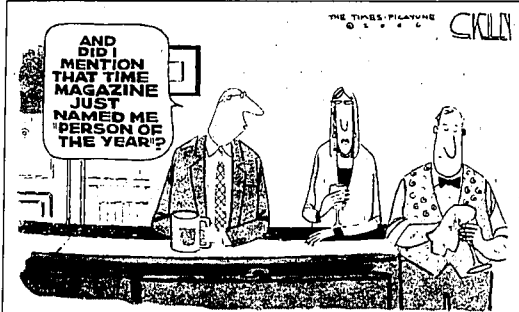
Do you like being pandered to? Do you like being presented with a mirror so you can admire yourself? Time magazine sure hopes so.

The venerable but not-much-venered newsweekly is sucking up to you, its hoped-for audience, pure and simple. In naming "you" as its Person of the Year for 2006 — complete with reflective plastic on the cover — the fading publication demonstrates how the weakening financial condition has led to a weakening of editorial judgment.



JAMES PINKERTON

Are self-generated online media really a bigger deal than the Iraq war? Is the self-displaying YouTube does more consequence than the Mahmoud Ahmadinejad? Does MySpace rate higher than the proliferation of weapons and enemies around the world, from North Korea to Russia to Venezuela? Once again a time to break when Time was the flagship media outlet in the country — the magazine's editors would scan the news horizon every year, looking for the most significant newsmaker of the year. That's how Adolf Hitler, evil as he was, became Man of the Year in 1938 and how Josef Stalin, not much better, became Man of the Year twice, in 1939 and 1942. In that year, Time was seen as a Mount Olympus of journalism; people trusted its godlike pronouncements about the state of the world. And even if



they didn't, they had relatively few other media choices.

So while Time indulged itself in a few fluff choices during its glory years (wasn't Elizabeth crowned Queen Elizabeth II really the most important newsmaker in 1957), for the most part the magazine took itself seriously enough to render judgments about the world. As late as 1979, Time chose Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini as the year's most influential figure. But then came the onslaught of the New Media. Time could no longer "administer" the news to its audience — a number of days after it happened. People could get their information and opinion sooner, through other vehicles: first cable TV, then talk radio, then the Internet. Beset by such competition, the magazine has never regained its former prominence.

Time's response was to pander. In 2001 the magazine overlooked the obvious choice,

Osama bin Laden. In favor of the feel-good choice, Rudy Giuliani. At the time, the editors lamely said that bin Laden was "too small" — as if what bin Laden set in motion could be called "small." A better explanation was that Time figured it would sell more magazines with Giuliani on the cover.

But pandering still didn't stop the hemorrhaging. Five years later the magazine, like most of the mainstream media, is a shrunken vestige of its once-grand self. And although its story tries to link YouTube to larger trends — "It's about the many wrestling power from the few" — the obvious conclusion to be drawn is that Time is trying to be popular, as opposed to informative.

As proof, consider this explanation from managing editor Richard Stengel: "If you choose an individual, you have to justify how that person affected millions of people," he told the Associated Press. "But if you

choose millions of people, you don't have to justify it to anyone." Ah, so that's the secret. Editors should forfeit their editorial function and take the easy way out — the cop-out.

It could be argued that in the world of do-it-yourself media — including news-aggregating services, such as Google News, which are free — the need for editors has been eliminated, because "you" are the editor.

Yet, the opposite also could be argued: In this world of confusion, people are still looking for trustworthy guides who will help them make judgments. In other words, bring in the experts to help us understand that nuclear proliferation is more important than Britney Spears' no-panties look.

But now we know readers won't get any such guidance from Time. The mag is 100 busy pandering with its "I'm begging you to buy me!" cover story.

James Pinkerton is a columnist for Newsday.

Have a happy Hanukkah — or else

JOEL STEIN

There is a war on Hanukkah. I know this because, even by late last week, I had absolutely no idea it was Hanukkah. Usually my grandmother sends a card, but this year she didn't. So I checked the radio, but one of those Cooper-Smith's Pub & Brewing. There's nothing sadder than watching a 9-foot-tall menorah drink away its pain.

These should be good times for Hanukkah and the Jews. After all, the Christmas story offers nothing besides a guy who erases all our sins, but the tale of Hanukkah centers on a magical, super-efficient oil that causes an eightfold decrease in carbon emissions. But instead of this being our year, we had the worst run-up to Hanukkah in 62 years: Iran hosted David Duke in the Holocaust denial conference; Mel Gibson got a Golden Globe nomination; Jimmy Carter equated Israeli policy with apartheid; Ehud Olmert — the least-smooth Jew since Jerry Lewis — accidentally admitted that Israel has the bomb; and the subtext of "Charlotte's Web" is that pork is irresistible.

So until the world backs off on its war against Hanukkah, we're not going to play your

reindeer games. We may not have enough Mitzvah tanks, but we do have other weapons just as annoying.

Until Hanukkah gets its proper respect, we're pulling out all the stops. We're pulling out all the stops. We're pulling out all the stops. We're pulling out all the stops. We're pulling out all the stops.

When you're a Jew, you're a Jew. When you're a Jew, you're a Jew. When you're a Jew, you're a Jew. When you're a Jew, you're a Jew. When you're a Jew, you're a Jew.

Because if you're going tribal, we're going tribal. And though our tribe is small and often out of shape, we're scrappy. So think twice before you spill out too much vitriol about us on your Christmas that

you're winning. When the empowered convince themselves that they're under attack, they often convince themselves that cruelty to the powerless is justified. These are the scary sugar plums that dance in Lou Dobbs' head.

I realize these are difficult times. I understand the desire to declare "our" unified Christianity in public places, to fence out the Muslims, to fight against the luxury of Muslim free speech, to pass English-only legislation. But a great nation, as our Constitution figured out, fights its populist instincts. And uses Latin to confuse its citizens.

And if getting along means accepting a manger and not hearing "Happy Hanukkah," I'm willing to surrender in this war. As long as you realize that without our Jews, who don't celebrate Christmas, this nation would lose its purpose. And the chance to have this dumb debate every year.

Although, if we keep it going for another two years, I think I can sell CBS on a claymation holiday special, with John Gibson singing about the "Island of Misfit Toyspears."

Joel Stein is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

Times-News

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

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, Chris Steinbach, Steve Cooper, Traci Bliss, Bill Blitzenberg and David Copp.

Letter was biased insult on military, religion

It is hard to know how to respond to such a direct insult. I read the letter from Mr. Hartley. Placing it in the "Opinion" section is appropriate because the only fact presented — that military recruiters concentrate on efforts where the most disadvantaged and exploitable kids live — was incorrect. Every other claim he made about military recruiting and the character of the men and women in uniform was absolutely, completely, unassailably wrong.

I'm not sure what Mr. Hartley's point was — probably something about crime and exploiting kids — but what he accomplished was to insult every military member

who has ever been in uniform, and everyone who belongs to an organized religion.

He owes an apology to the thousands of families in the Magic Valley whose "unanchored, jobless, unworshiped, undereducated, abused, unwanted, disadvantaged and exploitable" children are serving in our military services.

There is no use arguing with irrational people, so at this happy time of year when most of us celebrate Christ's birth, members of the military and "religious cults" will simply pray for Mr. Hartley's sour soul.

FRANCIS C. GIDEON JR.
Hazelton
(Editor's note: Francis Gideon is retired from the U.S. Air Force.)

Don't diminish character of those who serve country

In response to Jack Hartley: Mr. Hartley, I could not let your scintilla letter about our young military members go unanswered. All members of the military are volunteers, as you well know. They are serving, unflinchingly, in defense of all of us, including you. After the Gulf hurricanes last year, 32,000 men were saved by Coast Guard military personnel, volunteers all. They put their lives in jeopardy to rescue their fellow citizens.

Young Travis Greene, who lost his legs in Iraq defending you and who served multiple tours in the combat zone, has more moral courage and intestinal fortitude in his little finger than you have in your

whole body! I could let my anger fill up this page, but I won't stoop that low.

I could match any 10 military people, past or present, against any similar group you could name, and we could see who is more benefiting this country.

Now you go have a great day and sleep well tonight.
RICH COLLINS
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Rich Collins is retired from the U.S. Coast Guard.)

Council stood up for consumer's right to choose

I am supporting the change to allow people to decide for themselves if they want or do not want drink hard liquor at a restaurant, bar or business. I believe in America where

people have the freedom of choice. We are not in a totalitarian state, where government dictates our moral behavior.

I agree wholeheartedly with the Twin Falls City Council's support or decision for the Sunday liquor law proposal.

LIZ MCGARRIGLE
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Liz McGarrigle is a Twin Falls resident and business owner.)

Liquor story lacked anyone who favored ban

I was appalled by the choice of people interviewed about the Sunday liquor sales being now legal. The four people interviewed sounded as if the world would come to an end if they couldn't find a place to get drunk on

Sundays. Couldn't you find anyone who favored the ban?

Now I've been known to tip a few myself from time to time, but I never felt constrained by the Sunday restriction.

The comment was made by one of the council members that beer and wine contained as much alcohol as a mixed drink. That was not the purpose of the wine and beer exemption. Many people, myself included, enjoy wine or beer with a meal, but not whiskey for a Sunday dinner out.

I was not aware of any public hearings on the matter for the public to express opinions on the subject. We don't need to compete with Boise!
JOHN THIBERT
Twin Falls

More hands on the flip-flop deck of the Iraq war

The coulda-shoulda-woulda-chouda-chouda is under a new soprano. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton says she wouldn't have voted for the Iraq War if she'd known then what she knows now.



KATHLEEN PARKER

Clinton was one of the last holdouts among the probable 2008 Democratic presidential candidates to embrace hindsight regarding her vote in 2002 on a resolution approving the invasion of Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein from power.

It's been interesting to watch formerly pro-war leaders distance themselves, one by one, as conditions have deteriorated in Iraq. As always, timing is everything.

Was the first to cut and run from the hawk's nest the same as the last one more principled?

When to declare oneself anti-war has been a trick of politics and prudence. For Hillary, the

others, including John Edwards and John Kerry in declaring the stupendously obvious:

"Obviously," she said, "I've known then what we know now, there wouldn't have been a vote ... and I certainly wouldn't have voted that way."

But if we'd known what, precisely? That there were no WMD? No, if that were the case, Hillary might have come out sooner, as Edwards did in a Nov. 13, 2005 op-ed article for The Washington Post. He wrote:

"But in fact we now know that Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction when our forces invaded Iraq in 2003. The intelligence was deeply flawed. ... It was a mistake to vote for this war in 2002."

On the other hand, if Hillary had backedpedaled then, people might have thought she was shadowing Edwards, not a good sign for the aspiring first

woman president in U.S. history. She'd have to hide her time and hold her ground a while longer.

This was getting tiresome. She'd had to hold the same miserable ground, risking her party's base, in 2004 when Kerry was flip-flopping like a fish on a hot dock, famously saying that Iraq was "the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Kerry had voted for war just the same as Hillary, but he would have done things differently than Bush. Hillary's thinking: "Oh really, Lurch, like who wouldn't have?"

The truth is, most everybody didn't know the same things at the same time. When the Iraq resolution came up for a vote, the U.S. Congress had more hawks than a falconer's convention. A review of statements made prior to the invasion reveals a nearly universal lack

of ambivalence.

A few dissenters seemed to know more than the rest, though they opted not to share until Iraq was coming apart. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., wrote in The Washington Post one week after Edwards (do you suppose they chatted?) that a classified report to the Senate Select Intelligence Committee — on which both he and Edwards served — included "vigorous dissenters" about whether Iraq had WMD and whether, if they existed, Saddam would use them.

On the basis of that report, Graham says he voted against the war.

Edwards' pre-emptive mea culpa apparently shielded him from any flak sparked by Graham's revelations.

she knew more. In July 2003, Bill Clinton told Larry King:

"People can quarrel with whether we should have more troops in Afghanistan or internationalize Iraq or whatever but it is incontestable that on the day I left office, there were unaccounted for stocks of biological and chemical weapons."

There's no dishonor in not being president.

No one can predict a war's outcome, especially not in the midst of it.

But if things were going differently in Iraq today — and they might have under better management — we can be sure the woulda-coulda-shoulda would be singing a different song.

Not "If I'da known ..." but, "Who didn't know?"

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

Politics now the new religion of Americans

As we approach the day once known as Christmas, before it became "holiday," there is a sense that the Messiah, which the day is supposed to acknowledge, is rapidly being supplanted in the public consciousness by a new American religion called politics.



CAL THOMAS

Consider the number of "messiahs" who present themselves as redeemers and who claim the ability to deliver the masses from their "deplorable" conditions — conditions from which only government can save them.

For faithful Democrats, there is Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who stars not only as a messiah figure, but who could also play the Virgin Mary.

There is Sen. Barack Obama, who can also play dual roles of messiah figure and one of the Wise Men (possibly Balthazar. Look him up). In the Republican "denomination," political messiahs include Sen. John McCain (who believes he can deliver us from Iraq and possibly Iraq from itself) and Rudolph Giuliani (if he can redeem New York City, why not the nation?).

All messiah figures must have at least two other things going for them. One is a book. Hillary Clinton has "It Takes a Village," now out in paperback she wants us to know. That could easily be expanded to "It Takes a Country," which is what revised editions (and revisionist politics) are for. Obama has "The Audacity of Hope," which could easily be revised by his opponents. "The Audacity of Wanting to be President," Giuliani, too, has a book called "Leadership." All messiah figures must be seen as leaders and Giuliani's experience as mayor of New York City during 9/11, and the days following, demonstrated he is one.

Anybody who can unite New Yorkers has got leadership qualities.

The second thing a messiah figure must have is a disciple. Lord knows these people (and some of the second-tier potential and actual candidates) have plenty of disciples. Disciples have a worshipful faith in their leader. They unquestionably believe he (or she) can do what they say, even when they don't say much (as Obama doesn't in his book).

What puzzles me is why so many people put their hopes in politicians, when politicians (and politics) repeatedly let them down. Has politics become a God-substitute? Have political "messiah figures" become false gods?

The media drive much of this messianic complexity. The Christmas season following an election was once a respite from politics and politicians. Members of Congress and presidential wannabes would be at home with those families they all claim to want to spend more time with when they leave office. Not anymore. The 24/7 news cycle

and the media's demand for, and incitement of, conflict require that politicians keep their redemption message going year-around. The public never gets a break.

To believe in a political messiah requires one to accept by faith that we have no power of our own. Under this notion, we must believe that our station in life is not as good as it might be if a politician to our liking is in Congress and the White House.

Political messiahs love to preach this message because it enhances their power over us.

Polarizers on the left and right promote the messiahs of their choice so that disciples of their organizations will bring them "offerings," enhancing the fiction that they, too, have power. Broadcast and cable networks encourage bickering, because conflict brings higher ratings and greater profits.

For a messiah figure to succeed, he must be pitched to the real, not perceived, needs of his disciples. Are those needs economic and political, or are they moral and spiritual? If the former, by all means, vote for the best "deliverer." If the latter, I can only give you what the angel Gabriel told Joseph about that Messiah: "He will save his people from their sins."

That's a real need no political messiah can meet. But the

authentic Messiah can.

Cal Thomas welcomes mail at: Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207. Reader also e-mail Cal Thomas at CalThomas@tribune.com.

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SPORTS

Illinois dispatches ISU men

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — With lead scorer Warren Carter hobbled by injury, Illinois managed a 71-60 victory against Idaho State on Thursday night.

Janar Smith had 21 points and Chester Frazier added 13 as Illinois (12-2) recovered from a rocky start, to the second half for a win in its final home game before beginning Big Ten play.

Guard Akbar Abdul-Abad led scoring with 24 points for the Bengals (5-7). Illinois led 32-29 at halftime and the game stayed close as Idaho State's David Schroeder made a free throw before Brian Battelle hit a jumper and Frazier sunk a 3 for Illinois. Abdul-Abad then hit a 3, a two-point jumper and another 3 to give Idaho State a 38-37 lead with 16:17 left in the game.

Idaho State built a 46-40 lead before Calvin Brock and Frazier combined for seven points to put the Illini back on top. Illinois maintained the lead through the final 9:17, building a 10-point lead with 4:20 to play.

Illinois led through most of the first half, getting control after Schroeder made a pair of free throws to make it 9-9 7:09 into the game. The Illini then went on a 15-1 run to give themselves a



Illinois player Calvin Brock guards Idaho State's David Schroeder during Thursday's game in Champaign, Ill.

26-13 advantage with 5:51 left in the half.

Schroeder then made a 3-point shot — which Trent Meacham answered with a 3-pointer of his own — and the teams traded baskets until halftime.

Colorado State canceled at Boise State matchup

BOISE — Officials from Colorado State

Vandals in action



Thursday night's results from the men's basketball game between the University of Idaho and Eastern Washington University were not available at Times-News press time. See Saturday's edition for the rundown.

and Boise State have agreed to cancel Friday night's scheduled game between the two schools in Boise because of heavy snow in Colorado.

The Rams have been unable to travel from Fort Collins, Colo., because of blizzard conditions in the Denver area. Denver International Airport has been closed the last two days and wasn't expected to reopen until Friday noon.

Boise State officials said the two schools will try and find a date later in the season to reschedule the game. — The Associated Press



The Detroit Pistons' Jason Maxiell dunks on Drew Gooden (90) during the second quarter of Thursday's game in Cleveland. Gooden was called for a flagrant foul on the play.

