

It's Christmas on Dec. 25 and Jan. 7 for some
SEE RELIGION, B7

GOULD APPOINTMENT
Former Buhl legislator to head Ag Department.
SEE MAGIC VALLEY, A4

REGION RIVA'S

Good Morning

High: 34
Low: 22

Cold with more clouds than snow likely. Details: B12

Times-News

SATURDAY
December 23, 2006
50 cents

MagicValley.com

State board: Expand community college system

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Another option is on the table to resolve the community college debate.
The Idaho State Board of Education released its own recommendation this month, which asks the Idaho Legislature to consider establishing a state-funded community college system. It also recommends the creation of two community colleges under the proposed state-funding mechanism — one in the Treasure Valley area and

one in the Idaho Falls area.
Laird Stone, president of the State Board of Education, said the motion recommends an expansion of a state-funded system that already exists.
"We already have a state-funded community college system that is imbedded in those community colleges," he said. "Both of them (the

College of Southern Idaho and North Idaho College) already receive a portion of their funding from state funds.
Stone said the State Board's recommendation would not take money away from the existing community colleges because it would separate the funding sources. Community col-

leges receive some state funds from liquor tax and various other state revenues.
The motion includes an incentive for the two proposed community colleges to become part of local taxing districts. However, it also allows CSI and NIC to dissolve their taxing districts and receive state funds.

The recommendation will go before the Legislature in January — along with recommendations from the Interim Committee on Community Colleges.
The debate regarding community colleges in Idaho has been divided over who is responsible for providing affordable community college courses where they are in high demand. Some say the state should help pay for the creation of community college courses where they are needed, while

"We felt that the main key behind all this is access and affordability to community colleges in Idaho."

— Laird Stone, president of the State Board of Education

Please see COLLEGE, Page A3

Let it snow!

Snow falls as some enjoy their first day of Christmas vacation

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Almost 6 inches of snow fell Friday morning at just the right time for many kids, who were enjoying their first day of Christmas vacation.

Temperatures dropped and heavy snow fell in the Magic Valley due to an active weather pattern, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather service. And even as residents shoveled their walkways, another storm system was approaching Idaho.

That means Magic Valley might receive more snow on Christmas Eve — and more fodder for fun.
"We've been out here for, like, two hours," said Jackson Fernweald, 10. "We're trying to go over the jump, or what's left of it."

Red Cross: Prepare ahead.

See page A3



John Carlin, 10, steers and Amnon Holeselsky, 11, holds on as they fly down the hill Friday afternoon at Perrine Elementary School in Twin Falls.

Helping him home

Contractor, community to build wounded trooper's new home

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

KIMBERLY — Chris Glenn was working his way back home to Kimberly.

Two months ago, the Idaho State Patrol trooper hired Spirit Homes to begin building a three-bedroom house for him, his wife and his son at 1231 Connor Court south of Kimberly High School. Now that home will have to provide for special accommodations, a flush entrance, door frames wide enough to fit a wheelchair, and a handi-cap shower.

A growing group of community members have been considering these features as they volunteer their time, money and materials to ensure Glenn's vision for coming home comes true.
"He's a good guy. He didn't deserve to have that happen," said Mike Carraway, the general contractor who is leading the project to build Glenn's home for him while he recovers from a gunshot wound he suffered in the line of duty.

At 7:10 a.m. Wednesday, Glenn stopped the driver of a white car south of Twin Falls who was suspected in an

Please see HOME, Page A3

Shooting suspect arraigned, booked into Twin Falls jail

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The man accused of shooting an Idaho State Police trooper last week was arraigned and booked into the Twin Falls County Jail Tuesday.

The man, whose name was not disclosed, was charged with first-degree murder, assault with a deadly weapon, carrying a dangerous weapon, and obstructing justice. He was held in lieu of \$100,000 bond. The trooper, who was shot in the back, is recovering in a hospital in Boise. The trooper's name was not disclosed.

AP poll: Santa is an enduring centerpiece

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Santa has lots going against him — school-yard rumors, older brothers who think they know the deal and tattle to the young ones, errant price tags, the tell-all internet and so many Made in China labels it seems the North Pole has outsourced to Asia.
Humbuggers everywhere. But no worries. It's a wonderful life for Santa.

An AP-AOL News poll finds him to be an enduring giant in the lives of Americans. Fully 86 percent in the poll believed in Santa as a child. And despite the multicultural nature of the country, more than 60 percent of those with children at home consider Santa important in their holiday celebrations now.

That's an approval rating President Bush and most in Congress could only dream about these days. (If Santa were a politician, Catholics and the nonreligious would be his base.)

Among the findings:
• Santa is important to 60 percent of Catholics, 51 percent of those without a religious affiliation and 47 per-

POLL

Santa lessons meaning of holiday

A recent AP-AOL News poll found almost half of Americans think that Santa Claus detracts from the religious significance of the Christmas holiday.

Do you think the Santa Claus tradition does more to enhance the religious significance of the Christmas holiday?

47% Yes
47% No

NOTE: Poll of 1,000 adults taken Dec. 12-14, 2006. Margin of error ± 3 percentage points. Not sure was omitted.

cent of Protestants, when households both with and without children are surveyed.
• Nearly half, 47 percent, said Santa detracts from the religious significance of Christmas; over one-third, 36 percent, said he enhances the religious nature of the holiday.

Please see SANTA, Page A3

Index

- Business and service directory .C8
- Classifieds .C214
- Comics .B10-11
- Weather .B7
- Crossword .C7
- Dear Abby .B11
- Horoscope .B10
- Jumble .C7
- Magic Valley .A4
- Money .A8
- News .A11
- Obituaries .A5
- Opinion .A30
- Sports .B1
- Sudoku .C6
- Weather .B12
- West .A6, A7

Marilyn Howard: Lone Democrat in classroom of Republicans retires

By Kathy Hedberg
The Lawston Tribune

BOISE — For a woman who professed her desire eight years ago to stay out of the venomous world of partisan politics, Marilyn Howard stepped into a hornet's nest.
Her duels as state school superintendent with the Idaho State Board of Education — of which she is the only Democratic member — are legendary in education circles.
Her relations with former

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne were often prickly.

Her success selling public education funding proposals amounting to half of the state's budget to legislators was an exercise in trying to squeeze blood from a turnip.
And then last week, three weeks before she was to leave office, Howard incurred the wrath of some Republican legislators by handing out short-term merit bonuses to nearly everyone on her staff.

Please see HOWARD, Page A3



Mabo Superintendent of Public Instruction Marilyn Howard addresses the Idaho House Education Committee in Boise in 2003.

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TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today	Tonight	Sunday
Cold with more clouds than snow likely	A chance of nighttime snow	Continued cloudy, little in the way of snow
High 34	Low 22	35 / 19

MINI-CASSIA
 Today: Generally a dry and chilly day. Highs near 30. Tonight: A little bit of snow may come to pass. Lows near 20.
 Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy and cold with isolated flurries possible. Highs low to middle 30s.

Complete weather report: See page B12

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
 William Ingfa's "Bus Stop," presented by the Company of Fools, 8 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, 25 reserved seats and \$18 for senior citizens and students, (208) 578-9122.
 "A Christmas Carol - the Musical," presented by the Laughing Stock Theater, 2 p.m., nexStage Theater, Ketchum, \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, 726-4TKS.
 Sounds of the Season, a musical variety evening to benefit the Wilson Theatre and music scholarships, 7:30 p.m., Wilson Theatre in Rupert, \$8 for students and \$5 for children, 431-8130.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS
 I.C.A.N. (Idaho Community Action Network) "gas" fundraiser, with chili feed, bingo, music and Santa Claus fun to pay for fuel for food basket deliveries, 2 to 5 p.m., Nazarene Church gym, 1231 Washington St. N., Twin Falls, 55 donation, 404-6501.

EXHIBITS
 "The Circle" by Amber Scoon, former College of Southern Idaho art instructor, 1 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 Pecunia and new works by member-artists in the Full Moon Gallery, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Main Street Plaza, 132 Main Ave. S., downtown Twin Falls, no cost, 734-ARTS.

FAMILY
 Anderson Camp's annual drive-through Christmas Nativity Pageant, featuring full-sized figures painted by local artist Gary Stone amid trees litged 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.

MUSEUMS
 Faulkner Planetarium, "Far Out Space Places" at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., "The Christmas Stars" at 7 p.m. and "Stearmolling" 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@magvalley.com or 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.

OPINION

MINI EDITORIAL

The headline said nine out of 10 Americans have had premarital sex. Maybe the same things have been going on behind closed doors for generations, but it's not something most of us probably want to know about our parents and grandpaents.

— Chris Stanbach, editor

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

IN TOMORROW'S EDITION

The last-minute gift man
 Read about reporter Matt Christensen scrambling to make a gift for his wife.
 Seaday in Family Life

COMING NEXT WEEK

HOLIDAY LOSS
 What you'll burn using those Christmas gifts.
 IN IMAGE

GET A GOAT
 This is an animal you'll grow to love.
 COUNTRY ROADS

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

MAGIC VALLEY



Christmas comes twice for Orthodox Christians
 The Eastern Orthodox tradition of celebrating Christmas on Jan. 7 makes the Nativity a double holiday for some Orthodox Christians.
 SEE PAGE B7

Christianizing Christmas trees in Mini-Cassia
 REPURPOSE — No one can remember exactly when the idea first came along, but most agree it must have been about 25 years ago.
 Annette Eilers is credited with starting it, but she handed it off to the Ruth and Naomi Circle, a women's church group. It is a Christmas tree devoid of secular symbolism.
 SEE PAGE B7

Cassia dairy proposal put on hold
 BURLEY — A proposal for a new dairy got a cold reception Thursday from the Cassia County Planning and Zoning Commission.
 SEE PAGE C1

Buhl woman to head Agriculture Department
 BUHL — Governor-elect C.L. "Butch" Otter appointed former Magic Valley legislator Celia Goud of Buhl as the director of the Idaho Department of Agriculture on Friday.
 SEE PAGE C1

Snow buries Mini-Cassia region
 BURLEY — Several inches of snow that fell overnight caused numerous slide-offs on the Mini-Cassia roadways Friday morning.
 SEE PAGE C1

Group finishing what trooper started
 KIMBERLY — A growing group of community members are pitching in to finish the house Idaho State Patrol Trooper Chris Glenn started before he got shot Wednesday during a roadside stop.
 SEE PAGE A1

Suspect arraigned, booked in T.F. jail
 TWIN FALLS — The man accused of shooting an Idaho State Police trooper has been arraigned and booked into the Twin Falls County jail.
 SEE PAGE A1

Board releases community college plan
 TWIN FALLS — Another option is on the table to resolve the community college debate.
 SEE PAGE A1

Snow brings white Christmas to Valley
 TWIN FALLS — Almost 6 inches of snow fell Friday morning at just the right time for many kids who were enjoying their first day of Christmas vacation.
 SEE PAGE A1.

OBITUARIES
 Pauline Decker McCoy, 88
 Manjone Israel Ixler, 85
 Dale 'Doc' Stukenholtz, 72
 SEE PAGE A5

ENTERTAINMENT 2006 TOP TENS

Entertainment's elite

Highest-grossing movies Domestically, through Dec. 10

FILM • GROSS (MILLIONS)	6	Ice Age: The Meltdown	195.3
1. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	\$423.3	7. Over The Hedge	155.0
2. Cars	244.1	8. Talladega Nights	148.2
3. X-Men: The Last Stand	234.4	9. Happy Feet	137.9
4. The Da Vinci Code	217.5	10. Click	137.3

Chart-toppers and show-stoppers

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Top albums Through Dec. 10

1. High School Musical Soundtrack	1
2. Rakca Flata: Mo and My Gang	2
3. Carrie Underwood: Some Hearts	3
4. Nickelback: All The Right Reasons	4
5. James Blunt: Back to Bedlam	5
6. Justin Timberlake: FutureSex/LoveSounds	6
7. Dixie Chicks: Keeping the Long Way Home	7
8. Mary J. Blige: Breakthrough	8
9. Now That's What I Call Music 21	9
10. Beyonce: I Am...Sasha Fierce	10

Small screen Through Dec. 10

PROGRAM	AVG. VIEWERS (MILLIONS)
1. American Idol (Tues.)	FOX 31.0
2. American Idol (Wed.)	FOX 30.0
3. Dancing With the Stars	ABC 19.6
4. CSI	CBS 18.9
5. Night Football	NBC 17.4
6. Dancing...Stars Reunited	ABC 17.3
7. House	FOX 16.2
8. Desperate Housewives	ABC 16.2
9. Doal or No Deal (Mon.)	NBC 15.9
10. CBS: Miami	CBS 15.7

PrimeTime programs Through Dec. 10

PROGRAM	AVG. VIEWERS (MILLIONS)
1. Super Bowl XL	ABC 90.7
2. Super Bowl Post Game	ABC 59.8
3. Academy Awards	ABC 38.9
4. Grey's Anatomy (post-SB)	ABC 37.8
5. American Idol (finale)	FOX 36.4
6. Rose Bowl	ABC 35.6
7. American Idol (premiere)	FOX 35.5
8. NFL Championship	ABC 35.2
9. American Idol (Jan. 24)	FOX 35.0
10. American Idol (March 21)	FOX 33.4

Telecasts Through Dec. 10

Diary's movie starring Johnny Depp snagged the foot, taking in over \$400 million domestically.

Small screen Taylor Hicks became the newest "American Idol," helping the show top the charts.

SOURCES: Media By Numbers, LLC; Nielsen Media Research; Nielsen SoundScan; Nielsen VideoScan

IDAHO/WEST

Elko merchants help girl with cancer
 ELKO — Thanks to the generosity of a group of local merchants, one little girl's Christmas will be a little bit brighter.
 SEE PAGE C1

Ag secretary accepts Idaho roadless plan
 BOISE — Idaho's proposed management plan for 9.3 million acres of federal roadless areas within national forests was accepted by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns on Friday and now will move forward in the process of becoming a federal rule.
 SEE PAGE A6

Feds refuse to pay for Libby Dam flooding
 BONNERS FERRY — FEMA has declined a request from Boundary County officials for emergency relief money for flood damage along the Kootenai River near Bonners Ferry.
 SEE PAGE A6

Missing climber posted questions on Hood route
 PORTLAND, Ore. — Months before embarking on his fateful climb up Mount Hood, Brooklyn resident Jerry Cooke, a regular presence in online climbing forums, was posting questions about the route he planned to take, accompanied by two new friends from Texas.
 Cooke, along with Texas resident Brian Hall, is missing on the mountain, while the body of their climbing companion, Texas Kelly James, was airlifted off the mountain on Monday.
 SEE PAGE A7

Report: Rail tunnels vulnerable to attack
 NEW YORK — The forecast is ominous: A small explosive sneaked onto a commuter train punches a 50-square-foot hole in a tunnel under the Hudson River. More than a million gallons of water a minute surges in. Flooding engulfs parts of the system within hours.
 That worst-case scenario was included in a draft analysis of the PATH rail system linking New Jersey and Manhattan, obtained by The New York Times.
 SEE PAGE A11

Travel mess continues despite Denver reopening
 DENVER — Denver's snowed-in airport reopened Friday for the first time in two days, but the backing of flights around the country could take all weekend to clear, and many of the nearly 5,000 holiday travelers stranded here might not make it home for Christmas.
 SEE PAGE B12

NATION/WORLD

Five more U.S. troops killed in Iraq
 BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgent attacks killed five more American troops west of the Iraqi capital, the military said Friday, making December the second deadliest month for U.S. servicemen in 2006.
 So far this month, 76 American troops have died in Iraq, the same number that were killed in all of April. With nine days remaining in December, the monthly total of U.S. deaths could meet or exceed the death toll of 105 in October.
 SEE PAGE A11

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 SEE PAGE B12

SPORTS



Twin Falls Bruins edge Idaho Falls Tigers
 TWIN FALLS — Another close game? It must be Twin Falls.
 The Bruins boys basketball squad trailed for more than three quarters but trumped the Idaho Falls Tigers in the fourth quarter for a 60-52 Region Four-Five-Six victory on Friday.
 Most of the night, the Bruins couldn't find an answer. Shots inside were hard to come by and the perimeter shooting was spotty at best.
 But that all changed in the final period.
 SEE PAGE B1

Broncos get ready for holiday and bowl game
 BOISE — Sure the Fiesta Bowl looms, but Boise State coach Chris Petersen says his Broncos are feeling a different kind of pressure Friday — he had yet to buy his wife's Christmas present.
 "Everybody is going shopping right after the game," Petersen told Friday afternoon news conference. "We may be beating the players out the locker room to get downtown."
 SEE PAGE B1.

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 Vol. 101, No. 354

Home

Continued from page A1
armed robbery 10 minutes earlier at a Sinker Station on Sheehane Street West.

The driver, Adam Mower of Twin Falls, allegedly opened the driver's door and shot Glenn in the neck. Glenn was taken to St. Alphonsus in Boise with the bullet lodged in his spine. Carraway says he

Surgery repaired much of the damage to his neck. Family members said, and future surgery will be required to determine the extent of damage to his spine.

So on Friday morning, builders began framing Glenn's home.

"There is a lot of people involved," Carraway said. "A few friends, lots of businesses and subcontractors and material suppliers and more getting involved every day."
The volunteers say the home

could be finished by March.

"We would like more help," Carraway said. "Mainly skilled labor and donations."

At a news conference Friday in Boise, Capt. Kendrick Willis, ISP Region 4 commander, read a statement from the Glenn family.

"We would like to express our appreciation for the tremendous outpouring of support, the well-wishes, and many prayers by the countless people who have shown concern for Chris," the family said in the statement. "We have also been tremendously gratified at the love and concern shown by the law enforcement and public safety community."

"We are still unsure of his long-term prognosis and know there is still a long road to recovery," the family said. "We ask that you continue to keep Chris in your thoughts and

How to help

The Idaho State Police Association has helped establish a benefit fund through the services of Wells Fargo Bank and any donations can be made by simply asking to donate to the Chris Glenn benefit fund at any Wells Fargo Branch.

prayers as he continues to heal."

His friends say helping build the home is the sort of thing Glenn would do for his neighbors if the roles were switched.

Kalan Haight recalls going on a trip to Seattle with Glenn, her brother and another trooper.

"I had a great time getting to know Chris," she wrote in an e-mail. "We walked all over Seattle and the other two guys would take off jogging. I'm not

in good shape and couldn't keep up."

"But Chris would stay back with me, and that really meant a lot to me."

Family members said the ISP is continuing to care for Glenn's immediate needs.

"We know that there will be long-term needs however and are deeply appreciative of the heartfelt support we have received," the family said.

Said Carraway: "Everybody at this point is pretty certain that it is life-long. Especially with the bullet still lodged in the spine. Sure, there is still the chance of a miracle. But he is going to be in a wheelchair probably for a long time."

Cassidy Frietman covers crime and courts for the Times-News. He can be reached at (208)735-3241 or by e-mail at cfrietman@magivalley.com.

"We ask that you continue to keep Chris in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to heal."

— The Glenn family

Suspect

Continued from page A1
wife when he allegedly held up a gas station, shot Trooper Chris Glenn and attempted to escape through Nevada.

He worked with an armed robbery, aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer with a weapons enhancement and eluding an officer.

The maximum sentence for these charges added to the earlier charge of attempting to strangle his wife totals a possible 165 years in prison.

St. Alphonsus Found Mower

had sufficiently recovered to be released into custody. "That's good enough for us," said Twin Falls County Prosecuting Attorney Grant Leach.

Mower's preliminary hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. Dec. 29.

Snow

Continued from page A1
been taking advantage of the snowy hills outside Perrine Elementary School.

They had built a jump, but after several sleds had packed it down the jump became more of a speed bump.

"Too many sleds ruined it," he said. "And all the snow is packed down."

But Jackson and his friends were still seeing more snow.

"On Saturday evening, we're looking at another system coming in," said Meagan Thimmesch, a meteorologist with the weather service office in Boise. "And it looks like early on Sunday will have residual snow showers early in the day."
Thimmesch said the weather pattern is not abnormal for this time of year, but the amount of snow that fell Friday was a little out of the ordinary.

Santa

Continued from page A1
91 percent of whites believed in Santa as a child; 72 percent of minorities did. One quarter of those now living in neighborhoods with incomes under \$25,000 did not believe in Santa.

An overwhelming majority, across nearly all backgrounds and religious beliefs, say they believe in angels — 81 percent. Belief in angels is shared by 57 percent of those who say they have no religion's affiliation. Nearly 70 percent of white evangelical Christians, 97 percent, share this belief.

She said temperatures will remain in the 20s, which is normal for this time of year.

Most people didn't seem to mind the low temperatures as they slipped, skidded and slid around town. Although many students were enjoying the first day of Christmas vacation, some, like those in Jerome, were still in school and some adults were still finishing their workweek. But for people like Dan Black of Twin Falls it was a great time to take a break and go sledding with his kids.

"It's just a good way for the kids to start off their Christmas vacation," he said. "And it's a great way for them to get out and get some exercise."

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

Red Cross urges preparedness

TWIN FALLS — With more winter weather on the way, the American Red Cross is urging people to prepare for dangerous conditions in and outside of their homes and cars.

The American Red Cross reminds the public to prepare in advance for severe weather conditions by following the steps outlined below:

- Have extra blankets on hand.
 - Ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots.
 - Assemble a disaster supplies kit containing:
• First-aid kit and essential medications
 - Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, flashlight and extra batteries
 - Canned food and can opener
 - Bottled water (at least one gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days)
 - Extra warm clothing, including boots, mittens and a hat
 - Assemble a disaster supplies kit for your car, too.
 - Have your car winterized before winter storm season.
- If you are interested in donating or becoming a volunteer, contact the Greater Idaho Chapter at (800) 853-2570 ext. 302 or visit online at www.redcrossidaho.org.

Howard

Continued from page A1
prompting some to speculate she was "cleaning out the drawers" before her successor, Republican Tom Luna of Nampa, could take office.

Though she has learned to hold her own, becoming ensnared in such conflicts has not been Howard's favorite aspect of her job. When asked if her situation would have been different had she been a Republican instead of the only elected Democratic state department head, Howard said: "It would check out. There have been others (such as former State Superintendent Jerry Evans, also a Democrat) who, I don't think he would have said yes to some of these things."

If it is against the law and if things are also just very poor practice or a bad idea, I don't know that that's a political thing as much as your judgment call.

Howard was a long shot in 1999 when she won the Democratic nomination for state superintendent over Wally Hedrick, a Meridian school board member and a former member of the state's lottery commission.

In November of that year she trounced incumbent Anne Fox. Fox had alienated her party over her four-year term by heavy-handed tactics and off-the-wall approaches to education, such as supporting the teaching of creation in schools and a controversial "whole language" approach to reading.

Howard, a Moscow elementary school principal and a reading specialist, took over a fragmented department with a public image that had sunk to an all-time low.

salary \$10,000 more than Howard's \$75,000 annual wage.

In the long run, Howard now says, that proved to be a non-issue. Her department has continued to work with the governor's office to secure grants and other education funding in a cooperative way.

Her battles with the state board, however, have not been so easily managed. Although his members — except for Howard — are appointed by the governor, the board began usurping many of the K-12 responsibilities traditionally held by the state department.

In her final address to the state board in November, Howard said that when Luna takes over, "there will no longer be a need for the State Board of Education to attempt to duplicate functions of the State Department of Education. While we have developed good relationships with staff mem-

bers in the Office of the State Board of Education, it remains that their assigned duties are, and this is a direct quote: to make sure the people in the state department of education do their work."

Despite the struggles, there have been armloads of successes in the past eight years. When she was a little-known elementary school principal running for the Democratic nomination, the Idaho Education Association endorsed her opponent.

Asked whether she has won back the hearts of the state's teachers, Howard chuckled.

"I've had great support from teachers all across the state. What I really get is lots of e-mails from people in the classroom, heartwarming stories of people who say, 'I was going to retire, but what we're doing now is so exciting I don't want to do that.'"

Case closed, for now.

In the poll, 8 was the average age for a child's Santa reality

check. Fifteen percent hung on to their belief over age 10. The telephone poll of 1,000 adults was taken Dec. 12-14 by Ipsos, an international polling firm. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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

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Board tables plan for new Cassia dairy

By Sean Berg
For the Times-News

BURLEY — A proposal for a new dairy got a cold reception Thursday from the Cassia County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Chris Kretz' application for a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit for Cassia Creek Farms was put on hold.

He wants to launch a dairy farm at 2250 E. 200 S., in Declo. Though Kretz and Cassia Creek partners downsized their operation proposal from 25,000 animal units to 12,400, commissioners still voiced concerns over the farm's proposed waste management system, which would use water to dispose of pollutants in animal waste before converting it to compost.

Commissioner Bruce Beck said he worried the system would over-accumulate manure, exacerbating odors for the farm's neighbors.

"I'm just really concerned. It sounds like a new process. The aeration concerns me," he said. Commissioner Joyce Ward agreed.

"It is pretty close to a community center, and I think it's going to affect people's lives if we make a mistake here," she said. Kurt Standley, who designed the system, said an identical system is already in use on a larger dairy farm.

"Probably 15,000 cows are being processed this way," he said. "Manure means how you use it, how you pump it, how you separate it."

Standley insisted his system was actually cleaner than "dry scrape" disposal methods and other, less modern liquid disposal systems.

But commissioners were reluctant to approve Cassia Creek without witnessing a more thorough demonstration of how the system would work.

"Personally, I'd like somebody to come in — outside of the applicant — who can detail the waste management system," commissioner Chairman Rod Lake said.

Eventually, the commissioners tabled the matter until such time as Cassia Creek can assemble video footage and any other pertinent evidence of how — and how well — the system will work.

The next hearing is set for the commission's February public meeting.

Approval of Karl Kloepper's proposal for a new Kloepper Inc. gravel pit at 60 S. 230 W., in Burley, was much more easily reached. Kloepper asked that one of the applicant's conditions, which stated that after the initial dig, all operations at the site must take place inside one of its pits, be struck from the permit. He said, although the condition is a standard feature of Cassia County gravel pit permits, in this particular case it would restrict the diggers from operating in the most conscientious manner.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve Kloepper's application.

Ex-Buhl legislator to head Ag Department

By Julie Pecca
Times-News writer

BUIHL — Governor-elect C.L. "Butch" Otter appointed former Magic Valley legislator Celia Gould of Buhl as the director of the Idaho Department of Agriculture on Friday.

A lifelong rancher and farmer, Gould served in the Idaho House of Representatives from 1986 until 2002. She chaired the House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee. She resigned from the Legislature to run for lieutenant governor, losing in a three-way race to Gov. Jim Risch, who returns to that post in January.

Gould, 49, who is taking post-graduate classes in public administration at Boise State University, says her intention is

to implement the Otter edict of less government.

"His goal is to have a lean, efficient government," Gould said. "The governor has a real clear plan for his administration. He believes we should get out of the way and let the people do what they do best."

The Ag Department has a dual mission of promoting as well as regulating Idaho agriculture. Rep. Bert Stevenson, R-Hagerman, who sits on the House Agricultural Affairs Committee, said as far as he knows this is the first time the agency has had a woman at the helm in the almost 90 years of its existence.

Nonetheless, "Celia has excellent people skills, and those will see her through. She's a good listener," he said. "As a rancher, she

also knows a lot about the animal industries."

Gould said the first thing she wants to do is get a handle on how the agency of some 325 full-time employees works. Some of the most immediate issues to get her attention include getting the brucellosis and potato cyst nematode issues resolved as well as taking back regulatory authority of feedlots from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, she said.

Gould's husband, newly retired House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, complimented his wife, saying, "I think the success I have had in leadership was due in large part to Celia. She's a good touchstone. And she doesn't mince words. She tells you exactly what she thinks, and usually she's right on."

Otter appoints pair of other Republicans to head agencies

The Associated Press



Otter

BOISE — In addition to former state representative Celia Gould of Buhl, Gov.-elect Butch Otter has appointed two other Republicans with close ties to his campaign to lead state agencies. They are:

• State Rep. Bill Deal, who takes over at the Department of Insurance after losing a bid for Idaho House speaker.

• Russ Conroy, a former district director for Otter during his three terms in the U.S.

House, to take over at the state Bureau of Occupational Licensing.

The state Board of Correction, with Otter's endorsement,

on Friday chose Bruce Reinke as director of the Idaho Department of Corrections. Reinke has served as head of state Department of Juvenile Corrections since 1997. He is a former Twin Falls County commissioner.

SHIH TZU: MANDARIN FOR 'BRRR'



Kim Hogue of Twin Falls lets her 6-month-old Shih Tzu play in the snow Friday on Main Avenue. Today's forecast calls for more snow.

Slipping and sliding into the holiday Snowpack Levels

Slide-offs galore reported in Mini-Cassia

By Laurie Welch
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Several inches of snow that fell overnight caused numerous slide-offs on the Mini-Cassia roadways Friday morning.

"It's something else over here," said Vic Watson, Minidoka County sheriff's chief deputy, about the road conditions in Minidoka County.

Watson said there were numerous slide-offs and fender-benders, but no major crashes.

Most of the interstate is pretty clear although there are slick spots. The highway

departments have the major roadways mostly clear but the secondary roads still have around 8 inches of snow on them.

"I don't know exactly how much fell, but I know it's deep. Thankfully, the kids are out of school today," Watson said. "But the snow is pretty light and if the wind picks up we'll be in trouble."

Cassia County Sheriff Jim Higgins reported numerous slide-offs in Cassia County and on Interstate 84.

"This is the last weekend before Christmas so a lot of people will be out. They just need to make sure they use caution," Higgins said.



Varian Worwood uses a snowblower to blast a walking path out for a neighbor Friday morning in southeast Burley. Mini-Cassia residents awoke to 4 to 6 inches of snow.

Waterhead	% of Avg.	% Season Peak**
Salmon	86%	25%
Big Wood	82%	28%
Little Wood	67%	22%
Big Lost	69%	23%
Little Lost	72%	21%
Henry's Fork/Teton	79%	27%
Upper Snake Basin	80%	29%
Oakley	120%	37%
Salmon Falls	93%	30%

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.

WANTED in the Magic Valley

Name: Omar Escobedo
Age: 29
Description: 6 feet 8 inches, 180 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes
Wanted for: Felony level conduct with a minor under 16 years old; Felony sexual abuse of a child under the age of 16. The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department asks anyone with information about Escobedo's whereabouts to call 735-1914 or Crime Stoppers at 732-5387, where tipsters can remain anonymous and might be eligible for a reward.

Barbie-themed Christmas tree finds a good home

By Jared DuBack
For the Times-News

ELKO — Thanks to the generosity of a group of local merchants, one little girl's Christmas will be a little bit brighter.

Those who attended the Festival of Trees in the Elko Convention Center during the last week of November might remember the pink Barbie tree near the convention center's entrance. The tree, which was

donated by Grooming by Karen, included numerous Barbie collectibles in their original boxes.

The group of businesses, which prefers to remain anonymous, all pitched in and won the tree for 10-year-old Shandee Gouger of Winnemucca.

An additional \$2,700 so far has been presented to the Gougers to assist with expenses. Shandee has been diag-

nosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer that spreads throughout the lymph gland system.

Shandee has been undergoing chemotherapy since September.

According to her father, David Gouger, editor of the Humboldt Sun and Battle Mountain Bugle, Shandee is finishing up her fourth and final round of initial chemotherapy in Salt Lake City. Each round takes

about two weeks to complete.

David said that as a person in the newspaper industry, he's seen all kinds of similar stories, which he and his family are now having to experience for themselves.

"When you go through it yourself, it really hits home for you," David said. When a group of local businesses heard of the Gougers' situation, they pooled their resources.

The Barbie tree was a big surprise for Shandee.

David brought the tree to Salt Lake City once Shandee completed her most recent treatments.

According to David, when Shandee saw the tree she smiled for the first time in at least three days.

"We're lucky to live in a region of Nevada where people care so much," Gouger said. "It's like a big town all together."

OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

COMMUNITY

Gooding ALC names honor students

GOODING — The Gooding Accelerated Learning Center released second block grades. All A's: Kayla Christensen and Joshua Fitzgerald. All A's and B's: Cody Diggs, Faben Ferruso, Frisco Merrill, Andrea Shaw and Ben Uecker. All B's: Kevin Blunt, Decharle Fitzgerald, Jenny Fraser, Katerina Harper, Cesar Hernandez, Bradley James, Jordan McKinnon and Melissa Runyon. Perfect attendance: Laniy Beroth, Wolf Bliss, Katie Davis, Kelly Davis, Nichole Graham, Katerina Harper, Cory Hutman, Shane Knight, Kati Mason, Frisco Merrill, Ben Uecker and Juan Valdez.

Gingerbread house winners announced

TWIN FALLS — The Southern Idaho Learning Center offered a Gingerbread Village Display and contest Dec. 7-10 at the St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center Foundation's Festival of Trees. Community members of all ages competed for prizes. Entrants were judged on imagination, construction and decoration detail. Winners were: **Gingerbread (Under 12 and under):** Adrian and Kevin Blain and (17-17) Allison Meyerhoff; **adult amateur:** Mary Michener. **Commercial:** Ataraxis Accounting and Advisory Services Inc. **Professional:** The White House. Proceeds from the contest benefited the Southern Idaho Learning Center programs and scholarships.

M.V. Duplicate Bridge announces winners

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Duplicate Bridge Club has announced its weekly winners:

Dec 11, first, Darlene Wagner and Nancy Strand; and second, Vi Crowshaw and Leona Watson.

Dec 12, first, Joyce Astorquin and Pauline Muller; second, Max Thompson and Wilma Driscoll; third, Sue Skinner and Patricia Cooper; fourth, Kathy Rooney and Shirley Teichman; and tied for fifth, Kay and Nathan Higer and Ralph O'Harrow and Sharon Peterson.

Dec 13, first, Kay and Nathan Higer; second, Bonnie Aspartre and Pauline Muller; third, Ise Hyton and Marilyn Botkin; fourth, Linda Fix and Edna Pierson; fifth, Doris Watts and Betty Sabo; and sixth, Joe Blackford and Bobette Phelan.

Dec 18, first, Susan Morris and Leona Watson; second, Beverly Reed and Vi Crowshaw.

Dec 19, first, Betty Sabo and Mary Lee Pfeiffer; second, Doris Finney and Joyce Johnson; third, Riley Burton and Al Poynter; and fourth, Betty Grant and Joyce Astorquin.

Dec 20, the monthly Unit 400 game was held on Dec 10. First north/south, Kathy Rooney and Shirley Teichman; second, Kay and Nathan Higer; third, Robert Plankley and Riley Burton; fourth, Renee Bulcher and Doris Watts; fifth, Betty Sabo and Dorothy Miller; sixth, Vesta Roberts and Ruth Skeem; and seventh, Mary Steele and Bonnie Aspartre. First east/west, Leona Watson and Betty Jeppesen; second, Marlene Temple and Sheila Humberth; third, Beverly and Lonnie Burns; fourth, Donald and Ruth Rahr; fifth, Madeline Sawaya and Mary Lee Pfeiffer; sixth, Max Thompson and Oscar Noss; and seventh, Eunice Anderson and Beverly Reed.

Games are at 3 p.m. Mondays and 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Moose Lodge, 405 Falls Ave. All bridge players are invited. For partners and information, call Max Thompson at 735-8308.

Grace E. Hoskins of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. Tuesday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls; friends may call from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesday at the mortuary.

Sharon K. Corey of Jerome, celebration of life at 4 p.m. Tuesday at 'the home of Sharon's son, Lee and Karen Cook, 213 N. 200 W. Jerome (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Glady E. Thompson of Boise, graveside memorial service at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls (Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel).

Pauline Decker McCoy

TWIN FALLS — Pauline Decker McCoy, 88 of Twin Falls, passed away Dec. 19, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls.



She was born April 19, 1918, in Alberta, Canada, to Jacob and Eva M. Decker. One of Pauline's proudest moments was becoming a U.S. Citizen in 1980.

She enjoyed being a homemaker, raising her children, and her 22 years of service at Idaho Frozen Foods.

Pauline had a great passion for fishing, dancing and yard sales. She loved to travel, her last being to Spokane to attend her granddaughter's wedding.

Surviving are her sons, George (Margaret) Decker of Sparks, Nev., James (Frank)

Mary (Glady) Seratee of Hailey, memorial service at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Hailey; interment May 19, 2007, at the Hailey Cemetery (Dunaway Funeral Chapel in Gooding).

Wonda Dee Harmon of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. Thursday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

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

Decker of Santa Rosa, Calif., and David (Debbie) McCoy of Sandpoint, Idaho; daughters, Patricia (Diane) May of Sandpoint, Idaho; Linda (Charles) Sheridan of Buhl; sister, Ruth Denton of Twin Falls; brother, Bill DeWald of Twin Falls; and sister-in-law, Alice (Dab) Dewald of Las Vegas, Nev. Also surviving are 15 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation for Pauline will be on Thursday, Dec. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls. The funeral will be on Friday, Dec. 29, at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2 p.m. The family requests that memorials be made in her name to the American Cancer Society, University of Utah Heart Foundation, the Buhl Hospice on Patrol, or the Buhl or Twin Falls Senior Center in care of Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83401.

She is survived by her sons, James (Carol) Traxler of Kona, Hawaii, Fred Traxler of Wallace and Earl (Cathy) Traxler of Filer; daughters, Lucinda (Alan) Shaber of Emmet, Idaho (Tony) Adeval of Wasilla, Alaska (Arlene) (Archie) Bailey of Wenatchee, Wash.; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Charlotte Mahon of Elk Grove, Calif., and Ruth (Normans) of Portland, Ore.; and her brother, Warren Westgirth of Hillsboro, Ore. She was preceded in death by her husband, one sister, one brother and two grandchildren.

Rosary will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at the Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl. A funeral Mass will be conducted by Father Boniface at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Buhl.

She is survived by her sons, James (Carol) Traxler of Kona, Hawaii, Fred Traxler of Wallace and Earl (Cathy) Traxler of Filer; daughters, Lucinda (Alan) Shaber of Emmet, Idaho (Tony) Adeval of Wasilla, Alaska (Arlene) (Archie) Bailey of Wenatchee, Wash.; 18 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; sisters, Charlotte Mahon of Elk Grove, Calif., and Ruth (Normans) of Portland, Ore.; and her brother, Warren Westgirth of Hillsboro, Ore. She was preceded in death by her husband, one sister, one brother and two grandchildren.

Rosary will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at the Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl. A funeral Mass will be conducted by Father Boniface at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, at the Immaculate Conception Church in Buhl.