Pistons pound Cavs

CLEVELAND — Chauncey Billups made his first three shots of the fourth quarter, leading the Detroit Pistons to an 87-71 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday night in the first matchup between the clubs since last season's playoffs.

Detroit's Mr. Big Shot, Billups, who was just 1-of-9 from the floor after three quarters, dropped three jumpers — two of them 3-pointers — in the first 3:02 of the fourth as the Pistons went on a 14-3 run to open a 71-58 lead with 8:19 left.

Billups scored 17 points, including 12 in the fourth, and added 10 assists.

Tyshaun Prince had 15 points and Antonio McDyess added a season-high 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Pistons, who overcame the Cavs in the final period, outscoring them 30-16 and holding them to 3-of-16 shooting.

LeBron James had 26 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas 16 for the Cavaliers, who dropped to 11-3 at home this season.

In last season's second round, Cleveland won three straight over Detroit and had a chance to close out the Pistons in Game 6 but couldn't come up with an offensive rebound in the closing seconds.

The Cavs then lost Game 7 in Auburn Hills, Mich., when the Pistons dominated the second

half in a 79-61 win. This one followed a similar script as the Pistons made the big shots, lightened their defense and showed the Cavs why their still one of the NBA's most feared teams.

Snowbound Suns look to return Friday

PHOENIX — It took a blizzard to finally stop the Phoenix Suns.

The Suns remained snowbound in a downtown Denver hotel Thursday, practicing at the nearby Pepsi Center and getting into a snowball fight to pass the time.

The Denver airport was closed Thursday and wasn't expected to reopen until about noon Friday. A chartered plane was being sent to Denver and the team planned to leave sometime in the afternoon.

The Suns will play the Washington Wizards in Phoenix on Friday night. The game is a late start, 8:30 p.m. MST, which should allow the team to get home in plenty of time.

Phoenix, on a franchise-record 15-game winning streak, flew to Denver late Tuesday, arriving just before the storm. The Suns' game against the Nuggets was postponed Wednesday night and will be rescheduled.

— The Associated Press

No. 6 Duke drops Gonzaga

NEW YORK — Greg Paulus had a career-high 20 points combined with Josh McRoberts on three big plays in the second half to help Duke beat Gonzaga 61-54 in the Aeropostale Classic at Madison Square Garden Thursday night.

The two sophomores came up big for the Blue Devils (11-1) on the offensive end in a defensive game that saw plenty of missed shots.

On the defensive end, the star for Duke was freshman guard Jon Scheyer, who had the main assignment on Gonzaga senior Derek Watkins, who finished with a season-low four points, 16 below his season average.

Jeremy Fargo had 21 points, 17 in the second half, for the Bulldogs (9-4).



Duke's Greg Paulus, left, is fouled while driving to the basket by Gonzaga's Matt Boudin during the first half of Thursday's game at Madison Square Garden in New York.

No. 15 Oklahoma State 95, No. 7 Pittsburgh 89, 2OT

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mario Boggan scored a career-high 30 points and had a pair of putbacks in the final minute to help lift No. 15 Oklahoma State to a 95-89 double-overtime victory over seventh-ranked Pittsburgh.

James On Curry finished with 21 points for Oklahoma State (12-1), which also got a boost from Terrell Harris and Kenny Cooper.

Aaron Gray, a 7-footer, had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Pitt (10-2).

No. 20 Notre Dame 88, Army 47

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Collin Falls scored 24 points and Notre Dame made 15 3-pointers, both season highs, to help the Irish win their ninth straight.

Russell Carter added 12 points, and Luke Hamangady had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Irish.

Duke's Greg Paulus, left, is fouled while driving to the basket by Gonzaga's Matt Boudin during the first half of Thursday's game at Madison Square Garden in New York.

No. 4 Duke women roll past No. 22 Pitt

CANCUN, Mexico — Lindsey Harding scored 22 points to lead Duke to a 72-51 victory Thursday over Pittsburgh in the final game of the Caribbean Classic Tournament.

No. 4 Duke hit 30-of-36 free throws to remain undefeated in 12 games.

Carrem Jay added 12 points. Wanisha Smith had 11 and Abby Wanner scored 10 for the Devils.

Marcedes Walker led No. 22 Pittsburgh (12-1) with 15 points, and Xenia Stewart scored 10.

The Blue Devils pulled away in the opening minutes with a 9-0 run, fueled by an aggressive press, to take a 13-4 lead after five minutes.

The Blue Devils also defeated No. 25 Bowling Green and Southern Methodist at the tourney, Pittsburgh finished 2-1, beating East Carolina and Liberty.

figures. UConn (8-0) opened the game with a 16-3 run and never trailed. Kalena Greene scored 17 points. Tina Charles added 15, and Charde Houston had 10.

The Rams' only points in the first half came on seven 3-point shots and six free throws. Koly Ju Mullaney hit his first four 3-pointers and led the Rams with 18 points.

No. 11 Georgia 72, Richmond 41

RICHMOND, Va. — Georgia's Cori Chambers scored 20 points, and single-handedly outscored Richmond in the first half.

Chambers scored 17 of her 20 points before halftime, when Georgia (11-1) led 35-12. She also scored 11 of the Lady Bulldogs' first 15 points.

No. 12 Vanderbilt 89, Indiana State 75

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Carla Thomas scored 22 points and Vanderbilt won the championship game of the Vanderbilt Holiday Tournament.

Christina Wirth added a career-high 18 points for Vanderbilt (11-1). Rachel Maenpaa led Indiana State (7-4) with 23 points and six rebounds.

Thomas was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

No. 16 Louisville 77, Florida 60

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Angel McCoughtry had 27 points and 14 rebounds, Jazz Covington added 23 points and Louisville remained unbeaten.

The Cardinals (13-0) made the most of their height advantage, outscoring the Gators (5-7) 42-30 in the paint and 19-7 on second-chance opportunities. Sha Brooks led the Gators with 16

points, and Marshae Dotson added 14 points and 13 rebounds.

TCU 74, No. 17 DePaul 73

GUAYNABO, Puerto Rico — Ashley Davis scored 23 points and Adrienne Ross made two free throws in the final seconds to lift TCU in the San Juan Shootout.

Ross, who scored all 14 of her points in the second half, was fouled with four seconds remaining and converted both free throws to end a 10-game win streak for the Blue Demons (10-2).

Jenna Rubino led four Blue Demons in double figures with 24 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Caprice Smith added 14 points with four assists.

Marquette 89, Manhattan 38

MILWAUKEE — Danielle Kamm had a career-high 28 points, including six 3-pointers, and the Golden Eagles rolled to a 10th straight victory.

Christina Quayle added 16 points, including 10-of-13 free throws for Marquette (11-1), off to its best start in school history. Kelly Lam had all four of her shots and had a career-high 17 points.

Gabrielle Cottrell led Manhattan — two games removed a 70-30 loss at Marist — with 10 points.

No. 23 New Mexico 62, N. Arizona 51

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Julie Briody scored 24 points and the Lobos converted 27 of 30 free throws to win their ninth straight game.

Dionne Marsh added 12 points for the Lobos (10-2), who are 7-0 at home. The loss snapped a two-game win streak for the Lumberjacks (7-5), who were led by Alyssa Wahl's 15 points.

— The Associated Press

BYU

Continued from page B1

backs again with Brady Leaf making his second career start, but had four passes in to give the BYU defense a different look. I didn't work.

The Dukes allowed two sacks on their first series and Leaf and Dixon combined to throw for 166 yards. Both threw an interception and Oregon finished with 260 yards of offense.

The largest crowd in stadium history, breaking the previous high of 42,075 fans for UNLV's game against Wisconsin in 2002, was nearly all were wearing BYU dark blue. They covered just about the entire surface of the field for the postgame trophy presentation as they chanted "B-Y-U!"

Beck, the second leading passer in school history, stood on the podium with Brown — BYU's all-time leading rusher and led the fans in the BYU fight song.

Beck, Brown and Harline were playing the final games for the Cougars and ended their college careers with a Mountain West Conference

championship and a bowl victory.

Beck opened the game slowly, but had four passes in the hands of his receivers that were dropped. Beck started focusing more on Harline and it paid off with a field goal and two touchdowns in the second quarter.

They connected on a 41-yard punter in the second quarter that put BYU ahead 17-0. Then Brown scored on a 4-yard run just before halftime and BYU led 24-0.

After getting stuck at their own 2 on a punt, Beck completed a 17-yard pass to Harline on first down to get the Cougars out of trouble quickly. BYU drove for Jared McLaughlin's 24-yard field goal that put the Cougars up 3-0, then BYU drove 71 yards on its next possession for another score.

Harline helped set it up by reaching for a one-handed catch, looking more like a speedy wide receiver than a tight end when he pulled the ball in with one hand and turned the corner for an 18-yard gain.

Bruins

Continued from page B1

for two years now, so it might be a good thing for us to face some adversity."

The Rams fall to 7-6 (2-2 Region Four-Five-Six), while the No. 5 Bruins improve to 11-1. They face Burley on the road when they resume the season on Tuesday, Jan. 2. Twin Falls will host Skyline on Thursday, Jan. 4, looking for its fifth con-

ference win.

Twin Falls 42, Highland 28

Highland 88-84-32

2005-06

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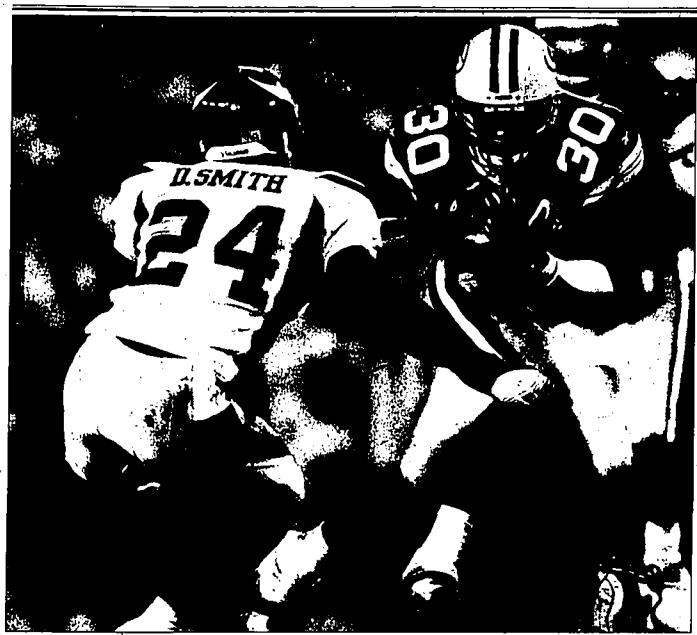
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Green Bay Packers halfback Aaron Green (30) makes a move to get around Minnesota Vikings safety Dwight Smith (24) during the first half of Thursday's game in Green Bay, Wis.

Favre, Packers drive by Vikings

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Brett Favre pulled out a far-from-perfect victory in perhaps his last game at Lambeau field, rallying the Green Bay Packers to a late field goal and a 9-7 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday night.

Packers kicker Dave Rayner, who had missed two field goals earlier in the game, hit a 41-yarder with 1:34 remaining. It was the 36th game-winning comeback of Favre's career, and it came after Favre nearly threw the game away.

The Packers (7-9) kept their faint playoff hopes alive. The Vikings (6-9) managed only three first downs all game, the lowest total in a game in team history.

Cornedruck Fred Smoot returned Favre's pass 47 yards for a touchdown late in the third quarter, seemingly turning off the Vikings' struggling offense and giving Minnesota a 7-6 lead.

After throwing the interception to Smoot, Favre threw another interception to former teammate Darren Sharper on the Packers' next offensive play.

Favre then rallied the Packers for a potential go-ahead drive early in the fourth, but tight end Bubba Franks fumbled near the goal line — the third time in the game the Packers drove deep into Vikings territory but came away empty-handed.

Favre drove the Packers right back into Vikings territory in the final three minutes

with a 36-yard pass to wide receiver Russell Martin. The drive stalled on Packers penalties on back-to-back plays before Rayner delivered the winning kick.

Favre held the ball aloft at the final gun, then hugged Sharper and another former teammate, Vikings kicker Ryan Longwell.

Favre shook hands with several Vikings defenders before saluting his family in a Lambeau skybox, along with the fans surrounding the tunnel to the locker room.

Favre finished the game 26-for-50 for 285 yards with two interceptions. But he didn't throw a touchdown for the second straight game, meaning he didn't gain any ground on Dan Marino's career touchdown pass record. Favre still needs eight more TD passes to break Dan Marino's career record of 420.

Favre won ugly for the second week in a row — he threw three interceptions in a victory over Detroit last week — but he certainly outperformed Vikings rookie Thurman Jackson, who was making the first start of his career.

Jackson, a second-round draft pick out of Alabama State, was 10-for-20 for 50 yards and one interception. And he nearly cost his team points when he threw a pass into the hands of Packers rookie linebacker A.J. Hawk deep in Vikings territory just before halftime. But Hawk dropped the ball.

Still, the Vikings took the lead on

Smoot's touchdown with 5:10 remaining in the third quarter and it seemed like Green Bay might make enough mistakes to lose.

Favre looked down the left sideline for rookie receiver Greg Jennings, but threw the ball directly into Smoot's hands as Jennings continued running down the field. It was the first career interception return for a touchdown for Smoot, who tried to celebrate by doing a "Lambeau Leap" into the stands. He was pushed back onto the field by fans.

Favre rallied the Packers midway through the fourth quarter with help from a roughing the passer penalty on linebacker Napoleon Harris. Facing third-and-7 at the Vikings' 9, Favre dumped the ball off to Franks, who ran toward to goal line and stretched out for the touchdown but fumbled the ball. It was recovered by Antoine Winfield.

But the Vikings couldn't move the ball, and Favre got the ball back with 3:13 remaining. Favre's 36-yard pass to Martin gave the Packers the lead at the Minnesota 28, but the drive stalled after a false start by rookie guard Daryn Colledge and a holding penalty on Franks.

Rayner, after having one field goal blocked and banging another one off the upright in the first half, hit his final attempt perfectly for the game-winner.

Garcia revitalizes Eagles' playoff push

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jeff Garcia has put Terrell Owens behind him and only cares about what's up ahead: a surprising playoff push he's leading with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Once part of a mostly one-sided feud with T.O., Garcia squashed all questions about his former teammate faster than he put away Carolina, Washington, and the New York Giants.

Maybe Garcia learned more from Donovan McNabb than how to run Philadelphia's offense. This time, it could be Garcia's turn to torment Owens if the Eagles can knock off Dallas on Monday.

"It's the next big game for us," Garcia said Thursday. "It's a game that we are excited about playing. It's an awesome opportunity we basically forced our- selves back into with persevering and doing the things that we needed to over the last three or four weeks."

Garcia has played like a Pro Bowl quarterback since replacing McNabb, who went down with a season-ending knee injury last month. He's thrown for 1,042 yards, nine touchdowns, only one interception and is 3-1 in four starts, saving a season that seemingly was destined for another early ending.

Instead, the Eagles (9-6) can clinch a playoff berth with a victory and return to the playoffs after a one-year absence. The Cowboys (9-5) would win the NFC East with a victory. Philadelphia won the first meeting, 30-24 in early October in the hyped return of Owens to Philly.

"We're talking about the Cowboys. We haven't done anything yet," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "We put ourselves in a position to do something. We've got to focus everything we've got on the Cowboys."

Philly's one-year postseason absence is nothing compared to Garcia's personal



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jeff Garcia passes the ball against the Carolina Panthers in this Dec. 4 file photo.

trifled the city and franchise as the supposed final piece to the title picture. While he missed the NFC playoffs with an ankle injury, Owens made a valiant return to play in Philadelphia's loss to New England in the Super Bowl.

The relationship fizzled once Owens started talking positions at the media and griping about his contract. Of course, it wasn't the first time Owens took aim on a QB. While Owens was Garcia's top target on the field, Garcia was publicly jabbed by the outrageous videotape off the field.

In his autobiography and other interviews, Owens ripped Garcia's playing ability and leadership skills. Owens has even questioned Garcia's sexuality. Owens also later said he had played with a better QB in San Francisco he would have better career stats.

The pair went to three Pro Bowls and made two playoff appearances as one of the league's top pass-and-atch combinations.

"I don't have anything against the guy," Owens said Thursday. "My focus is really trying to beat these guys. It's not about me or Jeff, and I commend him on the job he's doing there."

Garcia refused to dwell on the falling out he had with Owens and the 49ers.

"San Francisco was an awesome experience for me," Garcia said. "Never did I anticipate that I wouldn't start and finish my career in San Francisco. It's just unfortunate that things change. It's the nature of the business. But everything that I experienced there really taught me so much, and it allowed me to experience such great success, not only individually, but also as a team."

Now, it looks like he can experience that winning feeling again in Philadelphia. Clinching a postseason berth against Owens and the Cowboys can only make it better.

Lengyel approves 'We Are Marshall'

PHOENIX (AP) — Thirty-six years later, Jack Lengyel vividly recalls the overwhelming sadness that surrounded him when he arrived at Marshall.

He had come as the new football coach to help revive a program torn to pieces by one of the worst sports disasters in U.S. history — the loss of 75 people in a plane crash on the outskirts of town.

"I thought I was coming to rebuild a football program," Lengyel said. "It turned out to be the whole community."

Among the dead were 52 members of the Thundering Herd football team, as well as some of the university's leading boosters, top administrators and city officials.

"What you had here was a void of leadership of the community, a void in the administration of the university, and obviously a void with the football team," he recalled. "This tragedy cut a wide swath."