Robert L. Grubbs

FILER — Robert Lane Grubbs, 56, of Filer, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Rosemary Manley

TWIN FALLS — Rosemary Manley, 77, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2006, at her home in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Dale 'Doc' Stukenholtz

TWIN FALLS — Dale "Doc" Stukenholtz, 72, died Dec. 20, 2006, with his family by his side. Dale was born on April 17, 1934, in Nebraska City, Neb., to Wilbur and Anna Marie Lingle Stukenholtz. The youngest of three brothers, Dale grew up working on a family farm, milking cows, raising hogs and riding his white horse, Calios. After graduating high school in 1952, he attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and studied to become a soil scientist. During this time, he met Joyce Goering of Johnson, Neb., and they married on June 3, 1956. While earning his Ph.D. degree in agronomy, Dale served with the Army ROTC and did his artillery officer training in Fort Sill, Okla. He completed his M.S. degree in soil fertility in 1958 and his Ph.D. in soil science in 1964 from the University of Nebraska. Dale then worked for the American Potash and Phosphate Institute in Columbus, Ohio, and later the U.S. Steel Corp. in Salt Lake City, Utah.

including split nitrogen applications, mid-season plant testing, water-applied nitrogen and phosphorus, foliar nutrient sprays, dammer-driking, and starter fertilizer. Doc was selected as the American Cyanamid consultant of the year in 1994 and was inducted into the Idaho Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2000. He continued his passion for this line of work until the time of his death. Dale enjoyed boating, snowmobiling, motorcycling, Nebraska football games, Thanksgivings with family in Las Vegas, listening to fiddle music, the study of nutrition, his grandchildren and golfing with his buddies. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Joyce; daughter, Jane Stukenholtz Drown (Matthew) of Eagle; son, Paul Stukenholtz of Kimberly; daughter, Barbie Stukenholtz Hilt (James) of Twin Falls; and eight grandchildren: Tyler and Connor Stukenholtz, Lana and Grace Stukenholtz, Prescott, Madison, Jackson and Sophie Drown, Trevor Holt, and looked forward to the twin grandsons on the way. He is also survived by two brothers, Stanley Stukenholtz of Iowa and George Stukenholtz of Nebraska; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a 22-year-old daughter, Amy Stukenholtz; and both parents, father, grandfather, friend and agronomist, and was deeply missed by all who knew him.

In 1971 after moving to Twin Falls, Idaho, Dale and Joyce started their own agricultural business, Stukenholtz Laboratory and Consulting. Over the last 35 years, he worked with hundreds of people, employees and clients alike, many of which became his best friends. Dale was a pioneer in agriculture and an innovator in the potato industry. Many standard farming practices of today were developed or popularized by him.

A memorial service will be held Jan. 4, 2007, at 11 a.m. at Park's Magic Valley Funeral home of Twin Falls. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations in Dale's name be directed to the Ronald McDonald House of Boise or the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

A memorial service will be held Jan. 4, 2007, at 11 a.m. at Park's Magic Valley Funeral home of Twin Falls. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations in Dale's name be directed to the Ronald McDonald House of Boise or the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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<p>ERAGON Eragon (PG) 2006 12-20-06 7:30 & 9:30 PM P 5 P 5 N 5</p>	<p>THE GUARDIAN The Guardian (PG-13) 2006 12-21-06 7:30 & 9:30 PM P 5 P 5 N 5</p>

We would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, prayers and Condolences when our son and brother,

Steven Lammers
passed away.
They all meant so much to us.
Bill & Lois Lammers
Larry & Linda Lammers
and Families

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Hawaii gains new residents despite losses to mainland

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii continues to lose residents to the mainland, but foreign immigrants and births more than make up for the loss, according to Census Bureau data released Friday.

The Census estimates that 3,136 Hawaii residents moved away from the islands in the year prior to July 1, while about 4,720 people moved here from other countries.

In all, Hawaii's population increased by 12,220 people as its total population rose to 1,285,498.

There has been happening in the last few years. We lost people to the mainland, but we gained more from the foreign countries in migration," says Eugene Tian, research and statistics officer at the state Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Hawaii's growth rate has remained at about 1 percent for the last four years, Tian said. It is the 42nd most populous state, ahead of Rhode Island and trailing New Hampshire.

Nearly twice as many people were born than died in Hawaii — 17,782 to 9,189 — resulting in a net increase of 6,593 people, according to the census.

Many of the people who leave Hawaii for the mainland are in the military or move in search of a more affordable cost of living, Tian said.

The Philippines remains the largest source of immigrants to the state, and that trend is expected to continue because new U.S. citizens among the island's large Filipino population likely bring more family members to the islands in coming years, he said.

Three local Scouts earn Eagle ranks

JEROME — Three Boys Scouts received their Eagle awards at a Court of Honor on Nov. 26. They are members of Troop 93.

Michael Gilbert, 13, the son of Doug and Glenna Gilbert of Jerome, has earned 22 merit badges. For his Eagle Project he cleaned the Hap Wilson Scenic Area in the Snake River Canyon, which included more than 185 hours of service by 22 people.

Michael attends Jerome Middle School, played on the football team and trumpet in the school band and is class president of the deacons' program in the Jerome City Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Austin Hayden Clegg, 14, is the son of Jeff and Audra Clegg

From left, Michael Gilbert, Payson Loti and Austin Clegg.

of Jerome. For his Eagle project, he constructed 20 wedge duck houses and placed the duck boxes in trees along the Snake River and other areas to increase the wood duck population.

Austin is a freshman at Jerome High School. He enjoys mountain biking, football, basketball and reading.

Payson Wayne Loti, 14, is the son of Andy and Annette Loti of Jerome. For his Eagle project, he put together a group of people and cleaned a large area of the Snake River Canyon. Using mules, large pieces of trash were hauled to dump trucks.

Payson is a freshman at Jerome High School. He enjoys snowmobiling and mountain biking.

AUXILIARY DONATION



Becky Hoblin, left, Material Child manager, and Audrey Randall, president of the hospital auxiliary, show the fetal monitor machine that the auxiliary purchased for the St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center birthing department. The machine keeps track of the contractions and the baby's heart rate all through the labor process. The cost was \$15,594. The auxiliary gift shop is the organization's main source of income and all profits go back to the hospital for equipment, scholarships, education and special needs. For more information on the auxiliary, call Loraine Dreyer, director of Volunteer Services, at 737-2006.

IDAHO

Agriculture secretary accepts Idaho roadless plan; rulemaking begins

BOISE (AP) — Idaho's proposed management plan for 9.3 million acres of federal roadless areas within national forests was accepted by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns on Friday and now will move forward in the process of becoming a federal rule.



Risch

The procedural action came a day after the Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee recommended Johanns accept the petition submitted by Idaho Gov. Jim Risch.

The plan Risch put forward last month limits development of 3.1 million acres — even more than protections in a 2001 Clinton administration rule. The plan would allow temporary road-building on another 5.5 million acres, only to the extent that it had already been allowed by Clinton officials to boost forest health.

Another 500,000 acres would be opened to logging and road building.

Risch said he was notified Friday by U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Iley that Johanns had accepted Idaho's petition. The federal agency will now work with the state to develop a memorandum of understanding for completing the final steps — including an environmental impact analysis — to put the state's recommended changes into the national forest management plans for roadless forest lands.

"It is not often that the federal government moves with such speed, but I am very pleased they have given quick approval to move forward," Risch said in a statement. "This plan was put together with a great deal of input from Idahoans and others who use and live near roadless areas."

Environmentalists had been concerned about Risch's plan fearing that national forests would be opened up to logging and mining. But a letter put

out by the national committee spelled out the Idaho plan in detail and put them more at ease, said Jonathan Oppenheimer of the Idaho Conservation League.

"I think this letter from the Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee provides that level of clarification in black and white that this is what they heard the governor say and this is the way they recommend the secretary of agriculture move forward," he said.

The committee made some recommendations about clarifying parts of the plan. Jim Caswell, director of the Idaho

Office of Species Conservation, said the state can work with that.

"There is nothing in there that is a huge concern," he told The Lewiston Tribune.

The committee asked for more information on how the state and U.S. Forest Service decided to remove 500,000 acres from the roadless designation. It also asked about management plans for several wild and scenic river areas.

"I think the advisory committee is envisioning fairly close scrutiny of those areas to see if it makes sense for them to be open to commercial development," Oppenheimer said.

Risch said the federal rulemaking process for the Idaho roadless petition will include additional opportunities for public involvement.

Feds refuse to pay for Libby Dam flooding

BONNERS FERRY (AP) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency has declined a request from Boundary County officials for emergency relief money for flood damage along the Kootenai River near Bonners Ferry.

Bob Graham, Boundary County's emergency services coordinator, said high water last spring caused millions of dollars in damage to farmers

and other property owners. He also said the flooding did about \$54 million in damage to dikes along the river.

Graham said county officials are dismayed with the decision because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages Libby Dam 70 miles upstream of Bonners Ferry and controls the flow of the river, released a report last month that said the agency might have prevented flood-

ing with different decisions. He estimated damage to the dikes at \$1 million per mile, with 54 miles in need of repairs.

"Our chances of getting federal assistance are slimmer and slimmer each day," he told The Spokesman-Review of Spokane, Wash. "It's becoming a much graver problem. The farmers feel they can't afford to bring them up to standards."



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371 Eastland Drive North
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Holy Trinity Buhl
229 9th Avenue North
Service time...6:00 p.m. Sunday

Trinity Gooding
125 7th Avenue
Service time...7:00 p.m. Sunday

Christ Church Shoshone
104 West B Street
Service time...9:00 p.m. Sunday

Calvary Jerome
101 South Adams
Service time...8:00 p.m. Sunday

Emmanuel Hailcy
101 2nd Avenue
Service time...8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Sunday

Grace Church Glenn's Ferry
Corner of Cleveland & Commercial Streets
Service time...8:00 p.m. Sunday

St. Thomas Ketchum
201 Sun Valley Road
Service time...8:00 & 11 p.m. Sunday

Trinity Memorial Rupert
196 6th Street
Service time...8:30 p.m. Sunday

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Missing climber posed questions on Hood route on Web forums

PORTLAND, Ore. — Months before embarking on his fatal climb up the North Face of Oregon's Mount Hood, Brooklyn resident Jerry "Nikko" Cooke, a regular presence in online climbing forums, was posing questions about the route he planned to take, accompanied by two new friends from Texas.

Cooke, along with Texas resident Brian Hall, is missing on the mountain, while the body of their climbing companion, Texas Kelly James, was airlifted off the mountain on Monday.

At a news conference this week, Hood River County Sheriff Joe Wampler acknowledged that time was growing short to find Hall and Cooke alive. Officials fear the two were buried by an avalanche on Hood's treacherous slopes.

To the climbing enthusiasts who frequent web sites like CascadeClimbers.com and Summitpost.org, Cooke was known as "fuggelaboudit," the name clearly a fond nod to his Brooklyn address.

In posts on the forums, Cooke described his climb to the summit of Washington's Mount Rainier from last June, adding at the end a now-bittersweet personal note to Hall and James: "Met a strong pair of climbers from Texas, Brian and Kelly, you two are gentlemen."

Nevada challenging plan for handling nuke waste

LAS VEGAS — The state of Nevada is challenging the newest Energy Department blueprints for aboveground handling of spent nuclear fuel before burial at Yucca Mountain.

In a protest prepared for submission to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the state calls the size of concrete pads on which highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel would be "aged" in reinforced containers far beyond what Congress authorized for the Yucca site.

Nevada officials accused the Energy Department of planning speed removal of waste from sites in 39 states by circumventing a federal law forbidding nuclear waste from being placed in aboveground "monitored retrievable storage" at the Yucca site.

Clearly, DOE's proposed "aging facility" is nothing more than an unlawful MRS in embarrassingly thin disguise," state officials said in documents obtained by the Las Vegas Review-Journal for a Friday report.

Judge allows four indicted immigrants to remain free

SALT LAKE CITY — Over objections from prosecutors, a U.S. Magistrate has released four workers arrested in a raid of a Cache Valley meat processing plant to a halfway house pending trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Kennedy immediately appealed Alba's Thursday ruling.

But within an hour, it was upheld by both U.S. District Judge Dee Benson and Judge Paul Cassell, who sat side-by-side on the bench to hear arguments.

Kennedy had argued that releasing the four men would place them into the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which alleges they are in the country illegally. He said it was likely the four would be deported and avoid prosecution.

Alba called the argument "incredulous" and said ICE would probably not deport defendants after asking federal attorneys to prosecute them.

Feds insist no danger from non-nuke blast

WASHINGTON — Federal officials again insisted Friday that a proposed non-nuclear explosion at the Nevada Test Site would not harm people living downwind.

Officials also said they would discuss the test at public meetings in Las Vegas on Jan. 9, Salt Lake City on Jan. 10, and St. George, Utah, on Jan. 11.

The blast, called "Divine Strake," would send a mushroom-shaped dust cloud high over the Nevada desert.

radioactive material from decades of previous weapons tests would be released by the blast and scattered across Nevada and southern Utah.

Although there is radioactive material in two locations about a mile from the proposed blast site, it is "extremely unlikely" that the material would become "resuspended" and cause harm, the report said.

Hundreds of passport applications missing

SALT LAKE CITY — A bag with approximately 700 passport applications has been missing since Dec. 1, officials said.

The applications were supposed to be shipped by air to a passport center in Charlotte, N.C., from Los Angeles.

"We've conducted a pretty comprehensive search," said Steve Royster, spokesman for consular affairs at the U.S. State Department. "We're continuing to work at locating them."

— Associated Press

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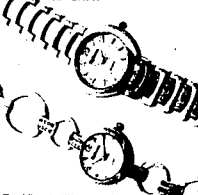
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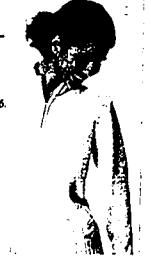
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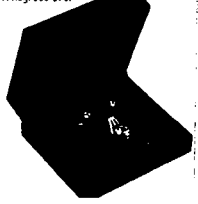
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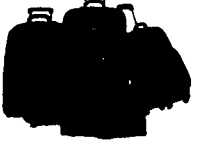
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Market Watch

Dec. 22, 2006

Dow Jones Industrials	-78.03
	12,343.22
Nasdaq Composite	-14.87
	2,401.18
Standard & Poor's 500	-7.54
	1,410.76
Russell 2000	-2.00
	780.62

Stocks of local interest

Con Agri	27.22	▲ .42
Dell Inc.	25.45	▼ .01
Utah Copper	38.81	▲ .03
Lithia Motors	27.50	▲ .24
Micron	13.94	▲ .04
Supervalu	36.25	▲ .45

Commodities

Feb. oil	62.43	▼ .25
(Light sweet crude by barrel)		
Liv. cattle	87.02	▲ .27
Dec. gold	619.10	▲ .90

For more, see page A9

Alliance to promote business-friendly legislation

"One of the biggest advantages we'll see better communication to our members about what's happening in the legislative session."

— Shawn Barigar, Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Times-News

BOISE — The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is just one of many chambers across the state that are part of a new business association dedicated to promoting positive public policy for business development, job creation and community infrastructure.

The Idaho Chamber Alliance is a business association representing more than 10,000 large and small companies from all sectors of business, according to an ICA news release. The ICA will work directly with the Idaho legislature, the Governor's office and state agencies to bring results for "main street business issues."

"We've been a part of it in the past, but it was a more loosely

organized group," said Shawn Barigar, president and chief executive of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. "Now we've really formalized our relationship working with other chambers across the state."

The statewide ICA membership currently provides more than 150,000 jobs for Idahoans. The new alliance represents chambers of commerce from all over the state. In addition to Twin Falls, members include Blackfoot, Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Garden City, Gem County, Idaho Falls, Jerome,

Kuna, Lewiston, Meridian, Moscow, Nampa, Pocatello, Rathdrum, Rexburg and Sandpoint. The Alliance is poised to represent the new and ever-changing face of main street business, both large and small.

"One of the biggest advantages is we'll see better communication to our members about what's happening in the legislative session," Barigar said.

Kent Just, former chief executive of the local chamber, is the ICA's executive director, and Jonathan Coe, president and CEO of the Coeur d'Alene Area

Chamber of Commerce is the president. Board Members include Robb Chiles (Idaho Falls), Matt Hunter (Pocatello), Elizabeth Thomas (Terome) and Nancy Vannorsdel and Ray Stark (Boise). John D. Watts, partner at the Boise-based firm Veritas Advisors LLP, will provide the alliance with governmental lobbying, public affairs and grassroots communication services.

The Idaho Chamber Alliance is prepared to lobby and promote issues for their chamber business members that promote business success and

economic development. "Our focus will be on the total business picture which includes functional transportation and road systems, market driven education and training, community-based economic development and jobs, realistic employer requirements, favorable tax policy and reasonable environmental regulation," Just said.

Coe said chambers of commerce across Idaho have a rich history of successfully working with city and county elected and political leaders.

"In small communities and large cities we represent the rich heritage of the original main street store fronts and the ever-emerging large scale sophisticated specialized businesses," Coe said.

Utah airport asking for commercial flights

The Associated Press

LOGAN, Utah — Now hearing — for Logan? "Why not, say local airport officials, who are asking Frontier Airlines to bring commercial flights to northern Utah.

"This will bring business into the area," said Rich Stehmiel, manager of the Logan/Cache Airport. "It'll allow for tourism to come in here, and the economic impact ... will be phenomenal."

In September, Frontier announced plans to add 10 planes for flights to 18 destinations in the Rocky Mountains region.

Logan, 80 miles north of Salt Lake City, was not on the list. But Frontier has said it will consider a proposal from the airport, Stehmiel said.

Frontier is looking for additional routes into Denver, where the company is based, he said.

Officials have until Jan. 15 to submit a proposal with unemployment rates, average wages and so on. "We're trying to show them that there is a very diverse economic base in our community and because of that, it's very stable," said Sandy Emille, chief executive of the Cache Chamber of Commerce.

"We'll try to make them aware of how great the need is in our community," Emille said. Frontier is expected to announce routes in late and launch a new regional carrier, Lynx Airlines, in July.

Stehmiel said he has received more than 20 phone calls from people wanting to fly from Logan.

Last-minute lure

Bringing in shoppers with expanded hours and deeper discounts

By Anne D'Annunzio
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The nation's retailers are pulling out all the stops to hit their holiday sales goals by expanding hours in the final days before Christmas and ratcheting up discounts.

Some mall-based stores like L.L. Bean are pulling all nighters. Federated Department Stores Inc.'s Macy's store in Elmhurst, N.Y., will be open 83 hours straight through Christmas Eve, along with neighbors Express and AX Armani.

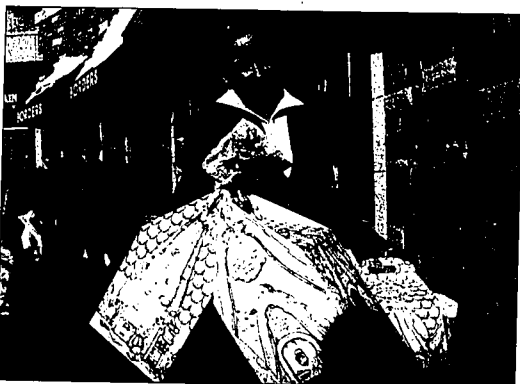
After a disappointing start to the month, stores are counting on procrastinators like Victor Mack and Sally Neal to make this a strong season.