The effort to rebuild the football program and bring hope to a stunned city is the

subject of "We Are Marshall," a movie that opens nationwide Friday. Lengyel is the central character, portrayed by Matthew McConaughey.

Now 71, Lengyel lives in the Phoenix suburb of Surprise and works as a software executive after many years in athletic administration. He was among several principals from the real-life story who helped in the making of the film.

"I thought he says a few details aren't accurate, he loved the finished product."

"It's a movie about core values," he said, "hope and faith and perseverance and love."

Huntington, W.Va., is a small town with ever-so-cloze ties to the university.

"I've been to about 16 universities as coach or athletic director, associate athletic director or interim athletic director," Lengyel said. "There has never been another university I've been associated where the community and university have a heart or hearts as one."



Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby, right, looks to pass from the behind the net with Saint Louis Blues player Barrett Jackson defending in Pittsburgh, Tuesday.

Lemieux: Penguins to explore relocation

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins are off the market, and owner Mario Lemieux says the team will look at relocating while it attempts to reach a deal for a new arena.

"It is time to take control of our own destiny," Hall of Famer Lemieux said in a statement issued by his team Thursday.

The Penguins are free to move when the 2006-07 season ends following a state panel's rejection Wednesday of a casino company's offer to build the team a new arena for free.

Lemieux said talks will begin shortly with state and local leaders about a new arena, but added a move outside Pennsylvania is another option.

"Accordingly, starting today, the team is off the market," Lemieux said, "and we will begin to explore relocation offers in cities outside Pennsylvania."

Among the cities known to be interested in the Penguins are Kansas City, Houston, Portland, Ore., and Winnipeg.

The Penguins, who have sought a new arena since Lemieux's group brought the team out of bankruptcy in 1995, have had two major setbacks in the last week.

Last Friday, Canadian businessman Jim Balsillie stunned the Penguins and the NHL by pulling out of an estimated \$175 million agreement to buy the team. Balsillie was expected to close on the deal last week, only to back out after the NHL insisted he agree contractually to not move the team.

On Wednesday, a Pennsylvania gaming panel awarded the single license to build a slots machine parlor in Pittsburgh to Detroit-based gambling company owner Don Barden rather than a Penguins-supported gaming concern. Isle of Capri Casinos promised to build a \$290 million arena for the Penguins next door to its casino if it was granted the slots parlor license.

While Isle of Capri could

appeal the gaming board's decision, overturning the award could prove difficult because of language built into the state gaming law designed to prevent lengthy delays once the licenses were awarded.

Within an hour of the slots announcement, state, county and city leaders rushed to assuage the Penguins, promising to start talks immediately on a so-called Plan B agreement to build the arena. A bid has already been secured, and the Barden group has pledged \$7.5 million a year for 30 years to help fund the arena. The state also would kick in \$7 million.

Allentown County Chief Executive Dan Onorato and Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl said they were ready to negotiate an arena deal immediately and were certain an agreement could be reached.

However, the Penguins would have to contribute money to the Plan B deal — something they weren't required to do by Isle of Capri.

Lemieux, exasperated the Penguins still don't have a replacement for 45-year-old Mellon Arena, warned Monday that there would be considerable uncertainty if Plan B became the only option. But, until now, he has not actively sought offers from other cities.

"I'm not sure about Plan B," Lemieux said. "Plan B, in my opinion, is going to use taxpayers' money. I've never heard of a government turning down \$290 million in private money, to build a public facility. It's unheard of. At this point, frankly, I'm really not sure of what's going to come of it."

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A new era in Twin Falls schools

District has revamped administrative posts to adapt to changes

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — When Dale Thornsberry retired as an administrator for the Twin Falls School District six years ago, he never thought he would return during one of the most turbulent times in the school district's history.

"I think you know as well as I do that during the spring last year there was a lot going on," he said. "Between the contract negotiations, the employee turnover in the district office and the bond election, I think it will be a long time before we ever see changes on that large of a scale again."

In the past nine months, Thornsberry has changed positions in the district three times. In his first position as the human relations director, he hired 13 district administrators. Then he worked for a time as a facilities director.

Now, one of the employees he hired will succeed him as associate superintendent of the Twin Falls School District.

The district reopened the associate superintendent position after closing it several years ago due to a funding shortage.

Cheryl Charlton will officially replace



Cheryl Charlton, the human relations director for the Twin Falls School District, talks with Dale Thornsberry on Thursday in Twin Falls. Charlton will succeed Thornsberry as the school district's associate superintendent.

Thornsberry in January, which will mark the end of one era and the beginning of another.

"What Dale has done is built a team and established a process for budget-

ing and involving the community, and I want to continue that process that we already have," Charlton said. "I think that it's (the school district) going to stabilize more, but I think that changes

will be contingent upon the new state superintendent and also federal and state decisions."

Please see SCHOOLS, Page C3

Cox named Buhl's new director of schools

Three-year term to begin in July

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — Richard Hill's 12-year tenure as Buhl school superintendent will end in June.

He will be succeeded on July 1, by Margaret Cox, former superintendent and elementary school principal in the Cambridge School District. She was named as the district's next superintendent at Tuesday's Buhl School Board meeting.

"One of the three interviews we had she really came out on top," said Board Chairman Ken McDonald. "We as a board, and the four other community representatives on the selection committee, came to a unanimous decision to bring her here."

The board is impressed with her background and look forward to her unifying the district as well as bringing students' test scores up.

"The needs that we have in the district are to bring out the Child Life Program and state standard test scores up," said board member Jay Anderson. "She has a tremendous background and seems to be a real specialist in that area."

Plus, Margaret has as much integrity as the day is long. "Test scores are a common critical issue with any district," Cox said. She said she is looking forward to working for a larger school district and plans on getting to know the community between now and June.

"I want to meet right in and have a lot of people to get to know. I am going to visit the schools and attend athletic events and such to meet the community," she said.

Having grown up in Glenn Valley, Cox is happy to return to the Magic Valley.

"I am from southern Idaho and glad to be closer to home."

Cox has been at Cambridge about 100 miles north of Boise, since 2002.

She earned her superintendent certification in 2001 from the University of Idaho.

Her professional experience includes serving as an instructor and supervisor in a four-year teacher education baccalaureate program at the Great Basin College in Elko, Nev., from 2001-02.

In 2001 she was a supervisor for student teaching/internships at both the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Montana State University. She completed her superintendent internship in Idaho's largest school district, Meridian, in 2001.

Prior to that, Cox was the assistant principal at the Meridian Middle School from 1998-2001. She has also held numerous positions as a mathematics teacher and classroom teacher for the second, fifth and sixth grades.

"As a district we are lucky to have her," McDonald said.

Times-News correspondent Blair Koch can be reached by e-mail at blairkoc@timesnews.com or by calling 316-2667.

As local schools hunt for qualified teachers, plan approval is little help

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

BOISE — There was some good news coming out of the state Department of Education — even amid the flurry of activity as Tom Liana, the incoming state superintendent of public instruction, restructured the department's staff.

The U.S. Department of Education approved the state department's

plan this week to meet federal requirements for highly qualified teachers.

The state department had not met the federal deadline due to missing data that had not been collected.

The 35-page document explains what Idaho will require of its highly qualified teachers, but it does not describe how it will help schools find and hire them.

According to the state Department

of Education, all school districts in Idaho have reported difficulties in hiring teachers that are in high demand, such as special education instructors and math teachers.

"Our assessment mirrors the state's assessment of those positions that are the most difficult to fill," said Cheryl Charlton, human relations director for the Twin Falls School District. "Special education teachers are the most difficult, more so

because of the increased requirements."

Twin Falls and rural school districts have greater difficulties hiring qualified teachers because the applicant pool is generally smaller.

The state department reported that more than 99 percent of teachers in Idaho are considered highly qualified, however, some are still working toward meeting federal requirements.

Christmas trees being given away by nursery

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Once again, Kimberly Nurseries is giving away free Christmas trees to those in need.

All you have to do is ask. No proof of need is required. "They are not like Charlie Brown trees. They are really pretty — plantation grown," said Sherry Wright, who owns the business with her husband, Dave.

The offer applies to cut trees only, not the potted "living" trees designed to be planted after Christmas.

The nursery, at 2862 Addison Ave. East, is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

"It's better than seeing them go to the chipper," she said.

Snowpack Levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	Season peak
Salmon	82%	28%
Big Wood	81%	27%
Little Wood	65%	23%
Big Lost	68%	22%
Little Lost	76%	27%
Hernya Fork/Teton	79%	27%
Upper Snake Basin	90%	28%
Oakley	118%	28%
Salmon Falls	89%	29%

As of Dec. 22

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

Southeastern Idaho lawmakers wary of new community colleges

The Associated Press

POCATELLO — Southeast Idaho legislators are questioning whether the state needs more community colleges, citing money concerns and pointing out that Idaho State University can train students.

"I think ISU does an absolutely tremendous job in outreach in many rural areas," Sen. Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs, told the Idaho State Journal. "They're doing it in existing buildings."

"If we decide to expand the community college system, that's fine. But these communities should decide if they want to pay for it."

Idaho has just two community colleges: the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls and North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene.

Only 45 percent of Idaho high school students go

directly to a college — the fourth-lowest rate in the nation — and some say it's because of the relative dearth of more affordable options.

Geddes said the push for more community colleges is being driven by Boise State University, which he said is looking to expand.

But Boise State University has not been the only advocate of creating additional community colleges.

Lawmakers from Idaho Falls have repeatedly requested state assistance to create a community college in eastern Idaho.

At an Interim Committee on Community Colleges meeting in November, state Rep. Ann Rydahl, R-Idaho Falls, submitted a proposal to create a technical college in Idaho Falls, which would have been partially funded by the state's general fund.

The committee voted against the proposal, saying the state could not afford to finance the technical college.

Committee members did agree that affordable community college courses need to be offered in the Treasure Valley — considered to be the largest untapped market in Idaho with an estimated 1,000 students each year seeking technical courses in the Boise area.

"I think ISU could expand their College of Technology classes in the Treasure Valley," said Rep. Elaine Smith, D-Pocatello.

However, when the College of Southern Idaho requested permission from the State Board of Education to offer lower-division courses in the Treasure Valley, BSU President Bob Kustra said CSI was intruding in its service area, and that BSU was already working on plans for a com-

munity college.

The disagreement set off a flurry of controversy about the shortage of affordable community college courses throughout Idaho.

The Legislature appointed a committee to evaluate the situation and prepare recommendations for the next legislative session. But many agree that the recommendations will do little to solve the debate, she said.

Some lawmakers are looking to Gov.-elect C.L. "Butch" Otter.

"A lot will depend on how the new governor weighs in," said Rep. Dennis Lake, R-Blackfoot. "Some of the services are costing four-year college prices instead of community college prices."

Times-News writer Joshua Palmer contributed to this report.

Heyburn man arrested in robbery case after two months on run

By Renee Wells
For the Times-News

BURLEY — A Heyburn man who eluded law enforcement for more than two months after suspected involvement in an armed robbery at the Burley Mervit store was captured Monday night at the Burley Wal-Mart parking lot.

Refugio Ceja-Garcia, 20, of Heyburn, was put on Cassia County's most wanted list after he and four companions allegedly robbed the store at gunpoint on Oct. 3.

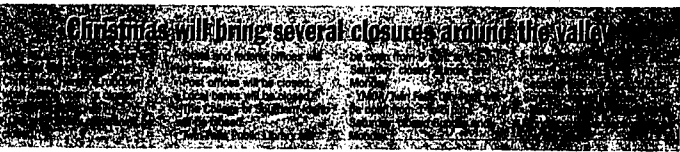
Another man suspected in the robbery, Isaac Polanco, 18, of Twin Falls, was arrested at a 7-Eleven in Twin Falls the night of the robbery when a

Twin Falls officer recognized him as fitting the description of one of the suspects.

Police say Polanco confessed to his part in the robbery. During the investigation, Ceja-Garcia and three area teenagers were named as accomplices. The teens were later arrested and confessed to being involved, police say.

A handgun and some of the money were recovered.

According to a Cassia County Sheriff's report, dispatch received an anonymous call Monday night that Ceja-Garcia was in the Burley Wal-Mart store. The caller told dispatch what car he arrive in. An officer went to the parking lot and parked near the car.



Christmas will bring several closures around the valley.

OBITUARIES/WEST

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magjvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magjvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

SERVICES

Terry Kenworthy Plerce of Twin Falls, memorial service at 10 a.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Merlin Phillip Roberts of Twin Falls, funeral at 10:30 a.m. today at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1231 Washington St. N. in Twin Falls (White Mortuary in Twin Falls). A funeral also will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Greenleaf Friends Church in Greenleaf; friends and family may call from 5 to 8 p.m. today at the Flahiff Funeral Chapel, 624 Cleveland in Caldwell.

Viola V. Hodges of Malta, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Malta 1st and 2nd Ward LDS Chapel; friends may call from 10 to 10:40 a.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Ephraim A. Hansen of Shoshone, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Shoshone LDS Church; friends may call two hours before the funeral today at the church (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

Sharon K. Slinger of Twin Falls, service of remembrance at 11 a.m. today at the Rock Creek Community Church, 131 Grandview Drive in Twin Falls (Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Dale Bower of Buhl, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the First Baptist Church in Castleford (Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl).

LaVonne B. Green of Rupert, funeral at noon today at the Payne Memorial Chapel, 221 W. Main St. in Burley; friends may call one hour before the funeral today at the mortuary.

Robert J. Colner of Twin Falls, memorial service at

1 p.m. today at the First Presbyterian Church, 208 Fifth Ave. N. in Twin Falls (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Catherine S. Parker of Twin Falls, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Dorothy Goldma Lancaster Stroud of Fillet, funeral at 2 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Jerry Demain of Gooding, memorial service at 3 p.m. today at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Gooding (Demaray Funeral Service in Gooding).

Royce D. Fink of Twin Falls, visitation for family and friends from 4 to 7 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls; a private family service will be held at a later date.

Marjorie Elizabeth Jackson of Jerome, funeral at 1 p.m. Saturday at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome; friends and family may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today and one hour before the funeral Saturday at the mortuary.

Mary (Gladys) McAtee of Halley, memorial service at 1 p.m. today at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Halley; interment May 19, 2007, at the Halley Cemetery (Demaray Funeral Chapel in Gooding).

Wanda Dee Harmon of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. Dec. 28 at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Dale Dwayne Stuckenholz of Twin Falls, service of remembrance will be held Jan. 4 at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Schools

Continued from page C1

Since spring 2005, the district has restructured administrative positions to adapt to changes that include the addition of a second high school and the transition from a junior high system to a middle school system.

Instead of having an administrative staff that focuses on specific parts of academic curriculums, the Twin Falls School District has two members of its staff who oversee either elementary or secondary curriculums.

Charlton said it allows administrators in each building to make decisions without relying as much on district administrators.

Charlton also said the associate superintendent can focus on issues such as state and federal changes, as well as local issues such as transportation costs and \$49.7 million in school facility construction.

To facilitate the construction of the new high school, as well as renovations to existing facilities, Thornsberry will be hired by the school district — again — as a contract employee to work part time as a school facilities director.

Even with Thornsberry working as a contract employee, the district still is considered understaffed by one administrative position, according to the State Department of Education.

"I think, if anything, we will see an increase in administrative staff as we see an increased demand in administrative duties," Thornsberry said.

"Our enrollment keeps going up, and it requires more administration to keep up with curriculums, programs and facility needs," he added.

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



Paul E. Hawkins wipes away tears while in court Thursday in Coeur d'Alene. Hawkins pleaded guilty Thursday in 1st District Court to 10 felony charges related to a series of rapes in 2003 in which he forced his way into the homes of women and violently sexually assaulted them.

N. Idaho man pleads guilty to rapes, other felonies

The Associated Press

COEUR D'ALENE — A northern Idaho man pleaded guilty Thursday in 1st District Court to 10 felony charges related to a series of rapes in 2003 in which he forced his way into the homes of women and violently sexually assaulted them.

Paul E. Hawkins, a 34-year-old carpenter, cried as he

pleaded guilty to the rapes of three women, the attempted rape of another and charges of aggravated battery, penetration with a foreign object, inflicting serious injuries, burglary and attempted robbery, the Spokesman-Review reported on its Web site.

In return for his plea, prosecutors dismissed 14 charges against the father of four. He had originally been charged

with the 2003 rapes, as well as the attempted rapes of six more women in Post Falls, Coeur d'Alene, Rathdrum and Spirit Lake. Prosecutors alleged Hawkins victimized a total of 10 women.

Hawkins was arrested in June in Coeur d'Alene. Police used DNA to link him to the crimes. His sentencing will be April 10. Each rape charge could be punishable by life in prison.

Boise plans to fingerprint, check backgrounds of new employees

The Associated Press

BOISE — Finalists for jobs with the city of Boise will soon be fingerprinted and checked in a nationwide criminal database.

The program is expected to begin in the first few months of 2007.

"We feel it's a good investment," Shawn Miller, Boise's human resources director, told the Idaho Statesman. "It's one more piece of information so we can make a good employment decision."

The city hires about 150 employees and 500 seasonal workers each year, Miller said. Each fingerprint search will cost \$34, and the equipment used to get the digital fingerprints costs \$13,000.

Miller said the digital equipment saves money because it is more efficient.

The city already requires fingerprint checks for jobs with the police, fire department and airport security. The new system will cover other employees, who previously went through a self-disclosure system that wasn't as thorough.

"If you are a criminal and you applied for a position with us and you didn't tell us you lived in Oklahoma, we wouldn't know that," Miller said.

Serious crimes such as rape and crimes against children will result in a person not being offered a job, Miller said.

But he said someone with less serious crimes in his or her past isn't necessarily eliminated from being hired, Miller said. The city will consider the type of conviction, when the conviction occurred, the applicant's criminal and employment record since the conviction, and whether there is a pattern of repeated crimes.

While Boise is beginning a more comprehensive criminal background check program, most other government entities in the area aren't.

Rick Wright, Ada County spokesman, said only law enforcement applicants are fingerprinted.

Ed Simmerman, human resources director for Nampa, said the city requires applicants to report their background history and does an online criminal background check.

"I have read what Boise is going to start," said Simmerman. "We don't go that far. We haven't really even talked about it, at all."

DEATH NOTICES

Grace E. Hoskins
TWIN FALLS — Grace E. Hoskins, 96, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2006, at the Mountain View Care Center in Kimberly.
The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at White Mortuary in Twin Falls. A viewing will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesday at the mortuary. A complete obituary will appear in Sunday's newspaper.

Sharon K. Corey
JEROME — Sharon K. Corey, 62, of Jerome, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2006, at her home in Jerome.
A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at the home of Sharon's son, Lee and Karen Cook, 213 N. 200 W. in Jerome. Arrangements and cremation

are under the direction of Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Burley. A full obituary will appear in Sunday's newspaper.

Gladys E. Thompson
BOISE — Gladys E. Thompson, 92, of Boise, died Saturday, Dec. 16, 2006, in Boise.
A graveside memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, at Sunset Memorial park in Twin Falls. Arrangements are under the direction of Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel.

Ernest Ramos
BURLEY — Ernest Ramos, 48, of Burley, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006, in Burley.
A private family service was held at the Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel.

NOVEMBER EINSTEINS



Lincoln Elementary in Twin Falls announced its Einsteins for November. They are Beau Coats, Corey Wiley, Kara Garrity, Kyle Saret, Julia Aguayo, Bryce Fleming, Taylor Coats, Kade Ferguson and Daniel Hernandez. These children passed their grade requirement of the 50-to-60-minute test for math.

Bush signs bill to preserve internment camps

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush signed legislation Thursday establishing a \$38 million grant program to preserve notorious internment camps where Japanese-Americans were kept behind barbed wire during World War II.

The money will be administered by the National Park Service to restore and pay for research to 10 camps, helping to preserve them as stark reminders of how the United States turned on some of its

citizens in a time of fear.

The National Park Service already operates facilities at two of the 10 camps: the Manzanar National Historic Site in California and the Minidoka National Monument in Idaho. The camps housed more than 120,000 Japanese-American U.S. citizens and residents under an executive order signed by President Roosevelt in 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor. At the time there were fears that Japanese-Americans were loyal to Japan, and Roosevelt's

order prohibited such people from living on the West Coast.

It was the largest forced relocation in U.S. history as thousands of families in California and parts of Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, were pushed from their homes and into camps surrounded by armed guards. The sites named in the legislation are in California, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho. The last of the camps closed in 1946, and President Reagan signed a presidential apology in 1988.

Co-sponsors of the bill included the two current members of Congress who spent time in the camps as children: Democratic Reps. Mike Honda and Doris Matsui of California. Matsui was born in the Poston camp in Arizona.

The law will give grants to nonfederal organizations for historical, research and restoration work at the sites named in the legislation, as well as others selected by the Interior secretary. The grants will require 50 percent in matching funds.

Turkmenistan's authoritarian President Niyazov dies at 66

The Associated Press

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan — President Saparmurat Niyazov, Turkmenistan's eccentric and iron-fisted leader who created a level of personality during two decades of rule over his isolated nation, died Thursday. He was 66.

A terse report from state television said Niyazov died early

Thursdays of heart failure and showed a black-faced portrait of the man who had ordered citizens to refer to him as "Turkmenbashi" — the Father of All Turkmen. An announcer in a dark suit read a list of the accomplishments of Niyazov, who in life had been treated as a demigod by the state.

The funeral is to be held Sunday in his hometown of

Kipchak, where Niyazov built Central Asia's largest mosque, called "Spirit of Turkmenbashi," at a reported cost of more than \$100 million. In the capital Ashgabat, dotted by golden minarets, Niyazov, liquor stores were ordered closed and workers removed New Year's trees and other holiday decorations — remnants of Turkmenistan's days as an outpost of the Soviet

Union, which promoted New Year's celebrations over religious holidays.

Pedestrians appeared quiet and stunned about the death of the nation's musings, in his collected works were required reading for school children. Most refused to comment to a reporter — a legacy, perhaps, of the government's efforts to stifle independent expression.

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"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plentiful in mercy, is to have the best spirit of Christmas."

— Calvin Coolidge



Christians promote talk therapy for moral failings

More open dialogue promoted in wake of recent gay-sex scandals

By Stephanie Simoa
Los Angeles Times

DENVER — Recent gay-sex scandals involving evangelical pastors have prompted much soul-searching among conservative Christian leaders.

No one has proposed rethinking the theology that "homosexuality is a sin." Instead, there's a growing consensus that the church must do a better job of helping pastors resist all immoral desires, such as a lust for pornography, an addiction to drugs or a lifelong same-sex attraction.

Seminary professors, Christian counselors and veteran clergy say the best way to help pastors fight temptation is to get them talking — even about their most "shameful secrets." They don't want a sordid tell-all from the pulpit each Sunday. But they would like pastors to "bare their weaknesses and admit their lapses before a small group of so-called 'accountability partners' — friends committed to listen with empathy, then rebuke or advise as needed.

"Our current environment

demands perfection of pastors," said Craig Williford, president of the Denver Seminary. "It doesn't allow leaders to struggle, to be human, to deal with their issues without fear of losing their ministry. We need to help them find safe harbors."

Williford recently returned from a conference with 50 seminary presidents; most, he said, had pushed this issue to the top of their agenda after the scandals.

The most recent involved the Rev. Paul Barnes, 54, who resigned Dec. 10 as pastor of a large church in suburban Denver after confessing to repeated trysts with men. In a tearful goodbye video, Barnes told his congregation he had struggled with homosexuality since he was a boy. "I can't tell you the number of nights I have cried myself to sleep, begging God to take this away," Barnes said, according to the *Denver Post*. One of its reporters viewed the video before the church sealed it last week.

The confession in many ways echoed a farewell letter the Rev. Ted Haggard, 50, wrote to his Colorado Springs mega-church last month after admitting to contact with a male prostitute.

Both men described their lives as decades-long battles against their desires. They said they had tried numerous strategies to overcome their feelings, but did not succeed.

Some gay-rights activists

"Our current environment demands perfection of pastors. It doesn't allow leaders to struggle, to be human, to deal with their issues without fear of losing their ministry. We need to help them find safe harbors."

— Craig Williford, president of the Denver Seminary

had hoped these accounts would prompt a re-evaluation of the widespread view among evangelicals that homosexuality is a choice — and that it can be overcome with prayer and discipline. "If one of these guys in power would say 'I've been wrong,' that would change the world," said the Rev. Mel White, who runs a gay evangelical ministry called Soulforce.

But many evangelicals have drawn a very different lesson from the scandals. "They note that both Barnes and Haggard said they felt alone in their struggles, unable to confide in anyone. And they blame that isolation — at least in part — for the pastors' falls."

"We don't know how to deal with what's going on inside us, so we stuff it, or deny it, or adamantly preach against it," said the Rev. Kurt Fredrickson, who directs the doctorate program at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

"There's a loneliness, even though you're surrounded by lots of people, and that often

drives you to try to fill your life in another way," said the Rev. H. B. London, who runs a clergy counseling program for the Focus on the Family ministry in Colorado Springs. Church culture often reinforces that sense of loneliness.

In his 14 years at the helm of a conservative Baptist congregation in Colorado Springs, the Rev. Benjamin Reynolds said he found it almost impossible to have an honest conversation with his deacons. He set up a monthly "check-in," but everyone responded to his questions with a reflexive: "I'm blessed."

"I wanted to say, 'Please! I feel like crap!'" Reynolds said. "I felt like I was not dealing with human beings."

Talking with members of the congregation was even harder, he said; they held him to such a high standard that he could set off a round of gossip just by running out for a carton of milk on a Saturday night — a time they expected him to be home in prayer, preparing for Sunday worship.

Reynolds, 45, struggled for years on his own with the realization he is gay. Several months ago, he asked a former seminary professor to gather some good listeners.

It was to that team of three men that Reynolds first came out. This fall, with their encouragement, he told his congregation he was proud God had created him as a "same-gender-loving person." He resigned from the church rather than divide the congregation over the propriety of a gay man at the pulpit.

Ministers everywhere echo Reynolds' frustration with the solitude of the job.

Office politics can be as ruthless in churches as in boardrooms; pastors are often reluctant to confide their struggles to colleagues, for fear they'll be pushed out of a job.

And they tend to move so often, it can be tough to make good friends outside the congregation.

Eric Reed, managing editor of the church journal *Leadership*, urges churches to combat that isolation by assigning pastors their own spiritual advisers, or by requiring that they spend several days a year in counseling at a Christian retreat.

"Don't wait until the pastor falls apart," Reed said. "Build it into the job."

requirement into the contract when they hire a new senior pastor.

To gay activists, that seems a ludicrous response to Haggard's disgrace. No amount of counseling can wipe away same-sex attractions, they say, and it's cruel to make gifted spiritual leaders deny their sexuality as a condition of ministry.

Conservative Christians respond that everyone has immoral desires of one sort or another.

Straight Christians are called upon to resist the temptation to steal or cheat or look at porn. And gay Christians are called upon to resist any longings for same-sex intimacy. "We learn to manage (the urges) and not allow them to control us," Williford said.

Alan Chambers, president of the "ex-gay" ministry Exodus International, holds himself up as an example. He says he confides any wayward thoughts to his wife and closest friends, so they can help him avoid situations that might tempt him to homosexual behavior.

Leaders don't need to be ashamed of the fact that they're human," he said. In the past few weeks, he has shared that advice with church leaders from across the country. Chambers says he hears a common desperation in their voices. They haven't yet fallen, they tell him. But they need help.

CDC says more than half of U.S. measles cases in 2005 can be traced to one person

By Daniel Yee
Associated Press writer

ATLANTA — The biggest U.S. measles outbreak in a decade — 34 people stricken in Indiana and Illinois last year — was traced to a 17-year-old girl who had traveled to Romania without first getting vaccinated, government health officials said Thursday.

The outbreak accounted for more than half of the 66 measles cases in the United States in 2005. Widespread use of the measles vaccine has dramatically reduced the incidence of the disease over the past four decades; in 2004, there were just 37 cases, the smallest number in nearly 90 years of record-keeping.

The Indiana girl became infected after visiting a Romanian orphanage while on a church-mission trip, health investigators said. The others became infected after they attended a church gathering with her the day after her return.

"Orphanages are known to be higher risk" for measles, said Dr. Philip Gould of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The main point is to ensure that people do get vaccinated, especially prior to leaving the country, going to a place that physicians suspect that measles is a risk."

Thirty-three people in Indiana and one from Illinois became infected. Three people were hospitalized, but no one died.

Only two of the 34 people had been vaccinated against measles.

"The outbreak occurred because measles was imported into a population of children whose parents had chosen not to vaccinate their children because of safety concerns, despite evidence that

CDC measles info:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/measles/faq.rhtm>

measles-containing vaccine is safe and effective," the CDC said.

Nearly all of the 32 other U.S. cases in 2005 originated abroad, including 16 involving U.S. residents infected while traveling overseas and seven involving foreigners who were infected before visiting the United States.

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7:30 • 9:30 (PM) • 11:30 (PM)

ERAGON
7:30 • 9:30 (PM) • 11:30 (PM)

THE HOLIDAY
7:30 • 9:30 (PM) • 11:30 (PM)

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
7:30 • 9:30 (PM) • 11:30 (PM)

NATIVITY STORY
7:30 • 9:30 (PM) • 11:30 (PM)

BURLEY THEATRE
All Theatres CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE
OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY

THE GUARDIAN
7:30 • 9:30 (PM) • 11:30 (PM)

NATION

Federal subsidies turn farms into big business

Seven percent of farms get 54 percent of subsidies

By Gilbert M. Gail, Sarah Cohen and Dan Morjan
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The cornerstone of the multibillion-dollar system of federal farm subsidies is an iconic image of the struggling family farmer: small, powerless against Mother Nature, tied to the land by blood.

Without generous government help, farm-state politicians say, thousands of these hardworking families would fail, threatening the nation's abundant food supply.

"In today's fast-paced, interconnected world, there are few industries where sons and daughters can work side-by-side with moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas," Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., said last year. "But we still find that today in agriculture... It is a celebration of what too many in our country have forgotten, an endangered way of life that we must work each and every day to preserve."

This imagery secures billions annually in what one grower called "empathy payments" for farmers. But it is misleading.

Today, most of the nation's food is produced by modern family farms that are large operations using state-of-the-art computers, marketing consultants and technologies that cut labor, time and costs. The owners are frequently college graduates who are as comfortable with a spreadsheet as with a tractor. They cover more acres and produce more crops with fewer workers than ever before.

The very policies touted by Congress as a way to save

small family farms are instead helping to accelerate their demise, economists, analysts and farmers say. That's because owners of large farms receive the largest share of government subsidies. They often use the money to acquire more land, pushing aside small and medium-size farms as well as young farmers starting out.

Historically, when you think of family farms, you think of Mom and Dad and three generations working a small or mid-sized farm. It gives you a warm and fuzzy feeling," said Alex White, a professor of agricultural economics at Virginia Tech. "In the real world, it might be a mid-sized farm, but it also might be a huge farm. It might be a corporation."

Large family farms, defined as those with revenue of more than \$250,000, account for nearly 60 percent of all agricultural production but just 7 percent of all farms. They receive more than 54 percent of government subsidies. And their share of federal payments is growing — more than doubling over the past decade for the biggest farms.

Two farms help to tell the tale.

John Phipps of Chrisman, Ill., harvested nearly 170,000 bushels of corn and soybeans last year on two-square miles of fertile soil. He grossed nearly \$500,000, putting his farm in the nation's top 3 percent. Still, he received \$120,000 in subsidies.

"It's embarrassing," Phipps said. "My government is basically saying I am incompetent and need help."

Several hundred miles northwest, Thomas Oswald farms the same Iowa fields that his relatives worked more than a century ago. The land he rents is about one-third the size of Phipps', and Oswald's subsidies are much smaller. Oswald contends that federal payments are helping to fuel a spike in land



Thomas Oswald, 40, of Cleghorn in northwest Iowa, stays out of the land-grab game. "I want to be known as someone who farms well as opposed to farming big," he said. The policies touted by Congress as a way to save small family farms are instead helping to accelerate their demise, economists, analysts and farmers say.

prices that favors the wealthy. "If the purpose of farm policy was to save the family farm and help stabilize rural communities, then it hasn't worked," Oswald said. "What the government is really doing is subsidizing land and assets, not people."

The transformation of the family farm from a small, self-contained business to a complex, technology-driven enterprise is seen today in a rapidly changing rural landscape dominated by larger and wealthier farms. That landscape shows a vastly different picture of family farms than the one often evoked by legislators and industry groups: bigger, more industrial than agrarian, with owners wealthier than most Main Street Americans.

In a late-October speech in Indianapolis, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said that, in the face of higher energy prices and natural disasters, "our farmers' resiliency is evident." Agricultural exports are at a record \$68 billion; farm equity has

"If the purpose of farm policy was to save the family farm and help stabilize rural communities, then it hasn't worked. What the government is really doing is subsidizing land and assets, not people."

— Thomas Oswald, a Cleghorn, Iowa farmer

swelled to \$1.6 trillion, another record; and farmers' debt-to-assets ratio is at a 45-year low.

"Today, producers grow more crops and handle more livestock more efficiently than at any time in the history of mankind," Johanns said.

Nevertheless, just last year the government paid out about \$15 billion in income support or price guarantees, which increasingly are going to the largest farms — those with annual sales of \$500,000 or more. Between 1989 and 2003, the share of federal pay-

ments for those farms jumped from 13 percent to 32 percent while the share going to small and medium-size farms — those with \$250,000 or less in sales — dropped from 63 percent to 43 percent.

In 2003, the owners of the biggest family farms reported an average household income of \$214,200, more than three times that of U.S. households on average. "Farm households are not, in general, poor," government researchers concluded.

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Simplicity is key at Frenchman's Gulch Winery

By Kelly Jackson

For Times-News

KETCHUM — Stephen McCarthy and Arne Ryason have an answer to the constant problem many of us face — they actually found a job so fun it doesn't feel like work.

McCarthy is the owner/operator of Frenchman's Gulch Winery in Ketchum and Ryason is the trusted and knowledgeable cellar boy.

Frenchman's Gulch began as a dream of McCarthy's when he woke up unexplainably in a vineyard white visiting Europe after college.

OK, that didn't really happen, but McCarthy's love for wine has an impressive history, with his experimentation with grapes beginning back in his hometown of Chicago.

The first wines he made were "awful" he said, but he continued to work on technique, planting his own vineyard at his summer home in Michigan. McCarthy said he played around with his Michigan vineyard for about 14 years. He and his wife moved here about 12 years ago and elected to do what they love doing and had perfected over the years. Thus, Frenchman's Gulch Winery was born.

After all, alcohol production is arguably the second oldest profession in the world and one of the first to crop up in the annals of the agricultural society. But Ryason and McCarthy can tell you more about this, on to the wines...