"I come from a line of procrastination, mainly the men in my family," said Mack from Concord, N.C., who was buying an iPod Nano for his wife at the Apple store in Charlotte, N.C. earlier this week.

Neal, who was shopping in downtown Indianapolis, was about half done with her holiday shopping. "Since I work, it's just a matter of when I have time," she said. "So I don't get to shop for deals."

Early shoppers and losers already have emerged. Deep discounting of flat-panel TVs led to a buying surge, as well as a profit boost to Best Buy Co. and Circuit City Stores Inc. Luxury stores' business has been buckling as well-heeled shoppers are showing no restraint for \$5,000 handbags.

Other mall-based stores have stuck to their already generous promotional calendar, keeping profits intact so far and refusing to buckle under pressures from shoppers to hold out for the best bargain. Stores were cautious when planning their holiday



Jeanette Poole leaves the Flatiron Crossing Mall in Broomfield, Colo., after shopping early Friday for some gifts.

inventories this summer when gas prices were higher, fearing that shoppers would pull back. But even with declining gasoline prices and a steady job market, many shoppers have been selectively buying.

"I'd like to spend more, but I can only spend about three, four, five hundred dollars," said Ron Lajoy of Albany.

Many apparel chains, struggling with stiffer competition from department stores, could accelerate discounts this week beyond what they planned to lure buyers. With Christmas falling on Monday, Saturday is expected to be the busiest shopping day.

Research firm. But stores are posing a risk to profits, since more sales will be done at discounted prices, said Dan Hess, founder and CEO of Merchant Forecast, a New York-based research firm. But stores are also hoping that shoppers who received gift cards will spend freely on full-price merchandise during the post-Christmas season, boosting

fourth-quarter profits.

"Although the profit picture for consumer electronics is grimmer, all of retailing is going to suffer to a certain degree," said Hess. Based on a current check of about 40 mall-based stores, discounting is down from last year at this time, but he expects price-cutting will exceed last year's levels by this weekend. Department stores' profits should do well, while mall-based apparel stores should be mixed, he added.

In the season's final days, merchants are catering even more than ever to procrastinators who didn't have time or waited for the best deals. Mild weather also didn't motivate consumers to snap up winter items like snow boots.

According to a poll of 1,000 consumers conducted by the International Council of Shopping Centers, four out of five households said they are shopping later this year

than in 2005.

Orlando Veras, a Macy's spokeswoman, said that the decision to extend hours in Elmhurst was based on local customers' requests and the current check to be expanded to other stores next year.

For the first time, L.L. Bean's four stores in New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia are staying open about 189 hours straight through Christmas Eve Day, according to Kathy Whitney, a company spokeswoman.

Meanwhile, in cyberspace, Best Buy is dangling a new offer: If shoppers order merchandise by 3 p.m. on Dec. 24 on Bestbuy.com they can pick up their order in-store before the store closes at 5 p.m., according to Lauren Naru, a company spokeswoman.

Taubman Centers, which operates or owns 23 malls in 11 states, reported that traffic has been up around five percent this week compared to a year ago.

Stocks fall in light trading

By Joe Bel Brno
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Stocks fell Friday after waning enthusiasm among investors ahead of the holiday week amid overshadowed data showing higher consumer spending than a jump in prices of hot-ticket goods in November. A weak bond market also weighed on stocks.

The pair of reports from the Commerce Department was welcome news for the economy. Coupled with a final push of takeover activity in the past few weeks, it showed resolute consumer and corporate confidence, even with questions about how much the economy is slowing.

The Federal Reserve is attempting to orchestrate a soft landing for the economy, reining it in while not interrupting corporate growth. Wall Street is trying to peg the Fed's next move after it left rates unchanged for the past four meetings.

Extremely light volume ahead of the Christmas holiday left the market prone to swings, however. Trades expect a light week after the Christmas holiday on Monday, when markets are closed.

"Looking at the tape, you're going to see stocks just wallow around because of lack of interest," said John O'Donoghue, co-head of equities for Cowen & Co. "It is before Christmas, and it will be a very light day in the marketplace where most of the participants are going to be on holiday, and next week will be light as well."

Congress likely to lift minimum wage after not budging for nearly 10 years

By Jeanette Norva
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Imagine what it would be like to work without a pay raise for nearly 10 years.

That's been the plight of some workers who for almost two decades have been earning the federal minimum wage. Their last pay increase — to \$5.15 an hour — came in 1997.

There could be some relief in sight.

When the Democrat-controlled 110th Congress convenes in early January, a top priority is boosting the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour. The increase is likely to be phased in, perhaps over 26 months.

Alcega Laguerre is among the millions of workers now earn-

ing less than \$7.25 an hour.

She makes \$6.55 an hour driving cabs headed for the auction blocks in Orlando, Fla., and says a boost in the federal minimum wage would help her build a nest egg for emergencies.

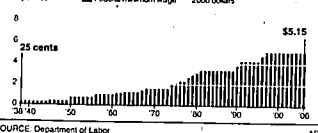
"I would be able to save more," says Laguerre, a part-time worker. "I've always been so thrifty with money. When I was young, I'd take a nickel and stretch it five ways," she says with pride.

That can be tough these days, acknowledges Laguerre, 53, after paying the monthly rent and utilities on her two-bedroom apartment and after recently buying a car — a blue 1994 Buick Century.

On the other side of the minimum wage debate is employer Wayne Reaves, president of Manna Enterprises Inc., in

Minimum wage on Democrats' agenda

When Congress meets in January, a top priority will be raising the federal minimum wage to \$7.25. The last increase was in 1997.



Aniston, Ala., who says he may boost menu prices and cut workers' hours at his fast-food restaurants, which serve up hamburgers, fried chicken, gravy and biscuits and other fare. If the federal wage is lifted, The average hourly rate for his workers is paid above the current \$5.15 minimum, he

says. The lowest hourly rate is about \$5.50, while a recently hired biscuit maker fetched \$8 an hour.

"The market is working. My position is let market forces drive wages. But it isn't going to happen because this is a political issue now," Reaves laments. "This will have a negative impact on the people it is sup-

posed to help." The federal minimum wage is like a national wage floor, though some people can be paid less under certain circumstances. States can set minimum wages above the federal level; more than two dozen states plus the District of Columbia do.

The last time the federal minimum wage went up was in 1997. That's the longest stretch without an increase since the minimum wage was established in 1938. Inflation has eroded the minimum wage's buying power to the lowest level in about 50 years.

Organized labor and other supporters of boosting the minimum wage contend it will help the working poor.

Business groups and other opponents counter that it could lead to higher prices for good

and services or force companies, especially smaller ones, to pink-slip some entry-level, low-skilled workers or hire fewer such workers. Companies' profits also could be crimped.

"People who are paid the minimum wage tend to be young, under age 25 — never married, more likely to be a woman, a minority and work part time, according to a recent analysis of 2005 data by the Labor Department.

Workers making minimum wage tend to be in the service sector, especially food preparation, food and restaurants and other food services as well as in the leisure and hospitality industry, the analysis said. Minimum wage workers also can be found in janitorial, landscaping and maintenance crews, at beauty shops, retail stores and elsewhere.

Community college debate gets solid voice in Geddes

CHEERS to Sen. Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs, an Idaho legislative leader who finally gets the key point with community colleges.

Geddes, the president pro tem of the Idaho Senate, was among a few southern Idaho lawmakers quoted in the *Idaho State Journal* who didn't sound too compelled to push for more community colleges. Geddes, who has an obvious loyalty factor to Idaho State University, said the push for more colleges was coming primarily from Boise State University.

But even if Geddes is stalling on community colleges, at least he has a clear idea of where the initiative should originate.

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

CHEERS to the Roadless Area Conservation Natives Advisory Committee, for approving Gov. Jim Ritsch's innovative plan for Idaho roadless areas.

With only days left in Ritsch's term as governor, the committee accepted Idaho's plan for roadless area preservation that shows states can indeed improve upon the federal level of government. Ritsch's plan for 9.3 million acres of national forest area includes 5.5 million acres of backcountry that fits under current roadless rules, and

CHEERS & JEERS

3.3 million acres of primitive land that goes beyond existing rules for tighter stewardship.

The plan also includes more commercial uses for 500,000 acres, a fair compromise considering the extent of Ritsch's practical vision for Idaho's vast roadless domain. The committee's recommendation for the Ritsch plan now goes on to U.S. Secretary of

Agriculture Mike Johanns.

JEERS to the city's snow-removal efforts Friday, OK. It's a bit of a cheap shot. But as much as the Magic Valley needs moisture it might be a good thing—in Twin Falls, at least—that it doesn't snow very often. Even major streets and intersections were a challenge to navigate. The story was better in other parts of the Magic Valley, according to motorists who called the *Times-News* to report wet, but clear, highways.

CHEERS to community members who have rallied to support Idaho State Patrol Trooper Chris Glenn and his family. Glenn, 34, was shot in the neck

Wednesday on State Highway 74 south of Twin Falls while trying to stop a suspect in an armed robbery. Glenn was in critical condition Friday in a Boise hospital, is paralyzed from the chest down.

A growing group of community members have volunteered their time, money and materials to finish the home cleanup in a way that will be building two months ago in Kimberly.

"He's a good guy. He didn't deserve to have that happen," said Mike Caraway, the general contractor who is leading the project. At Christmas time, it's nice to know there are people in the Magic Valley willing to step up and help someone like Glenn, his wife, and their son.

Frank Rich declares Iraq 'box office poison'!

Last year, Osama bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, wrote to the head of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, telling him to "be ready starting now" for America to run from Iraq reminding him how America cut and ran from Vietnam and the "aftermath of the collapse of American power in Vietnam, and how they ran and left their agents."

Alas, Zarqawi never got to implement his takeover plan because the same troops that are allegedly losing the war right now killed him in June.

But al-Qaida in America isn't ready to quit yet. The *New York Times* theater critic Frank Rich made headlines on the *Drudge Report* last week by announcing "We have lost in Iraq." Of course, Rich was saying we had lost in Iraq more than six months before we went into Iraq.

In August 2002, he wrote that Bush did not have the support of the American people for war in Iraq and without that he would "mimic another hubristic Texan president who took a backdoor route into pre-emptive warfare."

In April 2003, one month after we invaded Iraq, Rich said the opening of Iraqi museums by Iraqis showed "our worst instincts at the very dawn of our grandiose project to bring democratic values to the Middle East."

About six months into the war he wrote a column about Iraq titled "Why Are We Back in Vietnam?" You can imagine how wringing those words must have brought back memories of Frank Rich's own vaillant service in Vietnam.

In January 2004, less than a year after the invasion, Rich said the opening of Iraqi museums by Iraqis showed "our worst instincts at the very dawn of our grandiose project to bring democratic values to the Middle East."

By May 2004, Rich accused Bush of "throwing 'underprepared and underprotected' American troops in harms way in Iraq." OK, this was kidding before. The closest Frank Rich has come to serving in the military was reviewing a review of the *Gaine Mummy*. Though he does know the words to "In the Navy" by heart.

Even after transitioning from musical reviewer to hard-bitten military analyst, Rich couldn't resist tossing in a quick *darke review*. He also described "pictures of Marines retreating from Fallujah and that of city's citizens dancing in the streets to celebrate their victory over the American liberators."

This too, reminded Rich of Vietnam.



ANN COULTER

Liberals are like people with stale breath talking into your face at a party. You try backing away from them or offering them gum, but then they just start whimpering.

Right now I'm trying to think of something that doesn't remind liberals of Vietnam... hmmm... drawing a blank.

In September 2005, Rich wrote that the war in Iraq "resembles its Southeast Asian predecessor in its unpopularity, its fictional provocation and its unknown exit strategy"—interesting, the exact same words he used years ago in his review of "Miss Saigon." He fearfully anticipated "a Tet offensive, Sunni-style" to tilt the election in Kerry's direction.

In October 2004, Rich said Bush had "bungled the war in Iraq and, in doing so, may be losing the war against radical Islamic terrorism as well." He didn't explain how killing tens of thousands of Islamic terrorists constituted "bungling" a war against them. Then again, what do I know about military analysis? I thought "The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?" was atrocious.

In May of this year, he said that "the public has turned on the war in Iraq"—the very war that he said the public opposed long before we ever went in. And in June he said the public knows "defeat when they see it," no matter how many new plans for victory are trotted out to obscure that reality—"though I might be confusing this statement with Rich's comments on the *Times*' plan to charge readers for his column.

Liberals are like people with stale breath talking into your face at a party. You try backing away from them or offering them

gum, but then they just start whimpering. They've been using the exact same talking points about how we're losing in Iraq since before we invaded.

It seems they've finally succeeded in exhausting Americans and, thereby, handing a victory to al-Qaida.

The weakest members of the herd are raptly capitulating, trying to preserve a modicum of honor by prattling about how they plan to do it better next time. Iraq would be the top shape and our troops would be home for Christmas.

Well, if my plans had been implemented, the anti-war crowd would be weeping about Iraqi civilian deaths so much they wouldn't have time to pretend they gave a damn about the loss of American lives.

But the plans that were implemented have depose a monster, put him on trial which resulted in his conviction and death sentence—killed rape hobbyists Uday and Qusay, presided over three democratic elections, killed al-Zarqawi and scores of other al-Qaida leaders fighting Americans in Iraq, and kept the U.S. safe from Islamic terrorist attacks for years now. The less I can do is not capitulate to the left's endless nagging.

Ann Coulter is a nationally syndicated columnist.

The religious right's not-so-true believers

JONATHAN CHAIT

Looking over the field of potential Republican presidential candidates, one odd thing jumps out at me: Many of them have expressed deep hostility to the religious right's point of view in the past, and several are now insisting that they didn't mean a word of it.

One way to look at this is to conclude that they all said or did things they didn't mean, or that they have come around to "the social conservative" position. Oddly enough, this is the interpretation many social conservatives seem inclined to accept.

Or there's the other, more logical interpretation: The Republican Party's governing class is deeply hostile to social conservatism, and its leaders manage to fool the base over and over again.

This delicate situation was thrown into stark relief recently when Bay Windows, a Boston newspaper covering gay and lesbian issues, published an interview it had conducted with Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in 1994.

Romney, who had characterized the religious right as "extremists," said he essentially had the same position on gay rights as Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and cast himself as an heir to his moderate father, George Romney, the Michigan governor who walked out of the 1964 Republican convention to protest Barry Goldwater.

Those positions seem believable. Mitt Romney had run as a supporter of abortion rights and legislation protecting gays from on-the-job discrimination. But he has since reversed both positions, and an adviser insisted that Romney had been "faking it" as a pro-chooser, explaining that he had to do it because social conservatism is unacceptable to the voters of Massachusetts.

But wait a second. Social liberalism is unacceptable to GOP primary voters, right? So maybe Romney is faking it now, and all that stuff he said about gay rights and the influence of his moderate

father was genuine, no? This would be bad enough for social conservatives if Romney were the moderate in the race. But in fact, he's the current favorite among social conservatives. Indeed, social conservatives don't even want to hear about Romney's scandalously tolerant past. Brian Camerker, a right-wing activist who has been sounding the alarm bells about Romney, has gotten a frosty reception from his fellow religious conservatives.

"Why are you attacking Romney?" they keep asking him, according to my colleague Ryan Lizza. "It's better than (Rudolph W.) Giuliani and (John) McCain."

The GOP primary is a sorry state of affairs for the religious right. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., once described religious-right leaders as "forces of evil" and has muscled that he would not support the repeal of Roe v. Wade. More recently, McCain, like Romney, has backed off his moderate statements (not surprising given the furor they provoked). But McCain is even less credible in his newfound conservatism: only a total naff could believe him now.

A general rule of political life is that when a candidate says something unpopular off the cuff and then takes it back in prepared remarks, you can be sure that the original statement, is what the candidate really thinks.

Meanwhile, the other leading contender, Giuliani, is pro-choice, pro-gun-control and pro-gay-rights. When he left his second wife, Giuliani moved in temporarily with a gay couple.

I have to give Giuliani credit. Unlike Romney and McCain, he has declined to discover a new set of deeply held social convictions. But, of course, there's plenty of time until Iowa.

Chait is a senior editor at *The New Republic*.

LETTERS

Neilsen a great supporter of Boys and Girls Club

We would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the Neilsen family for their tragic loss. The community has lost a generous civic leader in the passing of Craig Neilsen.

As executive director and president of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Magic Valley, we have firsthand knowledge of the overwhelming generosity of the businesses and individuals in our community toward the needs of our children and are truly grateful for their support. Craig Neilsen was one of our most generous contributors and set a high standard of giving, which was an example to his employees.

For the past two years, our organization was selected to receive support from the Ameristar workplace giving

program. Mr. Neilsen matched those funds, doubling the impact of that contribution.

The Boys and Girls Club is in the midst of a capital drive to build a new building in Druh to serve those youth and youth in the smaller surrounding communities. Mr. Neilsen was the largest single donor to that project. His gift for the building of the Club club has been encouraged by others to give as well. The manifestation of his outstanding leadership was evident in his employees. He has truly made a positive impact in the lives of many in our community, and he will be truly missed.

DON HALL
REX LYTLE
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Don Hall is the executive director and Rex Lytle is the board president for

the Boys and Girls Clubs of Magic Valley.)

Bell-ringer appreciates caring community

I am a bell-ringer for the Salvation Army, and I would just like to say how much I appreciate all of you in our community for caring enough to give to others during the celebration of Christ.

One day while I was out ringing the bell, my gloves were stolen. There were two different ladies who saw that I was without them and went into the ShopKo store and purchased me some new ones. It touched my heart, seeing how much they cared. Shortly after that, a very kind woman came up to donate and gave me a very warm hug. She then found it in her heart to give me a very beautiful scarf that she put around

me to keep me warm. These ladies and so many others brought such a special warmth to my heart and tears to my eyes. I thank Jesus for all the loving people out there. The true meaning of Christmas shines through you.

Thanks again to the public for all the giving and caring for the bell-ringers out there. God bless everyone.
CRISTAL BENITIZ
Twin Falls

Letter on military recruits was reckless, outrageous

Seldam has an opinion compelled me to draft a rebuttal as Mr. Hartley's recent letter to the editor concerning military recruits. On the other hand, I find it a waste of my time and good ink to try to rebut his reckless, outrageous generalizations.

Drivel such as this doesn't dignify a response and ought to be ignored or one might get the notion on the bottom of the shoe of a passerby.

However, I could not sit idly by and allow my family and friends to perceive my silence as support of implicit support of Jack's absurd, incendiary statements. Freedom of speech has been, and will likely always be, a gift purchased with the blood of heroes and given to both the fool and wise.

Unfortunately, Mr. Hartley deserves this gift by insulting those very souls who would provide it. Shame on you, Mr. Hartley. Shame, the opposite of honor, be upon you, Mr. Hartley, I can contribute no words to adequately express my gratitude to all the honorable servicemen, women, past and present.

Write to us

The *Times-News* welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office, mailed to PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; or faxed to (208) 735-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magvalley.com.

Five more U.S. troops killed in Iraq Report: Rail tunnels vulnerable to attack

Gates returns to brief Bush

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Insurgent attacks killed five more American troops west of the Iraqi capital, the military said Friday, making December the second deadliest month for U.S. servicemen in 2006.

So far this month, 76 American troops have died in Iraq, the same number that were killed in all of April. With nine days remaining in December, the monthly total of U.S. deaths could meet or exceed the death toll of 105 in October.



An Iraqi boy looks through a broken window of a house in Baghdad's Sadr City, Iraq, on Friday after a U.S. and Iraqi army raid on the neighborhood. The joint forces raid resulted in two suspects being detained and four people wounded, including two children, police said.

in their thousands, we lose the chance to build up their basic skills."

Poland, which has 900 soldiers in Iraq, agreed Friday to extend its mission in Iraq until the end of 2007. The Poles focus mainly on training Iraqi security forces and are based in an area south of Baghdad that is calmer than the capital.

Also Friday, South Korean lawmakers endorsed a motion to extend the country's deployment in Iraq for another year, but cut the number of troops in half. The motion calls on the South Korean government to withdraw 1,100 troops of its 2,300-strong contingent in the relatively peaceful, northern city of Irbil by April.

The five U.S. districts announced Friday took over two days. One soldier died and another was wounded Friday when their patrol came under fire west of Baghdad, the military said. On Thursday, three Marines and one U.S. sailor died from wounds sustained in combat in western Anbar province.

NEW YORK (AP) — The forecast is ominous: A small explosive sneaked onto a commuter train punches a 50-square-foot hole in a tunnel under the Hudson River. More than a million gallons of water a minute surges in. Flooding engulfs parts of the system within hours.

That worst-case scenario was included in a draft analysis of the PATH rail system linking New Jersey and Manhattan, obtained by The New York Times and reported in Friday's editions.

The analysis suggests the system's tunnels, which serve 230,000 riders each weekday, are more vulnerable to terrorist attack than originally thought, and raised questions about whether officials have taken enough precautions.

"It's a cause for concern," Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said Friday, adding that he was waiting to see a copy.

Gov. George Pataki said he had received the analysis and called it part of an ongoing effort to look at security on regional transit systems.

Other lawmakers, including New York Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, said the report shows a need for more federal funding for transit security. Officials with the agency that runs the system, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, would not discuss the specifics of the analysis.

"The Port Authority constantly conducts threat analyses and risk assessments for our facilities and we will continue to work with our partners on all levels of government," an agency spokesman John McCarthy said Friday. "It's an unending process, as we are never satisfied and will always look for ways to upgrade security."

National Security Council next Thursday during a stay at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. That session is designed to whittle down the options rather than make final decisions, said Dana Perino, a White House spokeswoman.

Before leaving Baghdad, Gates declined to say whether the plans to recommend a short-term increase in U.S. troop levels, but said he believes there is "a broad strategic agreement between the Iraqi military and Iraqi government and our military."

"There is still some work to be done," Gates said. "But I do expect to give a report to the president on what I've learned and my perceptions."

Britain's Defense Secretary Des Browne acknowledged Friday he may have to increase the size of Britain's armed forces as a result of commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan — including military expansion plans being considered in Washington.

Browne told the Times of London he could consider increasing the size of the armed forces from 95,500 because current deployments had left too little time for training exercises.

"The best form of training is to be in Iraq or Afghanistan, but it's not true," Browne was quoted as saying by the newspaper. "While we are deploying troops

As American deaths in the war pushed closer to 3,000, Iraqis continued to fall victim to sectarian violence between Shiites and Sunnis. Police recovered 21 more bodies in the cities of Baghdad, Baquba and Kut. With 140,000 U.S. troops under in Iraq, President Bush is considering whether to send thousands more to control the bloodshed.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates flew back to Washington on Friday to give Bush his advice on transforming U.S. policy in Iraq after holding three days of talks in the war zone with military and political leaders. Gates was scheduled to see the president at the mountain retreat of Camp David, Md., on Saturday.

The White House said Bush would meet with his full

N. Korea could raise stakes further

By Bert Herman Associated Press writer

BEIJING — When North Korea doesn't get what it wants, it prods the world into paying attention the only way it knows how, raising the stakes by doing everything from launching missiles to its recent nuclear test.

The failure this week of the latest arms talks with the communist nation opens the door for North Korea to raise tensions once again, possibly by setting off another atomic explosion deep beneath the mountains that dominate its rugged landscape.

The main U.S. envoy on Friday warned the North against such a move, as he criticized the country for failing to send negotiators into the nuclear talks with the authority to seek any compromise.

To explode a nuclear weapon is obviously going to do rather severe damage to the diplomatic process, and I would argue it would bring severe damage to North Korea, as well," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said.

The negotiations in Beijing that ended Friday after five days appeared doomed from the start, with other delegates saying the North Koreans refused even to talk about nuclear weapons or a September 2005 pledge it made to disarm.

Instead, the Pyongyang regime blamed on Washington's blacklisting of a Macau bank the U.S. alleges the bank helped the North pass fake \$100 bills and launder money for its weapons programs.

The United States insists the nuclear and financial issues will be resolved separately, although it says they are both part of a dangerous North Korean pattern of bad behavior. Washington says the commitment to diplomacy in the so-called six-party talks that also include China, Japan, Russia and the two Koreas. Hill has insisted the meetings — which he says will resume "weeks, not months" — could even lay the groundwork for a new security cooperation regime in the region.

If that's true, it's off to an

Analysis

Inauspicious start.

During the three years since the talks began, the North Koreans have twice staged boycotts of more than a year, first because of an alleged U.S. "hostile" attitude and this time because of the financial restrictions.

The latest session — officially the second part of the fifth round, for those keeping score at home — showed again that the North Koreans are masters of diversion.

In three years since the talks began, the North hasn't taken a single step to disarm or to stop churning out weapons-grade plutonium from its main nuclear reactor. Experts say the North likely has enough radioactive material for a half-dozen bombs, but probably can't place a nuclear warhead on a missile.

Part of the problem has been a difference of opinion about how harshly to treat North Korea. Countries like China and South Korea have refused to sign on to tough measures

called for by the United States and Japan.

Earlier this week, a South Korean lawmaker repeated his claim that movements seen in North Korea indicate a possible further nuclear test.

North Korea's first nuclear test on Oct. 9 galvanized the world to unite in a chorus of condemnation.

Still, all that indignation failed to help bring any progress, raising questions about what can be achieved at the talks and whether the Washington-led approach will ever yield results — or simply be the prologue to another nuclear wake-up call.

Bert Herman is chief of bureau in Korea for The Associated Press.

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NATION

Space shuttle Discovery lands at Cape Canaveral

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery and its seven astronauts safely returned to Earth on Friday after some last-minute suspense over which landing site to use, closing out a year in which NASA finally got construction of the international space station back on track.

Its arrival announced by its signature twin sonic booms, the spacecraft touched down on a floodlit runway in the early evening darkness after a smooth, 13-day flight during which the astronauts rewired the space station and delivered U.S. astronaut Sunita "Suni" Williams to the orbiting outpost for a six-month stay.

It's a thrill to have you in Florida," Mission Control said. After the shuttle rolled to a stop, ending its 5.3 million-mile journey, Discovery commander Mark Polansky said: "You have seven thrilled people right here... I think it's going to be a great holiday."

The shuttle brought home space station crew member Thomas Reiter of Germany, who felt the pull of gravity Friday for the first time since July.

It was not until about an hour before the landing that NASA decided where to bring the shuttle home. There were show-ers over Florida, and crosswinds

at the usual back-up landing site, Edwards Air Force Base in California's Mojave Desert. NASA was not thrilled about the next-best landing site, White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, because it lacks the cranes and other equipment needed to transport the shuttle back to its home at Cape Canaveral and service the ship on the ground. Only once has a shuttle landed there, in 1992.

Ultimately, NASA gave the go-ahead for a Florida landing when it appeared the rain

would not reach Cape Canaveral. The shuttle came in through scattered clouds. Several hours before the landing, space station commander Michael Lopez-Alegria played a recording of "I'll Be Home for Christmas."

"Thought this might be appropriate for Discovery," radioed Lopez-Alegria, a U.S. astronaut.

Discovery's return completed NASA's third shuttle flight of 2006, the most since 2002. After the Columbia disaster that

killed seven astronauts in 2003, the space agency struggled to redesign the shuttle's fuel tank and resume media construction of the half-built international space station.

Columbia disaster was a single test mission in 2005.

Discovery's crew made four spacewalks, installing a two-ton addition to the space station and switching the orbiting outpost from a temporary power source to a permanent one.

Parents accused of caging children convicted on some counts

NORWALK, Ohio (AP) — A couple accused of forcing some of their 11 adopted spoiled needs children to sleep in wood and wire cages were convicted Friday of endangerment and abuse.

Sharon Gravelle and her husband, Michael, showed no reaction in the courtroom as the guilty verdicts were read. The jury convicted both of four felony counts of child endangering and seven misdemeanor counts. Each was acquitted of 13 charges, including four felony child endangering charges.

The parents claimed during the three-week trial that they needed to keep some of the youngsters in enclosed beds rigged with alarms to protect them from their own dangerous behavior and stop them from wandering at night.

Fighting back tears on the courthouse steps, her voice cracking, Sharon Gravelle asked her lawyer to get a small battalion of media cameras "out of my face."

Their attorneys said an appeal is likely. "I feel terrible," said Ken Myers, the lawyer for Sharon Gravelle, 58. "We don't think they were guilty of any criminal offenses. They did the best they could with a very difficult situation and with very little help."

Myers and Richard Drucker, the attorney for Michael Gravelle, 57, said they were still trying to figure out why the jury found the couple guilty of some charges involving caged beds, but not others.

"In many respects, the defendants could consider this a victory in that so many counts were thrown out," Drucker said.

Prosecutor Daivia Kasper said she was satisfied with the verdict. "I had certainly hoped for felonies on behalf of all the children," she said.

The children, who suffered from problems such as fetal alcohol syndrome and a disorder that involves eating non-food items, ranged in age from 1 to 14 when authorities removed them in September 2005 from the Gravelle home in rural Wickerman, about 60 miles west of Cleveland. The youngsters were placed in foster care last fall, and the couple lost custody in March.

Margaret Kern, a court-appointed advocate for the children, was displeased with the outcome. "Finally, it was a long time coming, but justice has been served for these children," Kern said.

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Troy trounces Rice for school's first-ever bowl win

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Omar Haugbook was Troy's postseason star, too.

The Sun Belt player of the year threw four touchdown passes and ran for another score to lead Troy to its first bowl victory, 41-17 over Rice on Friday night in the New Orleans Bowl.

It was only the second bowl appearance for the Trojans (8-5), who moved up to Division I-A in 2002. Troy earned the bowl bid with its first Sun Belt title.

Haugbook, the unanimous MVP of the game, completed 14 of 28 for 217 yards. He also picked up 92 of Troy's 148 yards.

"It was a real good game for me," Haugbook said. "At any given time we can put up points real fast."

Rice (7-6), coming off its first winning season since 1993, and making its first bowl appearance since 1961, was seeking its first postseason victory since 1959. The Conference USA representative was favored going into the game, but could not cope with the Trojans' defense.

Rice's Joel Armstrong, pressured all

night, was intercepted five times and sacked four times. He completed 35 of 54 passes for 305 yards and a touchdown.

"As a quarterback the main thing you have to do is take care of the ball, and I did a horrible job," Armstrong said.

Rice receiver Jarett Dillard kept his touchdown streak alive. He caught a 1-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter to stretch the streak to 15 games, dating to last season. His 13-game touchdown streak this season set an NCAA record, breaking the mark of 12 set by Randy Moss in 1997 and matched by Larry Fitzgerald in 2003.

Troy, which averaged 21 points a game this year, was up 21-7 after the first quarter.

"We had a lot of confusion tonight," Rice coach Todd Graham said. "We just gave up the big play and that really hurt us."

On the first possession, Mykael Rice's 40-yard reception put the Trojans on Rice's 1. Three plays later, Haugbook's 2-yard touchdown run put Troy on the scoreboard.

Minutes later, Armstrong's first pass attempt of the game was intercepted by Boris Lee, who took it back 22 yards to the Rice 1. Haugbook put the Trojans up 14-0 with a 3-yard scoring pass to Gary Banks.

Armstrong's 11-yard TD pass to Mike Falco cut Rice's lead to 14-7.

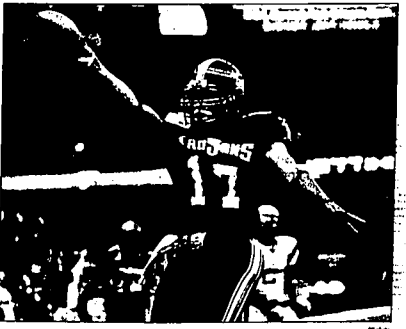
Haugbook stretched the Trojans' first-quarter margin with a 56-yard touchdown pass to Terry.

After Rice's 43-yard field goal in the second quarter, Haugbook hit Andrew Davis with a 7-yard touchdown pass to put Troy up 28-10 at halftime.

"They basically at the beginning played a lot of man and wanted to be aggressive with us," Haugbook said. "But once we burned them a couple of times deep they started backing off."

The only score in the third quarter was a 25-yard field goal that boosted Troy's lead to 31-10. Kicker Greg Whillis made it 34-10 in the fourth quarter with a 28-yarder.

Haugbook closed out the scoring with a 5-yard TD pass to Toris Rutledge.



Troy quarterback Omar Haugbook (17) celebrates after scoring a touchdown against Rice in the New Orleans Bowl football game in the first half in New Orleans on Friday.

Nuggets lose in Iverson's debut

DENVER — Allen Iverson's opening-night best wasn't enough to prevent the short-handed Denver Nuggets from dropping a 101-96 decision to the Sacramento Kings on Friday night.

Iverson finished with 32 points and 10 assists, watching the first 8:35 from the bench, then playing the rest of the way. But the Nuggets only had eight players, and that was too much even for "The Answer" to overcome.

The newest NBA player gave the kind of gritty, gutsy performance that has become his trademark. He played 39 minutes after a whirlwind of a day in which he arrived in Denver in the late afternoon, was whisked to the Pepsi Center, passed his physical, took a few jumpers on the practice court then suited up to be on the floor for start.

But the Kings were better from tipoff to finish. John Salmons had 21 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists and Brad Miller scored 21 for the Kings.



Newly-acquired Denver Nuggets guard Allen Iverson, back, brings the ball up the court in the first quarter against the Sacramento Kings in Denver on Friday.

76ers 98, Celtics 83

BOSTON — The 76ers said goodbye to their 12-game losing streak and Allen Iverson all on the same night.

Andre Iguodala scored a career-high 31 points and had nine assists to help Philadelphia beat the Celtics just hours after he made of their troubled superstar become official.

Iguodala topped the career high of 27 points he hit twice in the previous five games as the Sixers adjusted to life without Iverson. Samuel Dellembert had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia, who earned their first victory since beating Chicago on Nov. 24.

Al Jefferson had 20 points and 14 rebounds and Gerald Green had 20 points and nine rebounds for Boston.

Lakers 99, Nets 95

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kobe Bryant had 21 points, a season-high 11 assists and combined with Jordan Farmar to lead the Lakers in the fourth quarter.

Farmar had five points and two assists in the final period and the Lakers got good efforts from reserves Andrew Bryn and Maurice Evans down the stretch in holding off the Nets for the second time this season.

Vince Carter had 33 points, Jason Kidd added 16 points and nine assists and Richard Jefferson had 18 points for New Jersey.

Warriors 117, Magic 108

ORLANDO, Fla. — Baron Davis had 38 points and nine assists, Mike Duntaway added 21 points and the Warriors picked up their second straight road win.

Monta Ellis scored 18 points and Mickael Pietrus finished with 15 for the Golden State, which is just 3-9 on the

Knicks 103, Bulls 92

NEW YORK — Jamal Crawford scored 30 points, and the New York Knicks shook off their numbers problem again to secure their season-high third straight victory.

Eddy Curry, also a former Bulls player, added 20 points as the Knicks won three in a row for the first time since April and snapped Chicago's five-game winning streak. Stephon Marbury scored 19.

Ben Gordon scored 27 points for the Bulls, who had won 12 of 13.

Pacers 100, Hawks 90

ATLANTA — Stephen Jackson scored 27 points and Al Harrington added 20 for Indiana.

The two former Hawks led the Pacers to their fourth win in five games.

Jermale O'Neal added 16 points for Indiana.

Joe Johnson had 31 points for Atlanta. The Hawks have lost three straight and seven of eight.

Rockets 97, Spurs 78

SAN ANTONIO — Yao Ming scored 22 points and the Rockets got for their first victory in San Antonio in over nine years.

Bonzi Wells scored 15 points and Jwan Howard added 14 for the Rockets, whose last road win over the Spurs was a 103-94 decision on April 20, 1997. Rafer

Jazz can't rally past Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Emeka Okafor had 21 points, Matt Carroll scored all 16 of his points in the fourth quarter to prevent Utah from pulling off another dramatic comeback, and the Charlotte Bobcats held on for a 101-89 win over the Jazz Friday night.

Okafor also had 10 rebounds, Raymond Felton added 18 points and 12 assists and Primoz Brezec had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Bobcats, whose 20-point halftime lead was whittled to four with just over 4 minutes left.

But the Jazz, who rallied from a 21-point fourth-quarter deficit to win in Atlanta on Wednesday, ran out of steam.

Carlos Boozer had 22 points and 14 rebounds — his league-leading 20th double-double — and Mehmet Okur scored 19 points for the Jazz, who committed 19 turnovers.

Alton added 12 points and Shane Battier had 10.

Hornets 100, Grizzlies 97, 0T

OKLAHOMA CITY — Desmond Mason scored the go-ahead basket in overtime and finished with 17 points and 12 rebounds to help the Hornets snap a four-game losing streak.

Marc Jackson added 19 points for New Orleans, which rallied from a seven-point fourth-quarter deficit and a three-point overtime deficit. s.

Bucks 113, Timberwolves 107

MINNEAPOLIS — Mo Williams scored 16 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter to lift the Bucks to the win.

Williams had 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double in a victory over Miami on Wednesday night. He scored six straight points for the Bucks in the final 2 minutes, and Michael Redd sealed the victory with a jumper with 11.4 seconds to play.

Mavericks 115, Clippers 83

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki shook off an injured ankle from Dallas' previous game to contribute 20 points and 12 rebounds and the Mavericks extended their winning streak to six games.

Josh Howard's 25 points paced the Mavericks, who also got a season-high 21 points from reserve DeJuan George.

— The Associated Press

BYU wins by 62

PROVO, Utah — Brigham Young's Jonathan Teverari came off the bench and scored a career high 17 points to help lead BYU to a 102-40 win over Western Oregon Friday night.

Western Oregon (3-6), a Division II team, led 11-10 with 13:40 to play in the first half. Relying heavily on bench players, BYU finished the half outscoring Western Oregon 41-11.

In the second half BYU had runs of 25-0 and 10-0, leading by as many as 68 points.

BYU shot 57 percent, including 61 percent from beyond the 3-point line (11-for-18). The Cougars held Western Oregon to 30 percent shooting, 12 percent from 3-point range.

The Cougars had six players score in double figures including Cammarid with 14 and Jimmy Balderson with 13.

Jason Holsinger had 17 points for Evansville (6-4), which had a four-game winning streak end.

No. 17 Washington 80, Weber St. 51

SEATTLE — Freshman Spencer Hawes scored 23 points to tie his season high and from two nights earlier and Jon Brockman had 18 points and 12 rebounds to lead Washington.

The Huskies (10-1) won their 27th consecutive nonconference home game.

Dezmon Harris and Dan Henry each scored 13 points for Weber State (7-6).