Frenchman's Gulch Winery produces Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, a signature bordeloo blend called Ketchum Couvé and a seasonal Rose that's so good customers were fighting over the last case at the end of the season.

The business opened in 2000 and moved into its current location at 309 Ninth St. S.E. in Ketchum a little over a year ago. It's definitely come a long way from its meager beginnings in McCarthy's garage, where the crushing and pressing process took place in his front yard.

Frenchman's Gulch Winery procures grapes from three primary locations in Washington state: Horse Heaven Hills, Walla Walla Valley and Yakima Valley. McCarthy said the business orders grapes by the acre, which produces anywhere from two and a half to three and a quarter tons of grapes, so they tend to oversee the growing process for each vineyard.

It takes about six runs to transport the grapes from Washington back to Sun Valley for their conversion into wine, not counting trips made to inspect the grapes as they mature, McCarthy said.

Once the grapes are at home in Sun Valley, they are crushed, allowed to ferment for three weeks and then pressed. From there, the grapes go directly into barrels. Fifty barrels will produce about 1,200 cases of wine, he added.

The barrels are rinsed out when necessary as the solids sink to the bottom. It's a natural filtration process, McCarthy explained. Wines from Frenchman's Gulch Winery are unfiltered and simple.



Cellar boy Arne Ryason washes out a barrel before pouring wine back in. The wine will spend another half a year maturing before it is bottled.

"We make it the old fashioned way," he said. "We are very low-tech intentionally. The less machinery you run your wine through, the better your wine. The less you handle your wine, the better off you are."

McCarthy said he usually keeps red wines in barrels for 22 months before bottling, but if he likes the way they

taste at 18 months, he will bottle them at that point.

Ryason said McCarthy are currently tending to the 2005 vintage wines and selling wines produced in the 2003 and 2004 vintages. Prices are economical, ranging from \$12 to \$20 a bottle, with library wines priced at approximately \$25 and well worth it, McCarthy said.

McCarthy said gauging his favorite wine is a difficult task, because it depends on so many factors. Last year, he said, the Ketchum Couvé was excellent.

"The Merlot probably still lingers as my favorite right now," he said. "It's just a killer wine."

Wine produced at Frenchman's Gulch Winery has also won several awards from various competitions, including a Best of Show for the Merlot, a silver medal for the Syrah and a Wine of the Week award for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Despite the awards, McCarthy confesses, the winery does not enter that many contests.

Not only are Frenchman's Gulch wines made here in the Wood River Valley, they are primarily distributed locally as well.

"We don't make that much," he said. "But we'd rather sell here."

Frenchman's Gulch Winery caters to regular customers from the valley and is sold in about 50 local restaurants. Wine tasting is held year round at Frenchman's Gulch on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 3 to 6 p.m. They are in the process of developing a new tasting room adjacent to the warehouse, which will be ready in the near future.

However, laid-back McCarthy and Ryason invite people to stop by whenever they want.

"We're here a lot," McCarthy said. Although the winemaking duo has been very busy lately, they plan to get back to "Sun Valley reality" soon, hitting the slopes as much as possible and continuing to enjoy all life has to offer.

Idaho state senator to sell business

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — State Senate Minority Leader Clint Stennett plans to sell two Sun Valley television stations he has owned for 20 years.

Pending approval by the Federal Communications Commission, Stennett, D-Ketchum, will sell his company, E-DA-HOE Inc., which includes TV stations KSVX in Halley and KSTV in Ketchum, to Plum TV Inc., an East Coast media company with a growing presence in resort areas.

The deal also includes TV station K201W in McCall. Plum TV, based in New York City, operates local channels in Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Vail, Telluride and Aspen. It will officially broadcast in the summer.

CEO Tom Scott, the founder of Nantucket Nectars, said he has been to Sun Valley many times and called it an ideal place for a company that focuses on resorts and tourism.

"If you look at our markets, Sun Valley is a very logical next step," he said.

The programming will be similar to the other mountain markets with live morning shows that present ski conditions and weather information. Scott said most content is currently paid advertising but could change in the future.

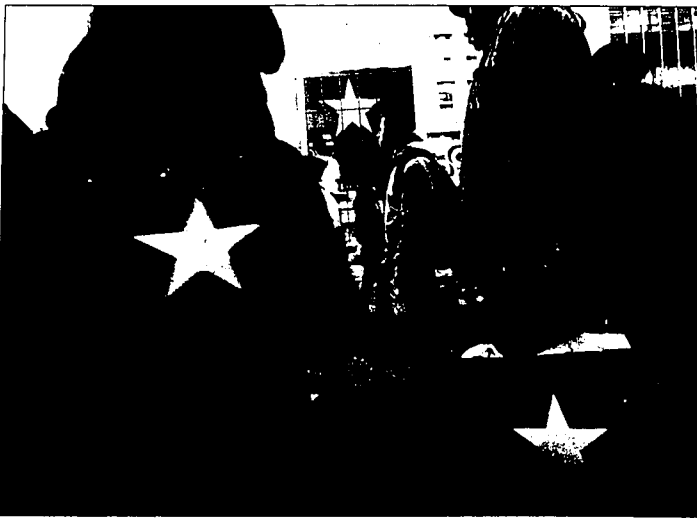
According to industry Web site <http://www.broadcasting-cable.com>, Stennett will receive at least \$1.7 million at closing plus 81 percent of gross revenue for the first year.

Scott said he could not confirm the figures but called them "in the right ballpark."

Stennett, who will begin his seventh term in January, used to own radio stations as well as the Wood River Journal, a weekly newspaper now owned by Lee Enterprises, the company that owns the Times-News.

He said the transaction did not necessarily mean retirement but he does not know what he might do next in the private sector. "Opportunities always present themselves," he said. "I'm an entrepreneur. I'll do something else. I don't know what that is yet."

Deck the halls, not the employees



Shoppers pass Macy's in New York Tuesday. As stressed-out shoppers enter the home stretch of the holiday shopping season, retailers are bracing for the rush, and doing what they can to manage the mad multitudes.

Retailers try anger management and extra security to manage angry shoppers

By Lauren Villagrán
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — "It's the season to be ... angry?"

The countdown to Christmas has dwindled to the single digits. As the mall crowds have worsened, so has the stress on shoppers, retailers are bracing for an even bigger rush this weekend — and doing what they can to manage the mad multitudes. Stores have beefed up security and coached their employees in anger management. They're taking the hottest items off the shelves to avoid fights in the aisles. While retailers are reluctant to say how much they're spending to manage the mayhem, they do say the measures are worth it to keep their customers happy, employees sane and stores safe during the busiest time of the year.

Shoppers have become angrier, suggests a recent study by ComPsych Corp., a provider of employee assistance programs. This year, ComPsych has seen a marked increase in the number of acute-stress counseling sessions it provides to retailers related to customer abuse. The number rose 13 percent in 2006 following a 65 per-

cent jump last year.

"During the holiday season, (retailers) bring on people who are less familiar with where products are, how stores operate," said Richard A. Chalfetz, chairman and chief executive of ComPsych. "Shoppers are agitated. Put those together and you create a combustible environment."

On the corner of 34th Street and 7th Avenue in New York, Melahie Marquez took a deep breath as she set down two handfuls of red and white Macy's shopping bags. She had just been shopping at the flagship store of Federated Department Stores Inc.

Marquez, 47, said she made her way to the front of the Macy's checkout line only to find that the register didn't recognize the discounts she expected on a set of towels. After leaving the line to search for the proper sales ticket, Marquez waited another hour to save about \$14 on a receipt that totaled \$450 — that, after putting up a fight. "Poor Macy's," she said. "You have to be mean to them."

In Utah, you can't find an ad to find a drink

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Where do you find liquor stores in the phone book?

In the Salt Lake City area, they're in small type, just below the Air National Guard recruiting office.

The state operates liquor stores in Utah, so locations are in the government listings, which is not the first place that comes to mind when people want to find alcohol for the holidays.

"It's stupid," said Larry Lunt, chairman of the state alcoholic-beverage commission.

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has been receiving many calls from people asking where they can buy booze for Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Staff members have been asked to find new ways to make store addresses, phone numbers and hours easily available to the public. Utah law prohibits the department from advertising the sale of alcohol.

Some staff and other commissioners say the department's goal is to better inform the public, not promote alcohol.

Market Watch

Dec. 21, 2006

Dow Jones Industrials	42.82	12,421.25
Nasdaq composite	-11.78	2,415.85
Standard & Poor's 500	-0.29	1,418.30
Russell 2000	-2.86	782.90

Stocks of local interest

Stock	close	change
Con Agri	27.34	▲ .49
Dell Inc.	25.46	▼ .31
Idacorp	38.78	▼ .21
Lithia Motors	27.26	▲ .37
Micro	43.48	▲ .02
Supervalu	36.21	▲ .11

Commodities

Commodity	close	change
Feb. Oil	62.66	▲ 1.06
(Light sweet crude by barrel)		
Live cattle	87.20	▼ .007
Dec. gold	618.20	▼ 2.4

For more, see page C7

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance with columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various fund categories like Bond, Equity, and Money Market.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance with columns for Name, Div, Last, Chg, and various fund categories like Bond, Equity, and Money Market.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of commodity futures prices for various metals and grains, including Gold, Silver, and Wheat.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CHEESE

Table of cheese prices for various types like Cheddar, Swiss, and Mozzarella.

POTATOES

Table of potato prices for different varieties and grades.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock prices for cattle, hogs, and sheep.

BEANS

Table of bean prices for various types like Soybean and Lentil.

GRAINS

Table of grain prices for corn, wheat, and soybeans.

METALS/MONEY

Table of metal prices for gold, silver, and platinum.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange market activity, including volume, index, and top gainers/losers.

MARKET SUMMARY

NYSE AMEX NASDAQ

Summary of market activity for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ, including volume and index changes.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market activity, including volume, index, and top gainers/losers.

INDEXES

Table of major market indices like S&P 500, Dow Jones, and Russell 2000.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock market activity, including company names and price changes.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text detailing how to interpret the market report, including symbols and abbreviations.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange activity, including volume, index, and top gainers/losers.



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\$13.99 New Year's Eve Day Buffet 8a - 9p

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RESORT CASINO GETAWAY

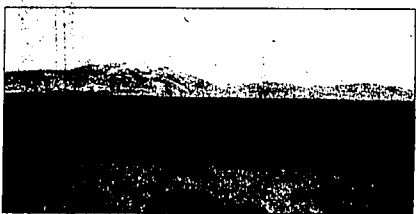
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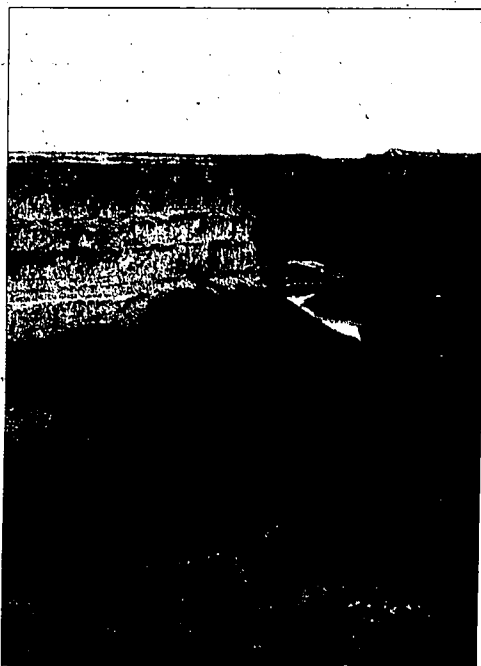
Autumn sage bursts against the green backdrop in this photo taken in Gooding County.

Photo by BILL STROMBERG

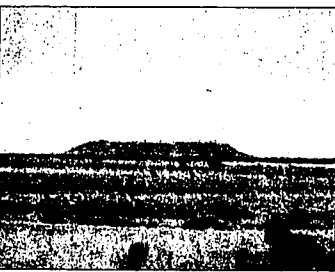
True fans of nature



Jarvis mountain range, taken from a two-track road west of Rogerson.



The Snake River Canyon east of the Perrine Bridge, in a shot taken from the canyon belt trail.



Big Southern Butte east of Rupert, shot from U.S. Highway 93.

Sightseers take in spectacular views

Bill Stuebker
Times-News correspondent

Sightseeing is the largest outdoor activity in the world. It's where nature's activities are the sports and sightseers are the spectators. Consider bird watching, for which the tailgate party is lunch.

Camping may be just a tailgate party for tomorrow's hike to the summit where the day will be spent watching sunrise, lolling in the sun, watching the sunset, and hiking back for more tailgating.

Sports writers and commentators don't say much about sightseeing. They usually blather on about shooting elk, telemarking open meadows, hooking fish, or jogging mountain trails.

Some have gone so far as to be disparaging about the sightseer.

In Desert Solitaire, Edward Abbey berates the tour bus, the motor home, the car: "No more cars in national parks. Let the people walk." Sounds sort of good, but Abbey goes a couple steps further.

"What about children? What about the aged and infirmed?" According to Abbey, children can just wait a few years. They'll get big enough to walk alone. And it's just too bad for the old. "The aged merit even less sympathy." They had the opportunity to see the country when they were young.

One legendary kayaker, Walt Blackadar, had

this to say about himself, but the implications are evident: "I'm not a spectator, I'm a participant."

Indeed, Blackadar felt this so much that those sentences can be read on a plaque screwed to a boulder above the spot where he drowned on the South Fork of the Boise.

Such self-proclaimed athleticism aside, there are more folks who watch sports than participate in them. Think about the common leagues, baseball, football, basketball, hockey, tennis, and golf. There are hundreds of thousands of stadium-attending spectators (sightseers) and only a few thousand players.

A detour is necessary at this point. I am writing about the person who at least takes the time to drive by, to roll down the window, to walk from the car to the viewing scope, and demonstrates a sensuous interest in nature.

The boob-tube baby, baseball fan, can watch baseball and never get hit by a canon-shot handgun, and the boob-tube baby, nature lover, can travel the roads of Yellowstone Park and never smell pine.

In the movie Being There, Peter Sellers character discovered that watching something on television was better than "being there." By watching television, he was actually everywhere. But I won't go there.

We are a species dominated by our sense of first-hand sight. We need to see to believe. I see

Please see SIGHTSEERS, Page D2.

"I'm not a spectator. I'm a participant."

— Walt Blackadar, legendary kayaker

STAYING ALIVE

Small pack of emergency supplies crucial for winter travel

By Eric Barber
The Lewiston Tribune

LEWISTON — Surviving being lost in the winter is a matter of taking some simple precautions and keeping your cool while trying to stay warm, according to Idaho outdoor experts.

The best thing people can do is to prepare themselves for the unexpected before they head outdoors.

"If you assume something can happen you are going to be better prepared for it," said Mike Belser, director of the University of Idaho Outdoor Program at Moscow.

For Belser that means taking enough gear to spend an uncomfortable night outside if he becomes lost, injured or stuck. He's not talking about bulky things like tents and sleeping bags. Simply wearing the proper clothing and having a few

essential items in a daypack can make a big difference. He keeps a knife and a lighter taped together and wears both around his neck.

His pack holds a water bottle, some food, extra clothing, a flashlight or headlamp, a little bit of rope or twine and a lightweight emergency blanket.

"If you can stay dry and you can stay warm, that will help you a lot." He wears an outer layer of clothing

that keeps him dry, an inner layer that keeps him warm and a base layer that wicks moisture away from his body. He calls it the three Ws — weather, warm, and wick.

Bob Liming of Lewiston teaches outdoor survival courses. His essentials include good rain gear, layered clothing, water and a whistle. The rain gear not only sheds water but it also works great as a wind breaker. And layering clothes gives outdoor enthu-

siasts the ability to control their body temperature by removing or adding clothes.

"Layered clothing is an absolute imperative must," he said.

Food is important to carry but water is essential. People can survive up to three weeks without food but only three days without water.

Water was one of the first things

Please see SURVIVAL, Page D3

OUTDOORS

Decoy rule applies only to WMAs

Question: "Is there a rule restricting how long I can leave my duck and goose decoys out?"

Answer: The rule you are thinking of only applies to use of decoys on Idaho Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Management Areas.

In order to help manage hunter congestion and prevent hunters from setting out their decoys to "reserve hunting blinds" on wildlife management areas, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopted



ASK THE OFFICER
Gary Hompland

rules restricting when and how long waterfowl decoys can be deployed.

The commission rule for Fish and Game wildlife management areas is: decoys must not be left unattended, and

can not be put in place more than two hours prior to official shooting hours. Additionally, all decoys must be picked up and removed from the hunting site no later than two hours after the end of official shooting hours.

Hunters are allowed to leave decoys unattended for an indeterminate amount of time on private land or on public land that has no restrictions, such as the Snake River.

Hunters are cautioned about leaving decoys unattended as

they become targets of theft. Leaving decoys deployed unattended in public hunting areas is not a method of reserving public hunting blinds. Public hunting areas are open to all on a first-come-first-served basis.

Gary Hompland is a regional conservation officer at the Magic Valley Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Contact him at (208) 324-4350 or e-mail him at ghpland@idfg.idaho.gov.

Safety warning issued to those who hike on Bald Mountain

For the Times-Herald

KEETCHUM — People seeking snowmobiling or hiking up Bald Mountain Ski Area are asked to use extreme care and caution.