No. 19 Marquette 77, Morgan St. 57

MILWAUKEE — Jarel McNeal scored 15 of his career-high 25 points in the decisive first half to lead Marquette. The sophomore guard went 8-of-15 from the field and a personal best 7-of-8 from the free throw line.

He matched his career high with seven assists for Marquette (12-2), which never trailed.

Reggie Holmes had three 3-pointers and scored 13 points for the Bears (2-8), who dropped to 0-5 on the road this season, losing by an average margin of 17.4 points.

No. 23 Texas A&M 87, Auburn 58

AUBURN, Ala. — Ake Lac scored 21 points to lead five Texas A&M players in double figures.

The Aggies (10-2) shot 57 percent from the field and never led by fewer than 20 points in the second half. It was Texas A&M's third straight blowout win since consecutive losses in the team's only previous road games.

It was the worst home loss for Auburn (9-4) since 1952 and the worst-ever in the 39-year-old Beard-Evans Coliseum.

No. 23 Syracuse 85, Hofstra 60

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Demetrius Nichols had 20 points and Jarron Wright and Paul Harris each had 15 as Syracuse snapped the Frieds' six-game winning streak.

Eric Devendorf finished with 16 points, 11 from the free throw line, for Syracuse (10-3), while Darryl Watkins had four points, nine rebounds, and four of the Orange's six blocks.

No. 16 Butler 76, Evansville 65

INDIANAPOLIS — A.J. Graves scored 22 points and Mike Green added 16 to lead Butler to its 15th straight home win.

Ramon Sessions added 22 points for the Wolf Pack (10-2), who tied the best start in history, set in 1978-79 and matched last season's.

— The Associated Press

LATE THURSDAY Vandalts all short at Eastern Washington

CHENEY, Wash. (AP) — Kellen Williams scored 15 of his career-high 24 points in the first-half Thursday night to lead Eastern Washington to an 85-55 non-conference victory over Idaho.

Williams hit 9 of 12 from the floor and Rodney Stuckey added 16 points as the Eagles (6-6) handed the Vandals (1-10) their ninth consecutive defeat.

Keoni Watson scored 17 points for Idaho, while Darin Nagle added nine points.

Eastern Washington's Stuckey converted two 3-point plays and also hit a long 3-point during an 18-2 first-half burst that saw the Eagles

grab a 33-12 lead with 4:30 left in the half.

Leading 41-19 at halftime, EWU increased that advantage to 49-21 behind three consecutive 3-pointers as a Williams jumper. Butome finished with 10 points and a game-high nine rebounds.

Omar Kravem chipped in eight assists for the Eagles, who are 0-0 at home this year.

It was the largest margin of victory in Eastern's 48-game series against Idaho.

EWU hit 52 percent from the floor and forced 23 Vandal turnovers.

Idaho shot 43 percent from the floor and hit just 7 of 16 from the free line.

Falcons hire alumnu to replace DeBerry

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — Troy Calhoun became the first former Air Force player to head the Falcons' football program, replacing the program Friday as longtime coach Fisher DeBerry's replacement.

The 38-year-old Calhoun, the starting quarterback for DeBerry in 1996, was an assistant coach with the Denver Broncos before joining Gary Kubiak as offensive coordinator of the Houston Texans this season.

"Our thought going into this was Fisher DeBerry had been here for 27 years, head coach for 23. And during that time he has inspired, trained, taught, motivated, produced not just leaders for the Air Force but leaders for the NCAA athletic community," Air Force athletic director Hans Much said during a news conference.

"Troy Calhoun I believe is at the pinnacle of that group of folks Fisher DeBerry produced and so we are proud that he will accept this offer from us to be our next head coach."

Calhoun replaces DeBerry, who retired Dec. 15. Calhoun is only the sixth head coach for Air Force, joining a list that

includes Bill Parcells and Ken Hatfield.

Calhoun began his coaching career with Air Force and continued at Ohio University and Wake Forest. He caught on with the Broncos in 2003 as a defensive assistant and became an offense-special teams assistant in 2004.

Last season, his title was "assistant to the head coach" for Mike Shanahan.

"Ultimately, this came down to the heart, inside that chest cavity. You realize that he, hey, this is the academy and here's a chance to go back and coach and work with the kids and at the same time get a chance to probably cross paths with a few more teammates and old friends, too," Calhoun said. "It's a place where as a graduate you're extremely proud to return in whatever capacity."

Calhoun, who had talked with DeBerry before the selection, will remain with the Texans during the remaining two games

of their season.

The 68-year-old DeBerry finished with three straight losing seasons and two big controversies in his final years.

"I think Troy is going to reinstate the kind of fire and passion that has been missing over the past couple of years," Much said, without elaborating.

DeBerry spent 27 years at the school, including four as an assistant coach. His 169-109 record made him the 11th longest coach in Air Force history and he had the third-longest tenure at one school of any active college coach, after Joe Paterno (41 years at Penn State) and Bobby Bowden (31 years at Florida State).

DeBerry was 35-11 against Army and Navy and led Air Force to 14 Commanders-in-Chief trophies, though he lost his grip on award as Navy won it the last four years.

But DeBerry also had problems off the field in recent years.

In 2005, he was criticized after a 40-10 loss to TCU when he said Air Force didn't have enough "Afro-American" players, sending them out for being able to run well.



Calhoun

SPORTS

Judge orders Bears nose tackle Tank Johnson to home confinement

SKOKIE, Ill. (AP) — Chicago nose tackle Tank Johnson needs court permission to travel outside Illinois, a decision that would become a factor this season only if the Bears make the Super Bowl.

A judge ruled Friday that he must stay home, except to work or travel to work, until it is determined whether his Dec. 14 arrest for having firearms without a gun-owner identification card violated his probation on a 2005 gun charge.

He already is suspended for Sunday's game at Detroit, the Bears' regular season ends at home against Green Bay, and Chicago has home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs. The Super Bowl is Feb. 4 in Miami.

The judge also said the 25-year-old Johnson cannot drive himself, and denied a request to let him travel to Tempe, Ariz., for a holiday trip. Instead, his family will come to Illinois to see him, defense attorney Lorna Proves said.

Cook County Judge John Moran set bond at \$100,000 for Johnson, who



Johnson

was briefly taken into custody during his court appearance. Johnson later posted bond and left the courthouse in north suburban Chicago.

Proves said Johnson is committed to making positive changes.

"He wants now more than any other thing to be the best possible representative of the Chicago Bears and the city of Chicago he can be and that's his goal going forward," Proves said outside of court.

Bears officials did not immediately comment on the judge's decision.

During the hearing, Johnson, dressed in a brown-striped suit, was not handcuffed and said nothing, frequently staring at the floor.

Defense attorney Frank Hmel told the judge he thought a reasonable bond would be \$10,000, arguing Johnson was not a flight risk and promising he would show up for future court dates.

"It's a misdemeanor violation on top of a misdemeanor violation," Hmel said, referring to the charges stemming from Johnson's recent arrest and the 2005 case for which he is serving probation.

Johnson was sentenced to 18 months probation in November 2005 after he pleaded guilty to a misde-

meanor charge stemming from an arrest after a nightclub value reported seeing Johnson with a handgun in his sport utility vehicle.

A petition filed Monday by the Cook County Adult Probation Department alleged that Johnson's arrest earlier this month in Lake County on misdemeanor weapons charges violated his earlier probation terms.

Johnson was charged with six counts of possession of a firearm without a gun owner identification card after police found six guns in a raid on his Gurnee home.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Rick Cenar said Friday that authorities found a semiautomatic rifle with 19 live rounds in the master bedroom, four unloaded weapons — two rifles and two handguns — and 300-350 rounds of ammunition in a basement utility closet and a loaded 45-caliber handgun under a leather chair in the basement.

Less than 48 hours after Johnson was arrested, he was at a bar when his friend, Willie B. Posey, was shot and

killed. Posey also had been arrested on drug-possession charges when police raided Johnson's home.

Johnson is not a suspect in Posey's death, but the Bears suspended him for Sunday's game for being at the club.

The Cook County probation-violation petition also alleges that Johnson failed to provide verification of court-mandated community service hours and that he underwent drug and alcohol evaluation. Cenar said Johnson has so far completed eight of the 40 community service hours.

A third-year player, Johnson has said he will seek counseling.

"I don't believe the team has to tell me it's my last chance. I know the opportunity that I have in front of me and it's great. It's immense and to squander that opportunity would be a tragedy at this point and that's not gonna happen," Johnson said Tuesday.

Johnson is due in court in Lake County on Jan. 9 and in Cook County on Jan. 23 on the probation-violation allegations.



Cablevision reaches agreement to carry Rutgers bowl game

NEW YORK (AP) — Cablevision Systems Corp., a New York-area cable TV provider, reached an agreement with the NFL Network on Friday that will allow its customers to see a much-anticipated college football game between Rutgers and Kansas State University next Thursday.

The agreement resolves a standoff that had raised the ire of fans in the New York and New Jersey area, who were clamoring to see Rutgers — long an underdog on the college football circuit — cap its best season in the Big East.

Cablevision still doesn't have a long-term carriage agreement with the NFL Network, but on Friday accepted an offer from them to carry the network for free for the week of Dec. 24 through Dec. 30.

The NFL holds the rights to broadcast the matchup, which is being played in Houston in the inaugural Texas Bowl. Without carriage on cable providers, many local fans wouldn't have been able to see the game since it isn't being carried on a local broadcast outlet.

Cablevision said it would carry the network on its digital tier, a supplemental service that is received by many customers. It also will carry the game itself on its widely available basic tier.

Time Warner Cable, another local cable provider, has reached an agreement with the NFL to carry the network on its digital service for the same week. Time Warner Cable is a unit of the media conglomerate Time Warner Inc.

Time Warner had originally balked at an NFL request to carry the network for the full week on its most widely available basic cable service, saying there wasn't enough capacity. Time Warner Cable also doesn't have a long-term deal with the network, and says the NFL is asking for too much money for the network. It is also resisting demands from the NFL that it be placed on its broadest tier, which Time Warner says would be expensive.

The NFL Network is about two years old, but only began broadcasting live games this year. In addition to the Texas Bowl and another college bowl game, the Insight Bowl between Minnesota and Texas Tech on Dec. 29, the network is carrying eight live NFL games this year.

Frank Lautenberg, a Democratic Senator from New Jersey who had urged both sides to find a way to show the game, said in a statement Friday that both sides "moved in good faith" to reach an accommodation.

Niners WR Bryant suspended for substance-abuse policy violation

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Receiver Antonio Bryant was suspended for four games Friday for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, dealing a blow to the San Francisco 49ers' faint playoff hopes.

Bryant has 40 catches for a team-high 723 yards and three touchdowns this season after signing a four-year, \$15 million deal as a free agent last summer.

But Bryant was arrested Nov. 19 on charges of reckless and drunken driving after his orange Lamborghini was seen speeding down a freeway.

Bryant also was combative with the police, refusing to leave his car and eventually forcing officers to use leather restraints to keep him in a patrol car.

Coach Mike Nolan wouldn't say whether Bryant's suspension was related to his arrest, and the NFL doesn't comment on details of such suspensions.

"He takes responsibility for it," Nolan said. "He was not argumentative in any way. He was disappointed for a number of reasons. The first one was that he felt he let his team down at a crucial time. ... He did not blame it on anyone else."

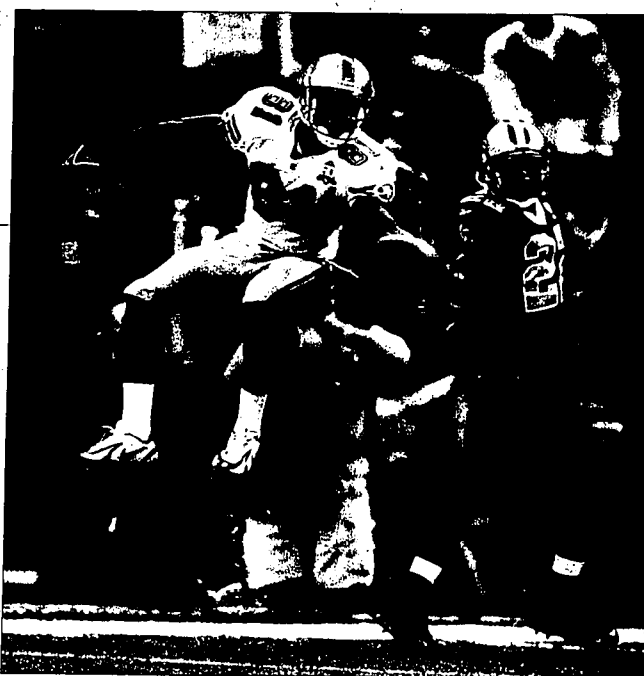
Though Bryant has fewer catches than Frank Gore and Anzures, he has been the 49ers' No. 1 receiver and best deep threat, averaging 18.3 yards per catch.

The 49ers (6-8) would win the NFC West if they win their final two games and the Seattle Seahawks lose their final two.

But San Francisco, which hosts Arizona on Sunday in its home finale, will have to do it without Bryant, who missed practice Thursday and Friday for undisclosed personal reasons.

If the 49ers don't make the playoffs, Bryant also must miss his first two games next season.

He is eligible to participate in offseason training and 2007 preseason games.



San Francisco wide receiver Antonio Bryant (81) reaches for a pass as New Orleans Saints defender Fred Thomas (12) looks on in the first half of their NFL football game in New Orleans on Dec. 3.

Miami has an '06 theme — inconsistency

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — The past two weeks have been a microcosm of the Miami Dolphins' season.

On Dec. 10, they beat the New England Patriots, 21-0.

This past Sunday, they lost to the Buffalo Bills, 21-0.

"This is a week-to-week, a day-to-day job," center Rex Hadnot said. "You're only as good as your last game, and obviously, we didn't perform well in our last game."

Inconsistency has been the most consistent theme for the Dolphins in 2006, which will wind up being the franchise's fifth consecutive year without a playoff berth. Even though these final games are moot now, the Dolphins say they'll spend the season's last two weeks trying to fix what went wrong.

"There have certainly been times this year when we've shown that and proved that we can play with consistency and play winning football," Dolphins coach Nick Saban said. "It's certainly what we'd like to end the season with. ... Every part of our team has played well at some point and time."



Saban's first two seasons in Miami have been filled with wild ebbs and flows.

The Dolphins — who were 4-12 the year before Saban arrived from Louisiana State — started the 2005 season 3-7 before ending the year with a six-game winning streak, even though plays were little to play for besides pride.

This year followed a similar script. Miami — which hosts the New York Jets on Christmas night — was 1-6 at the start, then went on a four-game winning streak to revive what were slim chances at reaching the postseason, then were dreadful last week in Buffalo and officially fell out of the playoff picture.

"We gave the season away," Dolphins defensive end Jason Taylor said. "We threw it away." It would be easier for Taylor to stomach if the Dolphins were lacking in talent.

Clearly, though, that's not the case. With Taylor — a defensive player of the year candidate — and fellow Pro Bowler Zach Thomas leading the way, the Dolphins have allowed the third-fewest yards in the NFL. Having a defense playing that well makes the

equation simple: When the Dolphins score, they win.

Miami is 4-1 when scoring 21 points or more, 2-7 when scoring less than 20. The Dolphins' offense ranks 24th in yards per play and tied for 27th in the 32-team league in touchdowns and is 28th in average scoring per game.

"We showed glimpses of some of the things we're capable of," running back Ronnie Brown said. "And other times, little mental mistakes or little things kind of get us backed up and put us in bad situations. It's tough to understand why it happened that way this year."

Even the Dolphins' opponents seem a little puzzled. "They present problems in every area," Jets coach Eric Mangini said. "As soon as you turn the tape on, there's no question how good they are."

The two best teams on the Dolphins' schedule to date are Chicago, which has wrapped up the top seed in the NFC playoffs with a 12-2 record, and New England, which is 10-4 and closing in on another AFC East title.

Miami's two biggest victory margins this season came against those elite teams, first a 31-13 stunner at Chicago on Nov. 5, then the 21-0 home blank-

ing of New England five weeks later. The Bears' other loss so far this year was a four-point defeat at New England, while the Patriots' other three losses came by a combined 20 points — one less than the margin the Dolphins enjoyed.

"We've been able to beat the best in the league, on the road, and we've lost some games that we really shouldn't have," Dolphins quarterback Joey Harrington said. "I think this Monday gives us a chance to show what kind of team we are on national television on Christmas night."

If the season ended after Week 15, the Dolphins would have played only two playoff qualifiers — the Bears and Patriots. Miami finishes the season at Indianapolis.

"They've gone 4-7 against everyone else, a record that includes a 17-13 road loss to Houston (1-10) and a 34-24 home defeat against Green Bay (7-8). And these are the games the Dolphins will likely remember most after this season, not the wins over the Bears and Patriots.

... but ourselves." Hadnot said. "So we can be as mad as we want to be, but the best person to be mad at is the one in the mirror."

'In Tressel We Trust'



Ohio State head coach Jim Tressel leads the Buckeyes back on the field after halftime of the football game against Michigan in Columbus, Ohio, on Nov. 18.

Answers elusive for why Tressel is so good in big games

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The makeshift pep band, with crooked letters and bright colors like a high-school band, was led aloft in a twilight chant of No. 1 Ohio State's 42-38 victory over archrival and second-ranked Michigan.

"In Tressel We Trust," it said. So successful is the Buckeyes' sweater-vested, nose-to-the-bleed coach, that he has become a football deity in a state where people get nervous when approaching the backup light and make pilgrimages to the grave of Woody Hayes.

After winning four Division I-AA titles in 15 years at Youngstown State, Tressel has put together a remarkable record of 62-13 in six years at Ohio State with a national championship in 2002. He has another in his sights when the Buckeyes meet Florida in the BCS National championship game on Jan. 8.

It's not just the people who greet each other with the O-I-I-O cheer who think Tressel might be the best coach — big game, any game — in America.

Has the model program right now, said Florida head Urban Meyer. "I think it at Youngstown State and now he's doing it at Ohio State, so there's a lot of consistency there. That's not just me but all coaches admire."

The numbers don't lie. Tressel's Buckeyes are 11-0 against Associated Press Top 25 teams, 8-2 against teams ranked in the top 10, 4-1 in bowl

games — and the crowning achievement for fans who live for that one Saturday in November — 5-1 against those big, bad Wolverines.

"Look when Jim's down here. My God, almighty, it's unbelievable," said former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce, who hired Tressel as an assistant in 1983. "Jim is a great coach. Everything has worked out great."

Tressel doesn't declare himself a genius, like some college coaches, or throw all the credit to the mother lode of talent he brings in each year.

"The first thing that we attribute any of our success to is we've got pretty good players," he said, as if reading from cue cards. "Our coaches do an excellent job. And the ball has bounced right at times." Tressel is as flashy as your grandfather's old slippers and just about as hip. Reporters joke that he wears a necktie with his pajamas. He speaks in his own circular logic language, and can sidestep a touchy topic like a veteran congressman. Many believe he is perfectly suited for a career in politics: clean-cut, avoids controversy, says little, content to work behind the scenes.

His players respect him because he allows them some freedom. "There's nothing you can do other than set rules and guidelines because players are going to have fun. You can't put a stronghold on them all the time," said Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Troy Smith. "I think Tress does an

exceptional job at knowing when to pull on the reins and when to let the guys go."

Tressel frequently acknowledges that he's clueless about modern technology, pop culture and many of the other matters that interest the 18-to-22-year-old males who fill his locker room. Yet he not only gets them to come to Ohio State, he brings out their best with a cutting-edge attacking style on the field and a coaching manner that conjures images of "Father Knossos Best." He likely gloamed that epithet from his late father, who coached him at Baldwin-Wallace College from 1968-71.

Florida will be the third No. 2 team that the top-ranked Buckeyes have played this season. Ohio State won 24-7 at defending national champion Texas on Sept. 9, then held off Michigan in a classic struggle on Nov. 18.

Nobody can pin down exactly why Tressel seems to have a magic touch in big games. "Winning the big game is not science. If it was a science, you'd do A, B and C and that means you'd get D, and we'd all be doing it. It's an art," said Tressel's brother Dick. Also Ohio State's running backs coach. "He's enough of a people person as well as a football person to be able to massage both of the parts. He really has the ability to see what is in this situation, with this mix of people and with this opponent, gives us the best chance."

John Cooper, fired after the 2000 season,

amassed terrific players but always seemed to lose at least one big game a year. Cooper's record against Michigan was just 2-10-1 and his teams were only 3-8 in bowl games.

Tressel always seems to find a way to win. The Buckeyes are 18-3 during November. When Ohio State won the 2002 national championship, an odds-defying seven wins in its 14-0 season were by a touchdown or less.

What is it just luck? Or part of Tressel's grand plan?

Many believe Tressel's teams take on his detached personality. He showed no emotion in the days leading up to the games against No. 2 Texas a year ago and this season that he does when the opponent has a compass direction in its name.

"Coach Tressel, if you see his demeanor, he's all about business," defensive tackle David Patterson said. Referring to the impending showdown with Florida, he added, "We look at this as another business trip. We know what we have to do."

Wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez laughs when he is asked about Tressel and big games — as if to say, isn't it obvious?

"What makes Michael Jordan great? It was great in big games. Well, he was great in small games too," Gonzalez said. "What makes a coach great in big games? Well, coach Tressel's great in small games too. He's just a great coach."

Childhood friends are opposing coaches in Armed Forces Bowl

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Long before Kyle Whittingham and Steve Kragthorpe were head coaches, they were kids running around together at BYU, where their dads were in the Armed Forces Bowl.

"We've been locked in lockers, taped to practice dummies and thrown in whirlpools by guys like Andy Reid and Brian Wilk and Golden Richards, and a bunch of other guys that played at BYU," said Kragthorpe, the fourth-year Utah coach. "We had a great lifestyle growing up."

Kragthorpe and Whittingham are still early in their head coaching careers, and already have had success. "While unable to successfully defend its Conference USA title this season, Tulsa is in its third bowl and has a 29-21 record for Kragthorpe. The Golden Hurricane won only two games in the two seasons before he arrived, and hadn't played in the postseason since 1997."

"I'm really happy with the progress we're making right now," Kragthorpe said. "If somebody would have said four years ago that we'd be going to our third bowl game and would have won 29 games... they would have said here's

the psychiatric ward, and we've got your head."

Whittingham was the defensive coordinator at Utah before his promotion to replace Urban Meyer two years ago, at the end of the Utah 12-0 season when they won their first BCS team to play in a Bowl Championship Series game.

"Well, I think we've handled it well," Whittingham said. "It's a tough act to follow. You go 12-0, you can't top that." Utah stretched its bowl winning streak to five in a row since 1999 with a 38-10 victory over Georgia Tech in the Emerald Bowl last year to end Whittingham's first season.

The Utes overcame a mid-season struggle this year that included a 36-3 home loss to Boise State. They won three straight games before a heartbreaking 33-31 loss to Mountain West Conference champion BYU in the regular-season finale.

Whittingham's first setback at Utah was a 23-20 overtime loss at TCU in September 2005. The Armed Forces Bowl means a return to the stadium where he coached. "That was a tough deal. We hadn't lost in almost two calendar years when we dropped that game," Whittingham said. "But I don't think there's any lingering effect. We got that one out of our system this year when we got TCU at our place and we were able to get a win."

Meyer now is preparing No. 2 Florida for the BCS championship game against No. 1 Ohio State in his second season with the Gators.

Lobos' bowl drought is decades-old

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Dennis Franchione calling the plays, Donnell Moore on his way to a record-setting career, state football making history.

None of them could help New Mexico get a bowl win. The Lobos (6-6), who haven't won a bowl game in 45 years, will try again Saturday when they play San Jose State (8-4) in the inaugural New Mexico Bowl.

New Mexico is playing in its fifth bowl game since 1997 and hoping all the emblems of home will end the 4½ decades of futility that has become one of coach Rocky Long's least favorite topics.

"New guy eh?" Long said Friday when a San Jose writer asked him if the Lobos needed to win the game to make it a successful season.

"I don't think there is a must win game in the world. It's important that we play well

and win the game tomorrow, but guess what, there's a whole lot more things more important than winning or losing a game. So, do we have to win tomorrow? No, we have to win."

But Long conceded ending the postseason drought would make his life a whole lot easier. New Mexico's last bowl win was in the short-lived Aviation Bowl in 1961. That bowl went out of existence after the Lobos beat Western Michigan 28-12 in a game played on a frozen field in Dayton, Ohio, with about 4,000 fans watching.

The Lobos didn't make another postseason appearance until 1997. That was the last of Franchione's six seasons at New Mexico and he had already accepted the head coaching job at TCU when the Lobos lost to Arizona in the Insight.com Bowl.

The last three bowl losses — to UCLA and Oregon State in the Las Vegas Bowl in 2002 and 2003 and to Navy in the Emerald Bowl in 2004 — have come under Long.

Against UCLA, Florida became the first woman to play in an NCAA Division I-A game. Florida, a kicker, entered the game on an early 6-0 lead, but the Bruins blocked her PAT attempt and went on to a 27-13 win.

New Mexico and Moore, the school's all-time leading rusher and scorer, were no match for Steven Jackson and Oregon State the next year, losing 55-14 as Jackson scored five touchdowns.

The Lobos lost to Navy 34-19 two years ago, with Moore going out early in the first quarter with a knee injury.

The Spartans had an impressive turnaround this season under second-year

coach Dick Tomney. The eight wins matched the Spartans' total for the previous three seasons and followed a 3-0 2005 season in which the Spartans lost eight straight.

"I'd never lost eight games in a season, much less eight straight," said the 68-year-old Tomney, who was Arizona's coach in the 1967 bowl win over New Mexico.

San Jose State's season included a near upset of BCS bowl Boise State. Boise State saved its BCS bid with two scoring drives in the final minutes and beat the Spartans 23-20 on a 37-yard field goal as time expired.

San Jose State is playing in its first bowl game in 16 years and the first outside of California.

The Spartans seemed unaffected by the snow, wind and freezing temperatures that greeted their arrival in Albuquerque.

East Carolina, South Florida hoping to avoid bowl repeats

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — East Carolina scored 61 points in its last bowl game — and lost. South Florida, meanwhile, allowed a slung 14 points in its only bowl appearance.

That, by the way, was also a loss. Both teams would like to avoid repeats of those exasperating experiences in Saturday's inaugural Papa John's.com Bowl at Legion Field, a bowl site for the first time since 1990's All-America Bowl.

It could be a significant game for both programs. Last year, South Florida (8-4) made its first bowl appearance since starting the program from scratch a decade ago, losing 14-10 to North Carolina State in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. East Carolina (7-5) hasn't been back to a bowl since a 64-61, double-overtime loss to Marshall in the 2001 GMAC Bowl — which remains the highest scoring bowl game in history.

"This would definitely raise the bar for

us," Pirates receiver Aundrae Allison said. "Going into next year, teams are going to have to rate East Carolina a 50-50 game. Going into this year, they probably had the feeling they would beat us 100 percent."

South Florida grabbed its own measure of respect with a 24-19 upset of No. 13 West Virginia in its regular-season finale. The Bulls are hoping to follow it up with a milestone win for Jim Leavitt's young program.

"It's never been done before," linebacker Stephen Nicholas said. "If we could get that done, that'd be great." The two former Conference USA rivals have more in common than just those frustrating bowl experiences, including hot streaks. The Bulls have won six of their last seven games, including that West Virginia win; the Pirates are on a 5-1 ruck capped by a win at North Carolina State.

Both teams have had memorable — or, perhaps, forgettable — games at Legion Field. South Florida lost 40-17 in Alabama's last game at the historic stadium once dubbed "The Football Capital of the South."

Leavitt also played on a Missouri defense that beat Bear Bryant's top-ranked Tide 20-7 in the 1975 opener. It was Alabama's only loss of the season.

Leavitt is far more interested in the present tense. East Carolina is 0-3 in Birmingham and has lost all nine of its games played in the state of Alabama, including two GMAC Bowl defeats. The Pirates also lost 17-12 earlier this season at UAB after losing a late fumble inside the 5-yard line.

Skip Holiz, son of former Notre Dame and South Carolina coach Lou Holtz, has sparked a revival of the Pirates this season. They were picked to finish last in their division.

SPORTS

Fans of Barbaro determined to give gimpy colt a Merry Christmas

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP) — They've written Christmas carols for him. They've sent him "trees" made of baby organic carrots and green apples. Someone even gave him a Christmas stocking.

The devoted fans of Barbaro see the colt's recovery as a wonder that trumps even the "Miracle on 34th Street," and this holiday season they want to celebrate — no matter how much the colt's surgeon insists the recovery is all about science.

The fence that surrounds the sprawling New Bolton Center where the Kentucky Derby winner has been recovering since May from his breakdown at the Preakness has turned lately into a big Christmas shrine. Its theme: the miracle of Barbaro. "The Miracle is Barbaro's Spirit," reads one.

"May the angels of healing continue to wrap their wings of healing around you," says another.

Some of the signs of devotion are just plain noisy, like a Christmas carol to be sung to the tune of "Let It Snow."

"Oh, the weather outside is frightful / But my stall is still delightful / And since I've got places to go / Let it grow, let it grow, let it grow."

"What his fans so overjoyed is the possibility that Barbaro could leave his ICU stall by the end of January, and make on his way to a Kentucky farm to continue recuperation from laminitis in his left hind leg.

"No one would wish on him this would happen and wish our father had him race and live a normal life, but you have to agree it's been such a positive feeling for people," said co-owner Gretchen Jackson. "I wonder if people have discovered it's great to be positive than negative."

Dean Richardson of the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center also is positive about the colt's recovery. The chief surgeon just doesn't see it as anything more than good medicine.

"It's not a miracle. It's anything but that," he said, sitting next to a Christmas tree topped with a stuffed Barbaro.

"Some of the Barbaro fans aren't going to let that go, perhaps. I'm a scientist, I'm a doctor. I'm not a faith healer or a religious person. I believe in the application in science and I think nothing that's happened to him is particularly miraculous."

The doctor might want to keep that to himself around the Christmas tree.

To celebrate Barbaro's Christmas, they've sent the colt a custom-made halter, an embroidered blanket, a Santa's hat, and even his own stocking that will surely be stuffed with peppermints, sugar cubes and hot cocoa.

While the get-well cards and banners will eventually fade or be trashed, the biggest gift has been the \$1.2 million raised since early June for the Barbaro Fund. The money is just toward needed equipment like an operating room table, and a raft and sling for the same pool recovery Barbaro used after his surgeries.

That's not exactly the kind of merchandise found at Home Depot.

"We are at a teaching hospital that year in and year out always operates at a deficit," Richardson said. "Help like this is immensely valuable to us."

With two fused joints, Barbaro will never have a normal gait, but the right leg is now solid enough to bear his weight. The colt had all bandages taken off his injured right hind leg and goes outside once daily for 30 minutes to 40 minutes of exercise.

Richardson said Barbaro could leave "soon" but offered no timetable.

"He's to the point where we feel that he's well enough that he's likely able to be managed in a non-hospital facility," Richardson said.

Jackson hoped Barbaro could be on Kentucky farm by the end of January. "Hopefully, he can be a stallion," she said. "That would be a joy for us to see his offspring and hopefully a joy for others."

Miracle or not, it would be the perfect ending.

Texas Tech coach nears Division I's winningest coach

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Bob Knight talks to his son every day about coaching.

It isn't always about offense, defense or even recruiting. Sometimes it's about dealing with a particular player or the media.

But one topic they discussed last season surprised Pat Knight, who will take over at Texas Tech whenever his father retires.

"Believe it or not, my use of language," said the younger Knight, noting the irony of the conversation given his father's penchant for spewing expletives. "He just brought it up."

Pat Knight will be beside his father Saturday, his first chance to tie Dean Smith as the all-time winningest Division I men's coach with 879 victories.

Bob Knight's knowledge has been amassed through 41 years of coaching. During that time he's won three national championships, 11 Big Ten titles and an Olympic gold medal in 1984.

Earlier this month he took over the No. 2 spot on the victory list from Kentucky legend Adolph Rupp, who held the No. 1 spot for 25 years until Smith, who coached his entire career at North Carolina, topped him in 1997.

Knight has garnered headlines for his accomplishments and for his volatile temper. His disdain for reporters, the media in general, is well-known. He's talked about it that, too, Pat Knight said.

"It's amazing the different aspects he talks to me about," like "dealing with the press better than he has," the younger Knight said.

Side-by-side on the bench, there have been moments when Pat Knight bounds up just after his father when he looks as if he's about to unleash his well-known temper. Pat Knight tries to calm

or influence than (Pat) has as far as game preparation and recruiting."

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him, the son said.

"You got to," Pat Knight said. "If I didn't do it no telling what would happen."

Some say the time at Tech is a second chance for father and son to spend time together. Before his divorce in 1986, Bob Knight was often on the road. After the split, Pat Knight lived with his mother.

"It's a great opportunity to have a relationship with his kids, a second opportunity, and in a different way, too," said Steve Downing, who played for Knight at Indiana and is an associate athletic director at Tech. "I don't think you can put a price on that type of relationship."

Bob Knight's older son, Tim, works at Tech as an assistant athletic director for special projects in the basketball program.

When Bob Knight was about 36 years old he gave thought to coaching only another four years. Now he says he doesn't know how much longer he'll go on, though he joked recently he's not nearly done at age 66 and "may be incapable of doing anything else."

"I'll probably coach till I'm 90," he said.

That mind-set is fine with Pat Knight, who graduated from Indiana five years before his father was fired in September 2000 for what school officials called a violation of a zero-tolerance behavior policy.

Bob Knight has agreed to a contract extension at Tech through the 2010-11 season.

Retirement isn't part of their conversations, said Pat Knight, who was named head coach designate before the start of last season.

"The more years he spends, the more beneficial it is to me because I got to learn, and I'm not in a hurry," he said. "I don't have an ego trying to push him out the door."

Bob Knight's exit from coaching probably won't end his interest in Tech basketball. He's said he'll stay in Lubbock, and Pat Knight said he'll avail himself of his father's experience.

"He's dumb not to," he said, "and like it or not, you need people like him around to be successful."



Texas Tech head basketball coach Bob Knight, right, and his son Pat Knight look for the call in the first half against North Dakota State in Lubbock, Texas, on Nov. 17.

Without Horford, Gators face tougher task against OSU

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The game was supposed to feature three of the best big men in the country, with Ohio State's Greg Oden facing Florida's Joakim Noah and Al Horford.

Tickets were sold out long ago. At least 20 NBA scouts requested seats. Thousands of students delayed going home for the holidays to see the marquee matchup many consider a precursor to college football's Bowl Championship Series national title game between the two schools on Jan. 8.

As it turns out, the basketball game will be somewhat of a two-man show.

Horford — Florida's leading scorer and rebounder — is sidelined by a high ankle sprain, creating a much-tougher task for the fifth-ranked Gators (10-2) on Saturday.

"I don't think we have any excuses," Florida coach Billy Donovan said. "That's why they call it a team. I think our team and myself personally would rather have Al out there playing, and I'm sure Al would rather be out there playing. But he's not. ... Any time you've got a player out the caliber of Al Horford there is an effect on your team."

The Gators will rely on Noah and senior Chris Rich to guard Oden, a 7-foot, 280-pound freshman who is widely considered the best center in the country and probably the top pick in the NBA draft if he decides to leave school early.

Oden missed the first seven games this season while recovering from wrist surgery. He had been expected to be out until January, but returned a month earlier and has been impressive in four games — despite a brace on his right wrist and having to shoot free throws left handed.

Oden is averaging 15.5 points and 8.5 rebounds, prompting Donovan to compare him to a young Patrick Ewing.

"Maybe a little bit more gifted offensively than Patrick was," Donovan said. "Patrick came into college as an unbelievable defensive force, a pure center and very, very athletic. As he got older, his offense got better and better. It's really hard to judge Greg offensively because of his wrist."

"But in terms of the impact and the size and the length and the ability to change the game in and around the basket, Ewing would probably be someone I would com-

pare him to. He's enormous. You're not going to see anybody in college basketball with the size of him. He would dwarf Al Horford physically."

He won't get the chance, though. Horford, a 6-10, 245-pound junior averaging 13.2 points and 8.3 rebounds, injured his ankle in practice Dec. 11. He spent a week in a protective boot and missed the last two games. He started conditioning drills earlier this week, but Donovan said he was far from ready to play.

"That's the one thing about coaching you can never prepare for injuries," Ohio State coach Thad Matta said. "I expected Al Horford to play and it's a shame he's not playing. But I do know they have a lot of depth in their frontcourt."

The Gators also have a plan for facing Oden, talented seniors Ron Lewis and Ivan Harris and the other members of the "Thad Five" — the team's highly touted recruiting class that includes freshmen Mike Conley Jr., Daquann Cook and David Lighty and junior college transfer Othello Hunter.

"They're going to have to come with their energy because we're bringing ours," forward Corey Brewer said. "They're going to have to be ready to get up and down,

all of them."

Especially Oden. The Gators hope to run early and often, testing Oden's stamina and ability to keep up with Noah.

"We're going to have to make him run and make him guard things because he's just coming back from an injury," Brewer said. "For us, we've got to try to take advantage of it."

Although the defending national champions have struggled to match opponents' intensity to start games, the Gators don't believe it will be a problem against the Buckeyes.

"It's definitely a different animal," Noah said. "We're excited and looking forward to it. It's something we've been waiting for for a long time and it's finally here. It's up to us to step up our game and show that we can do this."

Noah also cautioned against placing too much emphasis on Oden.

"If I personally just saw it as me going up against somebody else I think that would be selfish on my part because it's never been about that," he said. "I focus on only him, they will beat us. They have a lot of dogs on their team. They have a lot of bad boys."

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What would Santa Claus do?

I was late Christmas Eve, and Chris was finally making his nightly fatherly rounds. Thankfully, the children were — you know, the whole “nestled all snug in their beds” thing. And while Chris couldn’t vouch for any dining sugarplums — visionary or otherwise — the children did seem sweetly, blissfully content.

Even Blizzard seemed unusually peaceful. Blizzard was 8-year-old Steven’s white speckled hamster, and he was usually still scampering around his little glass house when Chris came in to turn out the lights and tuck Steven in bed. But on this Christmas Eve, Blizzard was just — you know — sitting there. Well, actually, laying there. Awkwardly. Motionless. Really, really motionless. Like he was asleep. Like he was in a coma. Like he was —

Suddenly that particular Christmas Eve took a decidedly Dickensian turn: “Blizzard was dead. There was no doubt whatever about that — Old Blizzard was dead as a door-nail.”