The Ski Area is alive with activity in the two hours of the morning and throughout the daylight hours. Snowmobilers ferry snowmakers, lift mechanics and ski patrollers to various locations on the mountain. Groomers work their way up and down the slopes, putting, finishing touches on the mountain's corduroy ski runs. Skiers and snowboarders of all abilities are riding down the slopes after the lifts open. In addition, there is an increasing number of hikers and their dogs climbing up the mountain in search of a brisk early morning or mid-day workout.

According to Forest Service Snow Ranger Joe Miezulski, early morning and mid-day hiking on Baldy has increased significantly in recent years. "Where there used to be six or eight folks hiking up the runs at dawn, there are now as many as 100 on a busy day — and many of those folks are hiking up the middle of a run or have dogs with them."

Miezulski said it is imperative that hikers heading up the runs in the dark wear light colored, reflective clothing and carry flashlights or head lamps. "There's a lot of activity that takes place each morning, so that Bald Mountain can

open for skiers at 9 a.m. During the day, thousands of skiers and snowboarders are zooming downhill. Not all of them are completely in control of their skis or snowboard. Hikers need to be aware of this, and stay well to the side when walking up or down the ski runs."

Miezulski also urges hikers to leave their dogs at home, or have them on a leash and pick up after them when they leave a "deposit". Early morning hikers need to steer clear of the mountain after heavy snows, so as not to interfere with avalanche control work taking place on those mornings. "What might appear to be just a few inches at the bottom could be a significant snowfall at the top, requiring avalanche hazard mitigation, especially when high winds accompanied the new snow," Miezulski said. "On avalanche control mornings, the mountain will be posted closed at both the River Run and Warm Springs base areas."

According to Miezulski, hiking the mountain, while it is posted closed, is a violation of Idaho County Ordinance 86-4, prohibiting public entry to areas marked closed within a developed ski area. "Sun Valley staff is aware of, and watch for hikers in their travels, but the skiing or riding public may not be watching. Hikers need to take these precautions to ensure everyone's safety."

Off-road dilemma

Off-roaders, environmentalists vie for canyon near Death Valley

By Gillan Flaccas
Associated Press writer

BALLARAT, Calif. — Whoever named Surprise Canyon got it right. Mere miles from bone-dry Death Valley, the canyon cradles two unexpected jewels within its soaring, white-washed walls: gushing mountain streams and what's left of a once-bustling silver mining town.

These treasures have attracted visitors going back decades — and now they're at the heart of a legal battle between two modern foes, off-road drivers and environmentalists.

Five years ago environmentalists successfully sued to get the narrow canyon and its spring-fed waterfalls closed to vehicles. In response, more than 80 off-roaders purchased tiny pockets of private property at the top of the federally owned canyon and are suing for access to the land.

To buttress their case, the off-roaders have dusted off a Civil War-era mining law that places the public access rights of local governments and private individuals above the rights of the federal government. The tussle in this remote California corner is one of several recent cases that, if successful, could unfurl thousands of miles of roads in federally protected parks around the West that are off-limits to motorized vehicles.

The fight over Surprise Canyon boils down to a simple question: What is more important, the rights of private property owners or the protection of a fragile desert oasis?

A coalition of environmental groups allege that before 2001, off-roaders destroyed the canyon by cutting trees, stacking boulders in the water and using steel winches to haul their Jeeps up a series of near-vertical waterfalls. They are now seeking to intervene in the off-roaders' lawsuit.

"It's almost unbelievable what's up there. It's precious. It's pristine," said Tom Budding, an environmental activist who regularly hikes the canyon about 200 miles northeast of his Los Angeles home. "I shudder to think of the extreme four-wheelers getting back into the canyon and making a road where there is now no road."

There once was a road — a 130-year-old gravel tollway that was washed away by flash floods nearly two decades ago. Undeterred, off-roaders continued to drive up the canyon to reach the ghost town, which includes easily explorable mine shafts, the remains of a smelter, some mine carts and a few buildings.

Kicked out by the settlement in 2001, they bought several acres of privately owned land — some with cabins — in an attempt to gain access.

The canyon grows from an arid plain just north of the one-hour desert outpost of Ballarat and climbs 3,700 feet over five miles to Panamint City, now a crumbling ghost town inside Death Valley National Park.

The narrow gorge's gurgling streams pour over seven waterfalls and winds its way between quartz cliffs. Thick stands of willows and cottonwood trees, their leaves golden yellow as winter approaches, cluster around the stream as flycatchers flit from branch to branch.

Less common birds have been treated to the area, which was closed to off-roaders,



This image provided by Heidi Walton shows off-roader Dale Walton, front vehicle, passing through Surprise Canyon near Ballarat, Calif., Nov. 8, 1991. This canyon, just miles from arid Death Valley, has inspired a passionate legal battle between two perennial foes: off-road drivers and environmentalists.



Environmentalist Christa Kassar looks out over Surprise Canyon near Panamint City, an old mining camp near Ballarat, Calif., Dec. 10.

notably the endangered Inyo California toad, said Chris Kassar, an Arizona-based biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity. Other sensitive species such as the Panamint daisy and the Panamint alligator lizard are also flourishing, she said.

Kassar and others believe the canyon's ecosystem could crumble if the off-roaders prevail in the current lawsuit, filed in August in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. The off-roaders believe that under an 1866 mining law, the public right-of-way in the canyon remains although the road is long gone.

"The issue is not off-roading and environmental issues. The legal issue is access," said plaintiffs' attorney Karen Budd-Falen. "If the road was once there and it's eroded out

it's still a public access. The fact that it has been flooded out doesn't make the legal issue go away."

Similar arguments are also being used in right-of-way lawsuits brought by states, counties and private citizens elsewhere in the West.

In 2004, San Juan County in Utah sued the National Park Service, claiming that a creek in Canyonlands National Park had once been a county road dating back to the 1890s. Environmental groups have also sought to intervene in that case, which is now before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Inyo County recently sued the same agency over four unmaintained dirt roads in Death Valley National Park and San Bernardino County sued over 14 roads in the Mojave National Preserve. Both suits

allege the roads were county property before the federal government closed them.

Other states and counties from Alaska to Montana have surveyed and identified thousands of miles of roads currently on federal land that might be subject of similar claims.

The off-roaders, however, say they aren't trying to set a legal precedent — they just want to visit their property and explore the old mining ruins.

"I respect what was there and I want it to be there for my kids to see," said Dale Walton, a member of the Bakersfield Trailblazers off-roading club and a property owner.

"I resent people who go in and destroy things, but I resent more people that say, 'You just can't go in there because we don't want you in there.'"

Concessionaire plans express snow travel

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. (AP) — A concessionaire plans to offer a new "express snowcoach" service from here to Old Faithful, in Yellowstone National Park.

The transportation arranged by Xanterra Parks and Resorts will include drop-off service for cross-country skiers. The 20-mile trip will last two hours and will not feature the sightseeing stops customary for snowcoaches.

Xanterra said. A two-hour guided tour of Yellowstone's geyser basin will be an option, however. Cost of the streamlined

trips will be \$80 for adults and \$40 for children ages 2-11.

Most guided snowcoach tours on the same route cost about \$100 per person.

Skiers wishing to be dropped off within seven miles of West Yellowstone will be charged \$15. Those with drop-off locations up to 14 miles from West Yellowstone will be charged \$30.

The new service is scheduled to begin Thursday and continue through March 10, with departures at 7:30 a.m. MST and return trips at about 5:30 p.m.

Sightseers

Continued from page D1

that, I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes. Or doubt ... I don't see it. Show me. I couldn't believe my eyes.

First-hand seeing is more than believing. It's, in fact, being there.

Abbey was concerned about how we got to where we're going ... to see. The old German saw, "The best way to see a country is on foot," was his mantra. But given the number of people wanting to see the mountains, say the Sawtooths, it may be better to satisfy their eyes than their feet. Better a good view point than a trodden stream bank.

Simply viewing is enough for most. One needn't fall off a cliff to enjoy height. One needn't float the Salmon River to enjoy riverwater. Watching a wild rapid may be enough.

It makes sense to say that watching a mountain lion leap is as legitimate as watching a football safety make a tackle.

Truth is, a satisfying way to enjoy the outdoors is simply through the eyes, and often to good effect. It is sight that is motivating the people of Twin Falls to build a "Viewing" path along the Snake River Canyon.

It is sight that motivated many of the guidelines for the City of Rocks, the Sawtooth Mountain range, and the Gaters of the Moon. All debate about the value of these areas came down to sight. What is worth the mind's eye, that inner seeing, that sense of awe?

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in his essay "Nature," that nature writ large, NATURE, encom-

It makes sense to say that watching a mountain lion leap is as legitimate as watching a football safety make a tackle.

passes all. Sight renders the dimensions of NATURE better than the foundering of a man skinned to a kayak.

Familiarity with what one sees, the naming of mountains, hills, creeks, lava flows, and sagbrush — that helps time stand still as one moves along. One feels at home when she knows where she is.

Glades Richards writes in her book, *Angelo Religion*, that the Navajo believe the name of a thing is sacred and to know the name of something is to celebrate its being. Seeing and naming are more important than touching.

Besides the feeling of awe that touches, it also yields understanding. Seeing is believing, and believing in nature is endemic to human nature.

If the point were to be stretched, it might stretch most easily in the direction of the sightseers and their significance. More wilderness has been saved to see than to hunt.

Odd to think, perhaps, of seeing as an adventure, but it is, and certainly, as worthy as skiing a groomed run.

Truly viewing the landscape is to see nature writ large.

Workers scramble for park opening

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — A storm that knocked out power to most of the park complicated preparations for last Wednesday's planned winter opening.

The storm Friday toppled trees onto power lines. On Sunday, Northwestern Energy crews spent part of the day flying around Yellowstone in a helicopter trying to get a fix on the outage.

Power crews were able to reconnect power Sunday between Mammoth Hot Springs and Canyon Village.

But because of the remoteness and difficult working conditions, they weren't able to say when power to the

rest of Yellowstone might be restored.

Park officials lined up one truck capable of carrying 5,000 gallons of diesel to make a delivery to lodges and facilities at Old Faithful on Monday. The fuel will power generators.

"It's always been a challenge to get open, especially the winter season," park spokesman Al Nash said. "This just took the usual challenge and increased it by a factor of 10."

But he said officials expected Yellowstone to be ready for business Wednesday.

The Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins, Snow Lodge Restaurant, Geysers

Grill and Madison Warming Hut Snack Bar were all scheduled to open for the winter on Wednesday. The Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel is scheduled to open today, according to Yellowstone's Web site.

Despite the storm, snowpack around Yellowstone is below average. But Nash said most of the scheduled snowmobile and snowcoach routes, including the one between the West Entrance and Old Faithful, would still open Wednesday.

He said the routes south of Mammoth and through Hayden Valley were still being evaluated.

Commissioners pare list of director applicants

BOISE — Idaho Fish and Game Commissioners pared a list of nine applicants to five finalists to replace Director Steve Huffaker who will retire at the end of the year.

The commissioners announced their selections after an executive session during their meeting in Boise Tuesday.

The nine candidates include applicants from outside and within the department and include:

- Jim Groen — Fish and Game regional supervisor for the Clearwater Region in Lewiston.
- Jim Unsworth — Fish and Game wildlife bureau chief at headwaters in Boise.
- Dave Parrish — Fish and Game regional supervisor for the Magic Valley Region in Jerome.
- Dr. Michael R. Dunbar — research biologist at the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, Colo.
- Kevin Delaney — former director of the Division of Sport Fish for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The interim director effective Jan. 1 will be current Deputy Director Terry Mansfield. Commissioners expect to conduct interviews about Jan. 16, and they will announce their selection some time after that.

Fish and Game notes

- Changes to hunting equipment restrictions.
- Comments may also be submitted to Fish and Game on the Internet or by phone by Dec. 22.
- Proposed changes to trophy species rules include changing the definition of a legal ram to "any-ram" instead of the three-quarter curl requirement. Other changes include regional adjustments in higher sheep, mountain goat and moose seasons.
- Potential changes to equipment restrictions include:
 - Centerfire: Maximum caliber restrictions and use of electronic devices, such as lighted reticles in rifle scopes.
 - Archery: Bow let-off, minimum arrow weight and length restrictions.
 - Muzzleloader: Definition of traditional muzzleloader, caliber and projectile requirements.
- A list of trophy season proposals and a hunting equipment survey are available on Fish and Game's Website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>, or by calling Fish and Game regional offices.
- All comments will be summarized and presented to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for review before setting the final regulations during the commission meeting Jan. 10-12 at headquarters in Boise.

Local photographer's book earns award

KEICHUM — Local photographer, author and guide Matt Leidecker won top honors in the outdoor guide category for the 2006 National Outdoor Book Awards.

The NOBA awards represent some of the top outdoor writing and artwork published today. The NOBA Foundation, Idaho State University and the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education sponsor the awards program.

Leidecker, a correspondent photographer and writer for the Times-News, was recognized for "Middle Fork of the Salmon River" — A Comprehensive Guide.

The guidebook is the culmination of more than a decade

of working and living on Idaho's most famous river. Leidecker has guided on the Middle Fork for 12 years, and packed the 96-page book with information on how to run the rapids (at high and low water), where to kayak, camp, hike, and visit historical sites along the river. The detailed maps are accompanied by more than 70 color photos and also include a section describing the geology of the canyon.

Leidecker's book has been published locally in the Sun Valley Guide, and in national publications such as National Geographic Adventure, Paddler, Backcountry, and Powder Magazine.



WORK LIKE A DOG
Oregon Trail Dreams Sled Dog Riders member Kyle Lashley, 19, of Bend, Ore., background, Lakes Vancouver, Wash., resident Randy Dickinson, 51, and his girlfriend Karan Shimer, 47, on a seven-mile Alaskan Husky sled dog ride on Tuesday near Mount Bachelor, Ore.

Cleaning bird feeders can prevent disease

The disease that recently killed thousands of mallards along a rural stream southeast of Burley, is among the diseases that also affect the small birds that come to backyard feeders.

The aspergillus fungus grows on damp bird seed and in the debris that accumulates on the ground below feeders. Birds are infected by ingesting or inhaling mold spores from contaminated feed.

To reduce the risk of disease, store seed in a dry place and throw away any seed that has become wet or moldy. Clean and disinfect storage containers as well.

Clean bird feeders a couple of times a month or more often if sick birds are seen around the feeder.

Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned more often — at least once a week — and they should be taken down in winter to encourage hummingbirds to migrate.

Wash feeders with warm soapy water and disinfect by soaking in a 10 percent bleach solution for two or three minutes. Let the feeder air dry before refilling it. Clean up the spilled seed below the feeder before it gets moldy.

Fisheries management plan available for review

Fish and Game's 2007-2012 Fisheries Management Plan is available for public review and comment on the department Web site.

The document represents our proposed statewide and drainage direction for managing public fisheries during the next six years. The plan integrates previous public comment results of the 2006 open opinion survey. Whether it is native trout, white sturgeon, bass, or hatchery trout, the plan lays out how the department would protect, conserve and provide continued supplies of fish.

The document is available for review in two parts. Part 1 is the department's statewide direction describing fisheries management philosophy, challenges, and statewide fisheries programs. Part 2 describes how fishery management programs would be adopted on an individual drainage basis.

Fish and Game welcomes comments either by mail, via the Web site, or by phone. Send comments to Scott Grunder, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or call him at 208-287-2774, or at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

Comments are due no later than Jan. 17.

Dead hikers used unofficial trail

WAILUA, Hawaii (AP) — Two women who fell some 300 feet to their deaths while hiking to the base of a Kauai waterfall were using an unmarked trail featured in some Hawaii guidebooks.

Kauai police identified the women Wednesday as Elizabeth Ann Brem, 35, of Encinitas, Calif., and Paula Gonzalez Ramirez, 29, from the county of Colombia.

The women were cousins vacationing together in Hawaii, Kauai County said in a statement.

Officials were investigating why the women fell but don't suspect foul play.

There is no state trail from the lookout over Opeakea Falls to either the top or the bottom of the scenic waterfall. Officials posted warning signs at the viewing area after previous

accidents there. But many visitors attempt the trek anyway, some relying on guidebooks with sections on secret hikes off the beaten track.

Hawaiian Style Travel & Vacation says on its Web site "most will tell you the falls aren't accessible by river or trail but 'we've found a way.'"

"The trail leads down to the stream below, but there are several dizzy parts that allow you an opportunity to take a bad tumble if you're not careful," the Web site says. "Don't go at all if the path is muddy."

Best Places Hawaii says "Opeakea Falls conceals a terrific hidden hike" and cautions "The path descends a hill that is steep and slippery, so you'll want to hold on to tree branches along the way. We told you access was tricky."

Newspaper: Forest Service plans campground closures

DENVER (AP) — Half of the 59 campgrounds in Grand Mesa — a national forest — Gunnison National Forest could be closed or their services changed under proposed changes by the Forest Service.

The Durango Herald reported Sunday that it had obtained a memo from the Forest Service to congressional staff reporting some details of plans to close or change the status of

campgrounds. The memo said the White River National Forest would close 15 of 35 and the San Juan Forest may lose six of 47.

The memo did not list plans for the national forests in Colorado. The Forest Service is under orders to cut \$140 million from its budget.

"There's going to be some body attached in some way to every one of these sites," said

Greg Griffith, deputy Rocky Mountain regional forester. Officials say no campgrounds will be closed without public hearings. "The next step is public involvement. We will do a lot of public involvement in this," said Greg Griffith, the deputy regional forester.

The agency is reviewing all the sites to see much they are being used, how much they cost to maintain, and safety

and environmental issues.

"Our niche is dispersed, backcountry recreation, rather than the kind of things that take infrastructure, like pull-through campgrounds (for RVs) with showers," Griffith said.

Forest Service spokeswoman Janelle Smith said the closure decisions would be made at the local level. Individual forests have not been given goals or quotas.

Hunter comments sought on trophy rules, technology

Fish and Game wants to hear from hunters about proposed changes to the 2007-2008 moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat seasons and several potential

Survival

Continued from page D1

three men who recently became lost near Moose Creek Reservoir in Latah County asked for when they were rescued after spending one night and two days in the thick forest there.

When people are lost and stressed, food does help sustain strength and keep people calm.

Water is much more important than food. But the psychological value of food is high," Laming said.

Belser stresses the kind of food — many dieters try to avoid — those high in sugars and starches. He sticks a couple of candy bars in his pack.

There are a few things people can do to keep from getting lost and to make rescue easier if they do lose their way. Those who carry a compass, maps or global positioning system device, and know how to use them, have a better chance of not getting lost. All search-and-rescue experts stress the importance of telling somebody where you are going and when you will be back.

People who do get lost should stay put so it is easier for rescuers to find them.

"The best thing you can do is to stay in one place, hug a tree," said Dan Leachman, search coordinator for the Nez Perce County Search and Rescue.

Those who do stay put can also devote more time toward preparing to spend the night outside. Many people who become lost don't start to think about how they will survive the night until just before dark.

"Get dry and get warm," said Geoff Billin, search manager for Latah County Search and Rescue. "After you have handled that, it's a good idea to make yourself noticeable."

He said building a fire is a great way to do all three things. It can be used for warmth and to dry you out. Fire also helps searchers find lost people. The smoke can help searchers during the day, while the fire gives off light at night that can be equally valuable.

Fire is not an absolute necessity if people have the proper clothing and other equipment. But fire can make people much more comfortable and ease their fears.

"Psychologists tell us we associate warmth with comfort," Laming said. "If you have

the ability to put a fire together it occupies your mind and helps with rational thinking."

Speaking of rational thinking, Laming says that is the first thing people should try to do when they get lost.

"The first two minutes are the most critical. Sit down and think about what you are doing."

Lost people tend to worry and walk faster. That can often get them more lost.

They also tend to worry more about people at home who will worry about them or maybe even judge them if they get lost instead of thinking about the best way to save themselves.

"We don't think 'build a shelter because it's starting to rain' or 'build a fire,' we worry about who is not with us," said Laming.

Fire-building equipment can be lighters and matches. Both need to be kept in dry containers. Windies can be helpful fire-starters in wet conditions.

Shelters can be made from the branches and bows of trees. If people have the right equipment and experience, they can build snow caves,

Laming said most people don't know how to build the caves or that they can take hours to construct.

It might be easier to dig a shallow pit and line it with a bed of pine or fir bows and make a cover out of twine material. A small amount of rope or twine can make building structures easier.

Billin tells people to stick a couple of plastic garbage bags and a space blanket in their pockets. The bags can be used to stay dry and the space or emergency blankets radiate the body's heat inward.

"They will fit in your back pocket and you won't be tempted to leave them in the cab of your pickup."

Laming says people should carry a whistle in the outdoors. Blowing a whistle takes less energy and produces more decibels than shouting or yelling.

Billin also has advice for people at home worried about someone who is late to return from an outdoor trip. He says the sooner they call searchers, the better.

Gearing up for a search takes time. "It's very easy for us to stand down from a search."

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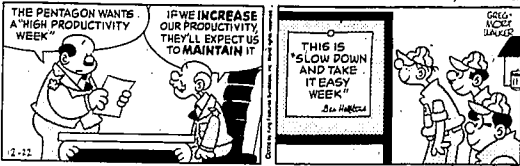
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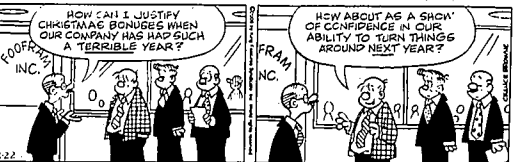
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



Daughter unsure about contact from long-absent biological dad



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My parents split when I was 3 and divorced when I was 6. I am now 28. Mama remarried when I was 7 to a man I consider to be my dad. My biological father, "Kevin," lived in the same town we did until I was 11, when we moved. (My step-

father was in the military.) Communications and visits were rare before we moved and have been nearly nonexistent ever since. Kevin never paid child support and only occasionally remembered birthdays when I was young. He called once a few years ago. The entire conversation was centered around his making excuses about why he was never around and never supported us. In the end, he blamed Mama for it. He never apologized for being a delinquent dad or his lack of interest in my life.

Kevin called again a few months ago. I was civil to him although I didn't offer much in the way of conversation. He said he and his wife had prepared their wills and that I was named in his. I simply said "OK" and didn't ask any questions.

Kevin has called a couple of times since, but I have no motivation to return his calls. This week I got a birthday card from him in the mail — two weeks late, of course. It contained a check for a small amount of money. I honestly did not feel any loss for not having Kevin in my life

because I was blessed with a loving, caring male parent. Sharing DNA does not constitute being a father in my book. But I think he at least owes me an apology or some kind of admission of wrongdoing (or lack of doing) if he expects me to be civil and communicate with him.

Should I return the check? Should I cash it, and write a letter thanking him for remembering my birthday, albeit late? Or should I tell him I can not willing to talk to him until he's willing to offer me an apology?

— DAUGHTER WHO DOESN'T NEED TWO DADS
DEAR ABBY: For someone who "honestly did not feel any loss for not having him (your) life," you appear to be genuinely steamed at your birth father. The time has come to be honest with yourself about your feelings of anger, disappointment and abandonment — and tell him honestly how you feel. Then hear him out.

You may learn that your mother is not the only one who loves your father to see you — and the move reinforced it. He may also have had financial prob-

lems that made monetary support difficult. Only he can give you the details that, in my opinion, you surely need to hear. It is clear your father is now trying to make amends, even if it's not in the form of an apology.

DEAR ABBY: Am I a "snoo" because I step out of the show, or naked in front of our dog? My wife thinks so. The trouble started when we got a female dog, "Taffy," from the local animal shelter. Taffy sleeps in our bedroom and is there in the morning when I take my shower.

My wife insists that I cover up in front of the dog and that Taffy is no different from a child. This has created a lot of stress between us because, to me, a dog is a dog. It is wrong to be naked in front of a dog?

— IN THE DOGHOUSE,
TEMECULA, CALIF.
DEAR IN THE DOGHOUSE: Even though many people treat their dogs like children, the fact remains that dogs are canines — not homo sapiens. Your wife appears to be either jealous or have an overactive imagination. It is no matter what their dogs like children, the naked in the presence of a dog than it is for a dog to be naked in the presence of a human.

CONFIDENTIAL
TO EDWARD PHILLIPS IN MINNEAPOLIS: Happy Birthday, I'll bro. I hope you're partying hearty!

Wind saves Empire State Building jumper

This day in history: On Dec. 22, 1977, a despondent Thomas Helms jumped off the observation deck of the top of the Empire State Building, intending to kill himself. However, a gusty wind blew him back toward the building and he landed on a ledge a few stories below.

Knocked unconscious, but otherwise uninjured, he laid there limply until an emergency crew brought him safely inside.

There are close to 4,000 known species of frogs and toads. Remember the plastic bug toys called "Gootles"? Leave it to American ingenuity to sell kids' colorful put-together replicas of public life. British sailors originally coined the name from "kutu," the Polynesian word for lice.

Armed forces sleep 18 1/2 hours a day. They avoid sunlight. It hurts their eyes. Linguists tell us that "golf" came from the ancient



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS
Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

Scottish word "gowf," which means "hit."

The bottom of a champagne bottle is indented — sometimes as much as an inch — into the bottle. This indentation at the bottom is referred to as the "kick," or "punt"; it adds reinforcement to the glass. If there were no punt, the pressure from inside the bottle would force your well blow out the bottom.

Pasteurization of milk to keep it from growing harmful organisms has saved many lives. But that wasn't Louis Pasteur's original goal. He developed his process in the 1850s to prevent wine spoilage. It wasn't until later that he realized that the

process might work on other things, too.

Savannah, Ga., saw the very first United States Girl Scout troop in 1912. The nationwide sales of Girl Scout cookies didn't start until 1936.

Why are they called ladybugs, when half of them ain't ladies?

Farmers believed the helpful, little pest-eaters were sent by a benign heavenly being. Germans called them "Märienkäfer" ("Mary's beetles") because they were thought to be vaches de la Virgen ("cows of the Virgin"); English called them "our Lady's beetles."

That flavor we call "hubbubba" is a mix of vanilla, wintergreen, and cassia — the form of cinnamon.

There's a name for everything. Someone who steals underwear, for example, is a meclerypostevmentinaphilluc.

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

DMV: Put those fake teeth away

ODDS & ENDS

But Foy acknowledged it's difficult for DMV employees to determine whether a customer "looks right."

Pac-Man assigned to community service

BUFFALO, Minn. — Pac-Man is back. Only this time, he's bigger — and he's gobbling up dots on Highway 55.

Large white dots painted on the highway to deter motorists from tailgating have been joined by a giant, yellow image of the video game icon.

"I drove that road the other day," said an amused Wright County Sheriff Gary Miller, "and drivers were bunched up to figure out what it was." The oversized Pac-Man has been on the highway for about a month, and the artist or artists behind it have been back to touch it up at least once.

"It's kind of comical," said county highway engineer Wayne Fingalson. "Somebody really did a good job of meticulously putting that (Pac-Man) in the dots."

paint something on a busy highway. But at least it's made the project a little more noteworthy," Dumont said.

The 7-foot dots are 225 feet apart — the distance officials say is needed for a vehicle traveling at 55 mph to stop in three seconds without hitting the vehicle in front of it. Road signs tell drivers to keep two dots apart.

Swim team practices outside, in the cold

NORTH SALT LAKE, Utah — Freezing temperatures, ice on the deck, frosty breath — everyone in the pool!

Swimmers from Bountiful and Woods Cross high schools have been practicing at an outdoor pool because of construction delays at a new indoor pool at the South Davis Recreation Center.

"It's addicting," Bountiful senior Stephanie Child said. "You hate it when you're in the pool, but you love the mermaids you become."

The pool of Englebridge Tennis and Swim Club is 87 degrees.

"We knew they were in a pinch and didn't have a place to swim," said club member Brad Ferrell, who made the pool available at no charge. Perhaps the cold practices are making a difference. Woods Cross has won three meets, lost one. It placed second in a large district contest.

— The Associated Press

NATION

Glitches: A new-tech byproduct

In rush to get the newest products out to market, kinks aren't always worked out

By Dawn C. Chmelovsk
Los Angeles Times

Thyson J. Carter slept through a multimonth as he camped outside a Target store to nab a PlayStation 3 last month.

But the deluge of woe began when he got Sony Corp.'s \$600 video game console home.

The system crashed repeatedly when the 19-year-old tried to adjust the music settings. Others complain that some games from earlier generations of the console did not run properly. And the high-definition picture promised by the PS3 doesn't work on some older televisions.

"I'm not surprised," said Carter, a student of multimedia design who lives in Pittsburgh. Most first-generation systems tend to have problems. Even though there should be no excuses for putting out a system with problems.

In each, first is best—but not necessarily better.

Manufacturers racing to win fickle but influential early adopters often deliver products not quite ready for market. The thinking is that kinks can be worked out while the product builds buzz. For their part, those who stand in line to get the latest gadgetry expect a degree of annoyance.

Sometimes, though, bugs are so persistent and pronounced that they become the buzz.

"You build the plane in the air," said Mark Holston, a senior vice president at Frog Design Inc. in San Francisco, a consulting firm that specializes in business strategy and product design. The technology industry has "built an unfortunate habit of launching these products as they're constructing them."

Sony said only a tiny fraction of buyers had complained about PS3 glitches and it noted that the company offered a downloadable software patch to correct known problems. Sony rival Nintendo Co. also has had issues with its Wii console.

One of the most popular titles on the Youngling, during Thanksgiving week depicted a defective Wii making an odd grinding noise as it repeatedly ejected a game disc without playing it. And the company offered to replace the wrist strap on the device's remote control amid reports of it flying out of gamers' hands and smashing television sets.

Even industries that test products for years before unveiling them are susceptible to first-generation bugs—in large part because of the technology that permeates daily life.

European luxury automaker BMW's techno-dabbling resulted in the iDrive. Introduced with the 7 Series in 2002, it attempted to do away with the cluttered in-dash buttons that controlled climate, entertainment and navigation and replace them with a single dial. Its seemingly simple interface required scrolling through multiple LCD screens to change the radio station.

All of what we call the human-machine interface implications hadn't been worked out," said Eric Noble, president of CarLab, an automotive product planning and design firm in Orange, Calif. "What they in fact created was a system that was so complicated that consumers actually take their life in their hands to change the radio station."

Even Segway, the futuristic two-wheeled people mover introduced with great fanfare in 2001, was the subject of a federal government recall in September because of a software glitch that could cause riders to be thrown off the scooter. The recall affects all 23,500 sold in the United States.

Glitches are partly a byproduct of the technology industry's heritage. Software developers long relied on the tacit knowledge of early adopters, who recognize that a product's incomplete and they are, in effect, unpaid "beta testers" of those whose job it is to identify bugs.

Consumer electronics giants such as Sony would test market devices in Alhambra, Calif.'s electronics district, among the hacker elite, who willingly cope with glitches for the privilege of having a product that might never make it into the mainstream.

"This one executive referred to Akhbarra as their walling wall," said Paul Saffo, a Silicon Valley technology forecaster. They'd throw products against it, and mostly they'd cry. There has always been a bond between the earliest adopters and the industry."

Add to these industry practices, release dates for the PlayStation 3 or Microsoft's Xbox 360 that are dictated not

by how long it would take engineers to refine these high-end graphics processing systems but by marketing considerations. Manufacturers need to make a big splash at the holiday season to be successful. And retailers need assurance that they'll have something to sell that gets customers waiting all night outside the door before they'll allocate shelf space.

"You essentially have a countdown," Holston said. "Whether you're ready or not, you've made commitments to the market."

Sony Computer Entertainment spokesman Dave Karraker said the company received 9,911 calls to its customer service line in the first 10 days of the PS3's release. One in 4 callers inquired where to buy the system. He said 24 percent

were general use or configuration questions. Less than 1 percent were about faulty systems that needed to be returned. Karraker said, adding, "This is the lowest we've ever had."

But when products are released so close to the wire, usability testing gets sacrificed. Sony doesn't have time to test its PS3 on every conceivable high-definition television display or play all of the thousands

of older game titles to see what hitches. Nintendo couldn't possibly test its Wii with every wireless home networking device.

Reviewers from the tech news Web site CNET.com stumbled onto a bug in the new iTVe Series' digital media recorder, in which it refused to record high-definition movies such as "Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith" when the device was paired with a JVC receiver.

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<p>Glass Top Range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acculife™ Heat Distribution System Hidden Bake Element <p style="text-align: center;">\$599</p>	<p>Amana Range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.8 cu. ft. Oven Capacity Parablast™ Backguard Full-width Storage Drawer <p style="text-align: center;">\$499</p>	<p>HOTPOINT ELECTRIC FREE STANDING RANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-Clean Oven Super-Large Oven Capacity Electric Oven Controls Standard Broiler Perforated Steamer/Boiler Black or White <p style="text-align: center;">\$599</p>	<p>HOTPOINT ELECTRIC FREE STANDING RANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Super-Large Oven Capacity Self-Clean Element Perforated Steam/Boiler Two Oven Levels <p style="text-align: center;">\$599</p>
<p>Architect Series 24" Built-In Dishwasher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Rinse™ Option Hard-Food Dispenser Automatic Purge Filtration <p style="text-align: center;">\$599</p>	<p>Washer Dishwasher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Temp Wash Action 3-Level Wash Power Clean™ Wash System Direct Food System <p style="text-align: center;">\$529</p>	<p>Amana Dishwasher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31-Wash System with Sanitize 14 Wash Option Delay Start <p style="text-align: center;">\$299</p>	<p>MAYTAG Dishwasher</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-Pressure Jet Spray PowerWash™ Wash System Control Lock Delay Start <p style="text-align: center;">\$299</p>
<p>Kind-Are Capacity Front Loading Washer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.7 cu. ft. HydroMol™ Wash Action HydroWasher™ Internal Heater <p style="text-align: center;">\$849</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matching Electric Dryer \$549</p>	<p>25" TOP LOAD WASHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.8 cu. ft. Capacity Energy Star Qualified Direct Inlet Wash System <p style="text-align: center;">\$779</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matching Electric Dryer \$599</p>	<p>MAYTAG Washer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control by Side Energy Star Qualified WashTemp™ Wash System Non-restrained male <p style="text-align: center;">\$699</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matching Electric Dryer \$599</p>	<p>Top Load Washer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.8 cu. ft. 3 Temperature Washers Starch & Fabric Softener Dispensers <p style="text-align: center;">\$299</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matching Electric Dryer \$299</p>

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8		3	1		
	9		8		
5	6				3
8		1		3	
7					1
6		7			2
3		1	4	9	
	5		9		
9		5		2	

MEDIUM # 13

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-8.

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CDL Class A local delivery good pay.
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DRIVERS
OC's & Cattle Truck drivers. CDL Req. New equipment, Team and local Drivers
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IRRIGATION
Don's Irrigation is hiring exp. Service Technicians. We train Top 10% candidates. We offer competitive pay & benefits.
Apply in person
294 S 300 E in Jerome

LAW ENFORCEMENT
The Gooding County Sheriff has openings for (1) Post Certified or Post Certificable Jail Deputy. Applications may be picked up in the Gooding County Sheriff's Office. Beginning salary for non-certified is \$22,100 annual. For certified is \$22,700 annual. EOE

MANUFACTURING
Manufacturing positions available with local shop. Knowledge in welding and sheet metal fabrication preferred but we will train motivated individuals. Competitive pay and good benefits offered at this drug free workplace. Please apply in person at 1235 Kimberly Rd.

MANUFACTURING
Sears Mfg. Co. is accepting applications for the following FT positions:
• Packaging
• Production Material Handler
• Warehouse
• Production
Working hours: 8:30-5:00 (depending on position)
Company benefits, employee health/dental, life insurance, vacation, paid holidays, & 401k plan.
Applications available
Sears Mfg Plant Security Office
1235 Kimberly Rd.
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Sears is an Equal Opportunity Employer

MECHANIC
Experienced and energetic. Under limited supervision perform skilled mechanical repair and preventive maintenance work on automotive, small engine and diesel heavy equipment. Ability to keep accurate records of equipment repairs and service of all equipment on fleet. Pay-DOE-Benefits.
Halley Nursery
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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 job announcement or information on applying please contact Idaho Transportation Department, P.O. Box 22, Shoshone, ID 83352; phone (208)886-7800; or apply on line at the website, www.dtr.idaho.gov. EOE/AA.

MECHANIC
Twin Falls Mechanic needed to do repairs on potato loading equipment. Experience in electrical and hydraulics needed. Experience and own tools required. CDL a plus. Benefits include medical, 401k and vacation.
Please call
733-6657 or 731-2495

MECHANIC
Clinical Assistant (WIC program) for South Central District Health; one full-time bilingual (spank, read, write English/Spanish) in Twin Falls. 30.04/hr. Work days only, excellent benefits.
Apply online at www.dhr.idaho.gov by Dec 29.
For questions, call Carol Deleat at 208-737-5928.

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Service Deli Manager needed. \$12.55 per hour, FT w/benefits.
Apply at
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Maintenance Tech needed for 36 unit apartment complex. 20-25 hrs/week.
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\$150 a Sign on Bonus
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Individuals w/ sign language skills
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Great Benefits-Must have drivers license & car insurance. Assist persons w/developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence. Apply at Inclusion South, Inc. 1411 Falls Ave. #205 Located in the Locust Grove Business Park Twin Falls, ID 83301

MEDICAL
PH Diawhaher Twin Falls Care Center is looking for a part-time PM dishwasher. Prefer someone with experience in dishwashing in a fast paced kitchen. Must be able to work all weekends. Assist some holidays. Must be dependable and a hard worker. Please fill out application at
Twin Falls Care Center
674 Eastland Dr
Twin Falls, ID 83301

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NEWSPAPER
Graphic/Prepress Specialist
The Times-News is seeking a graphic designer who can make informative and visually appealing 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 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

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General Ranch Worker Drive a food truck, maintenance and repair, fence, irrigate, and ride. Home to Idaho Ranch. Call 208-457-2385

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RECEPTIONIST
Receptionist needed. greening & customer service skills required. Full-time Mon-Fri, 8-5. Experience in Excel. Quickbooks exp a plus. Send resume to PO Box 5179 Twin Falls, ID 83303. Shopping the Classifieds will save you time and money. 733-0913

RECEPTIONIST
Receptionist needed. greening & customer service skills required. Full-time Mon-Fri, 8-5. Experience in Excel. Quickbooks exp a plus. Send resume to PO Box 5179 Twin Falls, ID 83303. Shopping the Classifieds will save you time and money. 733-0913

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Would you enjoy summers off? Ever considered driving a school bus? your answer is yes-Kimberly school District wants you!
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• Pays \$19.82
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EDUCATION
Idaho State Dept. of Education District taking applications for Special Education Teacher and/or Director. Applications may be obtained at <http://page.mn.gov>. \$12.14 an hour or phone (208) 837-4777. Position open until 1/10/07. EOE -

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200 Employment

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200 Employment

VETERINARY Veterinary Tech. Exp with a large animal ...

801 Open House

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding time ...

802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS 1,780 square foot, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, \$17,500. We must sell! Please call 208-306-0703

802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS North Pointe 1412 Annie Dr. E-New 2200 sq. ft, 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2 story, 2 car garage, gas heat, fireplace, AC, stove, dishwasher, microwave, cabinets, lanai

802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS New Homes No Money Down OAC Starting Under \$130,000 \$185,000 61/2" APN 30 yrs Landscaping incl. Choose your plan & colors. Free info. www.TwinFallz.com

813 Acreage and Lots

BUIH 3 or 5 acres. \$120,000 or \$65,000. View and location. Call 208-543-4238

801 Furnished Home

Classified Department Representatives are available from 8:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday. Call our office in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2

SALES TOYOTA

TOYOTA sales are great with a superb new model lineup! You'll also be selling the sharpest used cars in town. We offer great commissions and a 5 day work week. Start date will be 1-2-07. If you are an experienced Automobile Salesperson We would really be working in a great atmosphere apply in person at

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Position opening for a Welder. Rebuilding of semi tractors and truck. Experience helpful. Benefits. Must pass drug test. Backbay Truck Builders, Kenny or Marty 208-438-5598

Public Press

Currently taking applications for the Min-Cassia area. WALKING ROUTES (Mon-Sat 8:00-11:00) RT. 210; Burley Overland to Normal & E. 18' E. 23' D. RT. 89; Burley W. 12' S. 1' River Rd to Alfonso Rd

802 Homes For Sale

FILER 4 acres, 3 bedroom, 1 bath home, with 2nd bdrms, water shares small orchard. \$289,000. Call 208-237-8550 or 207-368585@for-salebyowner.com

TWIN FALLS

brand new 3 bedroom 2 bath home in Pleasant Meadows. Extras, 1,218 sq. ft. Call 208-659-5581

TWIN FALLS

brick house, 2 bdrms possibly 3, 2 bath, 1719 sq. ft. 150 Laneway Dr. myweb.cableone.net/overcares424-4224

TWIN FALLS

by owner 1993 Tamarack Loop. Amazing, less than \$100 a sq. ft. 5 bdrm, 3 bath home, 2087 sq. ft. with fully finished main floor & basement. 3 car garage. Sawtooth School Dist. Over \$25,000 of picturesque landscaping. \$299,950. Agents welcome. Call 208-429-2010

TWIN FALLS

duplex with 60 units, 2,000 sq. ft. total. Great income property. New siding, storm windows and roof. \$34,900. 11317 Avenue East Call 208-723-2508

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WILLS

TRICIA 16-Main-Maple-W Twin Falls 733-2891

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GOODING 3 bdrms.

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JEROME

New construction 3 bdrms 2 bath \$50 sq. ft. available for immediate occupancy \$129,900 Home Home Home 324-2268 or 538-3813

JEROME

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JEROME PURCHASE

NEW CONSTRUCTION 3 bdrms 2 bath quiet cul-de-sac location. Pay approx \$120 per sq. ft. for the first 6 months (Principle & Interest only) Call Melinda 731-7852 from home. Information Western R.E. Group

KIMBERLY

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PROFESSIONAL

Twin Falls School District has immediate opening for an Intensive Behavior Intervention Provider. Qualified applicants shall hold a bachelor's degree in psychology, special education, social work, applied behavior analysis, speech language pathology, OT, deaf education, elementary education or a related field as a LCC, and must complete Department of Health and Welfare approved training & certification. To apply contact: Twin Falls School District Human Relations Department 201 Main Ave W, Twin Falls, ID 83301 208-733-6500 ext. 3721 or visit our website at www.tfsd.k12.id.us

Business Opportunities

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE Big profits usually mean big risks. Before you do business with a company, check it out with the Better Business Bureau. For free information about avoiding investment scams, write to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20588 or at the National Fraud Information Center 1-800-876-7060

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CASH for Deeds of Trust, Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts Call today for free, no-obligation quote. (208)733-3821.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT

INVESTMENT fund purchased of apartment complex. 208-961-1905 Kade.

Times-News

will be closed Mon, Dec. 25th for Christmas and Mon, Jan. 1st for New Years. Deadline for Classified: Fri. Noon for Sat. Fri. 2pm for Sun. Mon. & Tues. Editor: Cassidy Friedman 735-3241 Circulation: 733-0931, ext. 1 All of us at the Times-News wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Editorial

Cassidy Friedman 735-3241 Circulation: 733-0931, ext. 1 All of us at the Times-News wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

TWIN FALLS

\$89,900 1 bath manufactured home on a 1/4 acre location behind Los Angeles. Great area, Duff Canyon 420-3381 or Jim Cornell 208-297-7130 or 858-2656 PC #6651

TECHNICIAN Instrument Technician

Amalgamated Sugar Company, LLC Twin Falls Plant is accepting applications for an Instrument Technician. Starting wage of \$14.23 with possible advancement to \$21.20/hr. Health care and vacation benefits available after 60 days. Maintenance and calibration of various instrumentation ranging from instrumentation diagrams to measurement sensors. Must be familiar with computer controls, process PLC programming skills and familiarity with analytical instrumentation. Computer networking skills desirable. Must be able to work rotating shifts. Successful applicant will be encouraged to enroll in the State Electrical Apprenticeship Program and obtain a Journeyman License. Applications are available thru the Department of Commerce and Labor, 420 Falls Ave, Twin Falls, ID. EOE - Drug Free Workplace

TECHNICIANS WE NEED TECHNICIANS!

YEAR ROUND EMPLOYMENT! No Experience? No Problem! Must have own Truck or Cargo Van. Piece Rate Wages \$25 and up per Job! Get paid for the work you do! Great Benefits! Paid Training and Certification! EOE/Drug Free Call To 208-261-2108 Attn: Chris or email manager@starwestsatellite.net or For Details Call 866-317-9399

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SALES Advertising Sales Representative / Real Estate Specialist The Times-News is seeking an enthusiastic, self-motivated and goal-driven individual to join our advertising sales team. This individual will develop and sell advertising campaigns to existing clients and potential advertisers, service advertiser accounts, write ad copy and prepare sales presentations. Experience in real estate sales is a plus. The successful applicant should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, effective time management and organizational skills, the ability to multi-task and work with deadlines in a fast-paced environment are essential. Sales experience and a bachelor's degree is preferred; must possess a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and good driving record. We offer an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation. To learn more about the Times-News and its parent company, check out our website at www.magicvalley.com or www.lee.net To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: Times-News Attn: Human Resources, Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 or email mary.karen@lee.net

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Are you ready to build YOUR OWN home? Would you like to learn new skills and get to know your neighbors in the process? If so, Mercy Housing Idaho may be your best! Funded by USDA, HUD and IHFA. For more information please call toll free 208-737-1470 or 1-866-353-2087

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New commercial buildings ready for occupancy May 2007. Located in the hub of Magic Valley's new 250 acre Crossroads Point Business Center. Junction of US 93 & Hwy 84. Shop/office, light industrial, commercial & retail. Lease or buy. Call as soon as possible so we may customize these buildings to suit your business needs. Feel free to call for more information or free turn key estimates 208-404-4345 drag@construction.com or crosroads@id.net

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TimesNews
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Friday, Dec. 22, 2006

THE ACES ON BRIDGE®

Bobby Wolff

"Assumption is the mother of screw-up."

—Angelo Donghia

Often we get an early clue to the distribution of some of the suits. For example, in today's deal it would be easy to assume that East's repeated club bids make West the heavy favorite to have spade length — and indeed, that would generally be the case. But there is no need to follow that assumption without testing the lie of the cards a little.

Defending four spades on the lead of the club eight, East plays three top clubs, and dummy ruffs as West discards a small diamond. Now, to find out more about the hand, you might want to take the slight risk that West began life with no more than six diamonds. You lead a heart to your ace, a diamond to dummy's ace, a heart toward your king. (This is safe; if East had a singleton heart, it would not profit him to ruff, since you would then avoid a heart loser altogether.) When that passes off peacefully, you try a diamond to dummy's king and take a diamond ruff as East pitches a club.

Now you exit with the heart 10, giving you a complete count of the East hand. You know at this moment that she started with precisely two diamonds and six clubs. When he shows out on the third heart, he must have had 3-2-2-6 shape. So you can win the return from West, lead a trump to dummy's king, and finesse against the spade queen in complete confidence.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbyw@msnmailing.com.
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NORTH 12-23-A
 ♠ K 9 4
 ♥ 8 7 6 5
 ♦ A K 5
 ♣ 10 4

WEST ♠ 8 7
 ♥ J 9 4 3
 ♦ 10 9 6 4 3 2
 ♣ 8 7

EAST ♠ Q 5 3
 ♥ Q 2
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ A K Q J 9 6

SOUTH ♠ A J 10 6 2
 ♥ J 8
 ♦ J 8
 ♣ 5 3 2

Vulnerable: Both
 Dealer: North

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	3 ♠
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

Opening lead: Club eight

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds: 12-23-B

♠ K 9 4
 ♥ 8 7 6 5
 ♦ A K 5
 ♣ 10 4

South ♠ 10
 ♥ Pass
 ♦ Pass
 ♣ Pass

ANSWER: Just because there are some 14-counts in partner's hand that will give you play in four hearts does not mean that you should explore for game here. Yes, your diamond holding is promising, but your weak trumps and balanced hand are not encouraging. Pass two hearts; and take the plus score. I'd bid on only if vulnerable at rubber or teams scoring.

1006 Trucks

DODGE '99 1500, quad cab, short bed, V8, 5.9L, auto, 4WD, 59985

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TRUCKS WANTED! Sell your vehicle for immediate **CASH TODAY!** Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.

FORD '01 F-150 extra cab XL4, 4x4, 5.4L V8, low package, new tires, 60,000 miles, \$12,800 or best offer. Call 208-409-0124

FORD '01 F-250 Lariat 4x4, crew cab diesel short box, excellent shape, 18,995. **HARMA AUTO**, 275 S. Idaho St., Wendell 208-538-1900

FORD '01 F-250 Super Duty XL4, extended cab, V-8, AT, nor bars, excellent shape. Save the doc fee! \$11,995. 539-5570

FORD '01 Super crew XL4, loaded, \$12,950. 324-0069
2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.

Small Motors

FORD '02 F-150 Extended cab, 4x4, excellent condition, nice metal, \$15,900

ASSIST AUTO BROKERAGE 275 S. Idaho St., Wendell 208-538-1900

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SLUTHIA HOLDING
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FORD '03 F-250 Lariat, crew cab, 80K miles, 4x4, after market sound w/VD and XM, leather, all power, great cond. \$21,000. Call 408-910-5769

FORD '03 F-250 4x4, crew cab, diesel, PW, PL, CD, wheels and tires. Stock# 4821D \$24,995

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FORD '97 Powerstroke T-3, 4 door, diesel, 4x4, \$11,000. Chevy '85 1 ton pick up, 454 engine, 4x4, runs great, 12000. Call 208-430-9978 or 208-431-1945

FORD '97 Powerstroke extra cab XL7 4x4, auto, long bed, very clean, (2) to choose from, \$8,950.

324-0069
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FORD '98 F-150, super cab, long bed, V8, 5.4L, auto, 4WD, 59986

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HARMA AUTO 2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID. Call 208-629-5000

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TOYOTA '03 Tacoma, 4 door, TRD package, 1500, V6, 3.4L, auto, \$16,500/offer. Call 208-200-2831

TOYOTA '93 pickup, short bed, 4 cyl, 2.4L, 5 spd, 2WD, 53986

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208-736-2480

1007 Truck Parts And Accessories

CHEVY '78 9 cyl, 250 engine, runs with 4 spd trans, still in truck, \$650 for engine, tires, radiator, 4x4, 1050. engine only. 320-1504

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RIMS (4) 16 in, 8 hole aluminum. Fits Ford '80-89. Through 96. \$200/offer. 308-4454

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CHEVY '97 Suburban LT, loaded, leather, very nice, \$6,950.

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Small Motors

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JEEP '05 Rubicon Unlimited, 4x4, very clean, 205K miles, \$24,900/offer. Call 208-731-1287

1008 SUVs

FORD '91 Explorer, Financing available. Call 208-731-1009.

FORD '98 Bronco XLT, 4x4, local trade, 81K miles, very clean, only \$4950

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GM '04 Denali, one owner, sun roof, load-er, \$24,000

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Small Motors

KIA '03 Sorento LX, 4x4, V6, auto, air, PW, PL, AM-FM, CD, low miles, factory warranty, \$12,995

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KIA '03 Sorento LX, 4x4, V6, auto, air, PW, PL, AM-FM, CD, low miles, factory warranty, \$12,995

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LANDROVER '95 Discovery SEES 4WD leather interior, dual sunroof, rear jump seats, 100K runs good, dark green exterior and excellent cond. \$5,400/offer. Call 208-784-2121

Small Motors

HUMMER '06 H3, 4 door, 5 cyl, 3.5L, auto, 4WD, \$29,813

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HUMMER '06 H3, auto, PW, PL, AM-FM, CD, custom wheels, low miles, factory warranty, \$28,256

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1	3	7	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	5	6	7	8	1	2	4	3
8	9	2	1	6	5	7	3	4
7	4	3	2	9	8	5	6	1
5	6	1	3	4	7	9	8	2
3	7	8	6	1	2	4	9	5
6	2	5	4	7	9	3	1	8
4	1	9	8	5	3	6	2	7

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