VALUESPEAK
Joseph Walker

And Chris wasn't sure what to do

“All I could think of was Steven waking up on Christmas morning, horrified to discover his cold, dead pet,” Chris said. “I didn’t want to have that happen. And yet I knew he would notice if Blizzard wasn’t there in the morning. So the hamster couldn’t just — disappear.” Unfortunately, there isn’t a chapter in the Parent’s Handbook for “What to do When Your Child’s Hamster Dies on Christmas Eve.” Chris searched his heart for an appropriate response.

“And then I had the strangest thought,” Chris said. “For some reason, I asked myself something I had never asked myself before: ‘What would Santa do?’”

A course of action immediately became clear to Chris. He carefully retrieved Blizzard’s body — may he rest in peace — and replaced it with a handwritten note.

“Dear Steven,” the note read. “Before I left the presents under your tree and treats in your stocking I wanted to make sure you were asleep. Unfortunately, I noticed that Blizzard had gone to hamster heaven. Don’t worry — I’ll pick out a new hamster tomorrow and send it to you. You’ve been a very good boy. Rest easy, my very special hamster, Love, Santa.”

On Christmas morning Steven burst into his parents’ room with his note from Santa. He was excited. Then he was sad. Then he was excited again. The day after Christmas a new hamster arrived — just like Santa promised — and Steven was delighted. So, evidently, was Rudolph (well, what else are you going to name a Christmas hamster with a red nose?).

And Steven’s dad was grateful that he could figure out what Santa would do.

Now, some may feel that the “what would Santa do?” approach is a bit irreverent — especially since it features a character whose very existence is — shall we say “controversial”? By no means am I suggesting that we deflect focus from the Real True story of Christmas, whose birth we commemorate during this wonderful season. But what would be wrong with occasionally trying to do what Santa would do? For example, to know that Santa is jolly? The world could certainly use more “jolly” these days, don’t you think? Santa is also a giver. Giving is good, isn’t it — especially when the giver expects so little in return? Santa works hard all year to reward “nice” — not “naughty.” After watching the 2006 antics of sports stars and pseudo-celebrities, I’m all for that.

As a holiday figure, Santa represents only good things: happiness, giving, caring, sharing, loving, motivating — traits that might also be applied to that real, true Hero we were just talking about. These are all things that He would do. And, it turns out, it’s what Santa would do. ...Merry Christmas!

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

An Orthodox holiday



A Matins and Divine Liturgy service is held Wednesday morning at St. Ignatius Church in Twin Falls.

It's Christmas on Dec. 25 — and on Jan. 7

By Loreta Burkhardt
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — When Mary Lou Panatopoulos delivered some gifts to her godchildren one Dec. 25, she found them still asleep.

Asleep at 10:30 on Christmas morning?

But Christmas, she learned, comes a little later in some households — Jan. 7, to be exact.

The children swore Russian immigrants, and Russian Orthodox.

The family, their mother told Panatopoulos, would be celebrating according to the Russian Orthodox calendar — 13 days later than Christmas traditionally celebrated in the United States.

Orthodox Christians inhabit and measure time by a calendar they believe is God-ordained, and with its recurring “rhythms of the year” it represents much more than the simple passage of time, said Panatopoulos, herself an Orthodox Christian.

“Through worship, and by concentrating on particular moments in Bible history, each liturgical feast renews and in some sense actualizes the event of which it is a symbol.” Hence, in the Orthodox faith — worldwide — Christmas itself is the gift.

And unlike the commercialized Christmas that’s so prevalent in the Western world, the giving of gifts is kept to a minimum.

According to historian S.V. Bulgakov in the “Mantol for Orthodox Priests” (1909) the difference in the dates for celebrating the established Nativity feast goes back to a date change made centuries ago by Church leaders.

“It is known,” he wrote, “that the Romans had — on Dec. 25 — a feast they called ‘*Dies natalis Solis invicti*,’ a celebration which served to express the idea of the sun’s constant return to summer, as if it were renewing itself.”

It was a day of “unbridled merry-making among the people, a day of diversion for slaves, children and the like.”

In itself, this day was better suited than any other for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ, he said.

Not everyone agreed. This, according to the Rev. Mark Hieromonk, a priest at St. Ignatius of

About Orthodox Christianity

Eastern Orthodoxy is one of the three major doctrinal and jurisdictional groups of Christianity. It is characterized by its continuity with the apostolic church, its liturgy and its territorial churches. Its adherents live mainly in the Balkans, the Middle East, and Russia.

Eastern Orthodoxy is the large body of Christians who follow the faith and practices that were defined by the first seven ecumenical councils. The word orthodox (“right believing”) has traditionally been used. In the Greek-speaking Christian world, to designate communities, or individuals, who preserved the true faith (as defined by those councils), as opposed to those who were declared heretical. The official designation of the church in Eastern Orthodox liturgical or canonical texts is “the Orthodox Catholic Church.” Because of the historical links of Eastern Orthodoxy with the Eastern Roman Empire and Byzantium (Constantinople), however, in English usage it is referred to as the “Eastern” or “Greek Orthodox” church.

The schism between the churches of the East and the West (1054) was

the culmination of a gradual process of estrangement that began in the first centuries of the Christian Era and continued through the Middle Ages. Linguistic and cultural differences, as well as political events, contributed to the break-up. From the fourth to the 13th century, Constantinople, the center of Eastern Christianity, was also the capital of the Eastern Roman, or Byzantine, Empire. Rome, after the barbarian invasions, fell under the influence of the Holy Roman Empire of the West, a political rival.

In the West, theology remained under the influence of St. Augustine (354–430), while in the East doctrinal thought was shaped by the Greek Fathers. Theological differences could have been settled if the two areas had not simultaneously developed different concepts of church authority.

The growth of Roman primacy, based on the concept of the apostolic origin of the Church of Rome, was incompatible with the Eastern idea that the importance of certain local churches — Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, and later, Constantinople — could be determined only by their numerical and political significance. For the East, the highest authority in settling doctrinal disputes was the ecumenical council.

The Orthodox Church is a fellowship of “autocephalous” churches (governed by their own head bishops), with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople holding titular or honorary primacy. The number of autocephalous churches has varied in history. Today there are many: the Church of Constantinople (Istanbul), the Church of Alexandria (Egypt), the Church of Antioch (with headquarters in Damascus, Syria), and the churches of Jerusalem, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Albania, Poland, the Czech and Slovak republics, and America.

Since the Russian Revolution there has been much turmoil and administrative conflict within the Orthodox Church. In western Europe and in the Americas, in particular, overlapping jurisdictions have been set up and political passions have led to the formation of ecclesiastical organizations without clear canonical status. Though it has provoked controversy, the establishment (1870) of the new autocephalous Orthodox Church in America by the patriarch of Moscow has as its stated goal the resumption of normal territorial unity in the Western Hemisphere.

— Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica

Antioch Orthodox Church, the answer to the age-old question of when to celebrate Christmas, “all boils down to calendars.”

For Western Orthodox Christians the feast of “The Holy Nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ” is kept in accordance with the Gregorian Calendar — on Dec. 25.

But for some 160 million Russian Orthodox Christians, and for millions of Christians in Slavic countries, the feast is still celebrated on the seventh of January — according to the Julian Calendar.

“Because of a 13-day difference between the two calendars, Dec. 25 on the Julian Calendar coincides with Jan. 7 on the Gregorian Calendar,” Hieromonk said.

But the 13-day “lag” makes little difference to Hieromonk. Regardless of the date, an Orthodox service sets the same pattern of liturgical worship. “In the same cycle of service,” he said.

Although the controversy over

date-correctness lingers, what matters most is maintaining “unity” between believers, said the 62-year-old priest.

“Thus, by following both of the established dates ‘for the sake of unity,’ he puts himself in line for ‘a fuller participation of church life.’” But the importance of the feast — which either date represents — can’t be overemphasized.

“And though calendars differ, in the hearts of Orthodox Christians, the origin of giving gifts is part of the overall celebration.”

On the first Christmas, the Bible records gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts brought by the Magi to honor the child who was “more than just an ordinary child.”

With that, Christians of the Orthodox faith also acknowledged acts of philanthropy that occurred during the fourth century.

Deemed “jolly” in the words of a Christmas carol, Old St. Nicholas — actually, an Orthodox bishop who

lived in what’s now Turkey — may have placed his mark on the idea of modern-day giving when he shared sacks of gold with the daughters of a poor Christian man.

The old man’s dying wish for his young girls was for honorable marriages. Without a dowry, however, his wish could never be granted.

To honor his wish when St. Nicholas heard of his plight, he threw two small sacks of gold through an open window — on two different nights.

When he had saved enough for a third sack, he hid the window for fear that he might be seen. On that night, he dropped his small sack of gold down the chimney.

And according to Hieromonk, his compassion toward little children “spilled over into Christmas.”

Hieromonk came to Twin Falls in January from the monastery of St. Irene in New York City to serve with the Rev. Patrick B. O’Grady, and plans to remain in the area for “as long as God wills.”

They're Christianizing their Christmas trees

By Corree Hart
Times-News correspondent

RUPERT — No one can remember exactly when the idea first came along, but most agree it must have been about 25 years ago. Annette Eilers is credited with start-

ing it, but she handed it off to the Ruth and Naomi Circle, a women’s church group. Margaret McLean, Eloise Erickson and Dorothy Kallman headed up the project. By Christmas, the First Baptist Church of Paul had something new and remarkable. It was a Christmas tree devoid of

secular symbolism, and instead glowing with gold and white symbols of early Christianity. Many of the ornaments — called christoms — have Greek symbols.

“I think we found the patterns in a book at a Christian book store,” Eilers said. “They are all white, with gold

accents and outlines.”

“That in turn inspired seamstresses — and those who relied on glue — in other Miss-Cassia churches, including Trinity Lutheran Church in Rupert and Rupert Methodist Church.

RELIGION

Seventh-day Adventists present cantata today

BUHL — "Love Transcending," a cantata written by John W. Peterson, will be presented at noon today at the Buhl Seventh-day Adventist Church, located on Highway 30.

The program presents the meaning of Christmas performed by a select group of vocalists.

"Admission is free, and the public is invited."

First Presbyterians will see Christmas play

JEROME — The First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent during worship Sunday with the children presenting their Christmas play, "A Committee of Angels."

No Sunday school will be held.

The Christmas Eve service begins at 6 p.m. with a family service featuring a series of lessons and carols and a short message by Pastor Ronald Matheny.

Child care is available for both services.

Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call 324-2972 or visit the church at 262 E. Ave. A.

Three Christmas Eve services set in T.F.

TWIN FALLS — Three Christmas Eve services will be held Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church, 209 Fifth Ave. N.

The Rev. Phil Price will conduct a continuing Bible Study on "The Thoughtful Christian" at 8:30 a.m. in fellowship hall.

During worship at 10 a.m., the George Haisell family will light the fourth Advent candle and Price will speak on "The War on Christmas." The Hallelujah Handbells will ring "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Days," and the Chancel Choir will sing "Breath of Heaven."

Chuck Upton will read scriptures in Psalms 97 and Titus 3:1-7. Refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall.

Two candlelight services are scheduled. Price will speak on "A Change of Heart" and the

Church news

scriptures will be Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20 for both services.

The 5 p.m. service will be an informal family worship. The Trent Stephens family will light the Christ Candle. Harry Geist will read the scriptures, and soloist Anne Neibling will sing "Gesù Bambino."

"The 11 p.m. worship will include communion." The Hallelujah Handbells will perform "Come All Ye Shepherds," and the David Atkins family will light the Christ Candle. Mark Koffler will read the scriptures, and the Chancel Choir will sing "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."

Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 733-7023.

First Assembly of God schedules special service

TWIN FALLS — A special Christmas service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the First Assembly of God Church, 189 Locust St. N., will feature Rachel Williams in a musical program.

Lawrie Kay Bolster, April Dieter, Crystal Lee and Judy McClain will join Williams in the presentation. Pastor James Finn will present a unique Christmas message. Time will be allowed for water baptisms, and candy and goodies will be available for all who attend.

Williams was named Female Vocalist of the Year (2006) by the International Academy of Music Association and also received awards for Song of the Year and Album of the Year.

No evening service is planned.

Candlelighting ceremony marks last Sunday of Advent

TWIN FALLS — The last Sunday of Advent candlelighting ceremony will begin with worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Agape Four-square Church, 181 Morrison St. The

plink candle representing "Mary" will be lit at that time. Sunday school starts at 9:30 a.m.

The last candle — the white candle representing the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ — will be lit during the evening worship at 6 p.m., which also includes communion. Pastor Gerald Nelsen's message will be "God Put on Shoes."

Children will present 'Donkey's First Christmas'

KIMBERLY — A Christmas play by the Sunday school children, "The Donkey's First Christmas," will be featured during worship at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Crossroads United Methodist Church, 205 Madison Ave. E.

A community Christmas Eve service will begin at 6 p.m. at the Murtagh City Hall.

The Christmas Eve service with communion starts at 8 p.m. at the church.

Everyone is welcome.

Elder Steve Taylor will speak at Sunday worship

HOLLISTER — Elder Steve Taylor of Hollister will speak on "The Real Christmas Present" for worship at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Hollister Community Presbyterian Church, 2461 Central Ave.

Scripture reading will be selected verses from the Gospels of John and Luke.

Sunday school will not be held.

Refreshments will be served after worship.

Elder Charles Upton of Twin Falls will lead the Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. His topic is "What Are You Looking for in Bethlehem?" Scripture reading will be Matthew 2:1-12. All those attending will receive a candle.

A dessert social will follow worship.

Visitors are welcome.

Episcopal Churches invite public to services

TWIN FALLS — The Episcopal Churches of Southeast Idaho invite the public

to any Christmas Eve service(s) from the following schedule:

- * Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N. in Twin Falls, 11 p.m.
- * Emmanuel, 101 Second Ave. in Halley, 4 and 11 p.m.
- * Holy Trinity, 229 Ninth Ave. N. in Buhl, 6 p.m.
- * Grace Church, corner of Cleveland and Commercial St. in Glen Valley, 3 p.m.
- * Trinity, 125 Seventh Ave. in Gooding, 7 p.m.
- * St. Thomas, 201 Sun Valley Road in Ketchum, 8 and 11 p.m.
- * Christ Church, 104 W. B. St. in Shoshone, 9 p.m.
- * Trinity Memorial, 902 Sixth St. in Rupert, 5:30 p.m.
- * Calvary, 201 S. Adams in Jerome, 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve service will feature carols, scriptures

RICHFIELD — A Christmas Eve service will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Richfield United Methodist Church.

The service will feature carols, scripture reading, a time for children and the story, "Emmanuel God With Us."

Gooding Church states Christmas Eve service

GOODING — The Gooding United Methodist Church will have a Christmas Eve service at 8 p.m. Sunday.

The service features carols, scripture reading, special music, a time for children and the story, "Emmanuel God With Us."

Christmas Eve service set at Rock Creek church

TWIN FALLS — A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Rock Creek Community Church, 131 Grandview Drive.

Pastor Dale Metzger will speak on "Witness to the Light," from John 1:1-18 and "Silent Night." Musical performances will be presented by Vicki Cogburn, Doh Richards, the Men's Vocal Group and Warren Fowler and Julie Briere with a violin and flute duo.

Morning worship begins at

10 a.m. Doug Wright will present a piano special on the fourth day of Advent. The church choir will present Christmas music.

Fred Cogburn will lead congregational singing with piano accompaniment by Willis Fowler. Metzger will speak on "The War on Christmas" from Titus 3:1-7 and Psalms 101:1-7.

First Baptist Church holds annual service

BUHLIEY — The First Baptist Church of Buhley will hold its annual Christmas Eve candlelight service beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday at the Family Life Center, 2262 Hilland Ave.

Bible fellowship classes are at 9:45 a.m. Worship starts at 11 a.m.

For more information, call 878-7613.

Tradition continues at First United Methodist

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls First United Methodist Church has drawn worshippers to candlelight services for nearly half a century, since the Rev. Earl Riddle initiated the service in 1960.

This year's service at 8 p.m. Sunday will feature passing of the Christ light as people first light their own candles and then the candle of the person being baptized.

Regular worship will be at 8:30 a.m. in the Wesley Chapel and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The Times-News welcomes news of church events. Send information to Ellen Thomason, The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303, or Trona Tegen, South Idaho Press office, 230 E. Main St., Burley, ID 83318. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday for publication on the Saturday religion page.

MISSIONARIES

BURLEY — Sister Natalie Ann Baker has been called to serve a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Florida Orla and O Mission.

Baker is the daughter of Loren and Janette Baker of Burley, is in the Pella 2d Ward and has received her Latter-day Saint baptism.

Recognition Award. She graduated from Burley High School in 2004 and attended Brigham Young University-Idaho.

KIMBERLY — Elder Kahler Nield has been called to serve mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Florida Tamara Mission.

Kahler graduated from Kimberly High School, where he was involved in football, basketball, track and choir. He has received Eagle Scout and Duty to God awards and is in the Kimberly 2d Ward. His parents are Myron and Dorey Nield of Kimberly.

HANSEN — Elder Gregory Norris has returned from serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the West Virginia Charleston Mission.

Norris graduated in 2003 from Hansen High School, where he was involved in football and basketball and attended the College of Southern Idaho before his mission. He will attend CSI and work on the family farm. He is the son of Marvin and Marcia Norris of Hansen and is in the Hansen Ward.

Dobson: Children need fathers

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — James Dobson, chairman of Focus on the Family, says "the two most loving women in the world cannot provide a daddy for a little boy."

Dobson is responding to news that Mary Cheney, lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, is pregnant and plans to raise the baby with her partner, 15 years, Heather Poe.

In an op-ed piece Dec. 12 on the Time magazine Web site, Dobson said such scientific research concludes that children do best when raised by a married mother and father.

Tree

Continued from page B7

The Rev. John Ziolkowski, pastor of the First Baptist Church, enjoys the thought processes that the tree seems to set off.

"We don't put it up every year, but people respond well to the symbols," he said.

In a faith that generally downplays the use of symbolism, such as the wearing of the cross, this is unusual.

"It's important that we have something that represents the true meaning of Christmas," Eilers said. "A lot of secularism has good values — St. Nicholas, for example. It's just that we've shifted our emphasis."

Ziolkowski echoed her sentiments.

"I enjoy a certain amount of 'Trost the Snowman' and so forth," he admitted. "But after awhile I seek the meaning of the holiday. I need to be Christ-centered."

Dorothy Kallman, a longtime member of the First Baptist Church, now lives in Arizona. She recalls the women making the ornaments.

"I'm not sure what year that was," she said. "I just remember how beautiful they looked."

The symbols have changed a Christmas tree into a Christian tree. The 12-foot artificial evergreen has the usual glass balls in various colors. The Christmas, however, are white felt, festooned with gold braid, glitter and

sequins. The hand of God rests at the top, and the chi rho, a monogram of the Greek word for Christ, dangles a little lower.

It appears to Trinity Lutheran Church member Dorothy Gaudin, who says she's turned off by Santa Claus.

"I have quite a time finding appropriate Christmas cards," she admitted. "I want to have Christ's birth be the emphasis."

The tree is an artificial one now, but Cavener recalled the days when church members would drive out to the hills and choose a large pine tree.

The late Olga Jarolimke was a driving force behind the Styrofoam-and-gold

Christmas at her church, according to Cavener. Even when age kept her from climbing a ladder, Jarolimke would direct the placement of each ornament with her easygoing voice.

"She was a very lovely person," said DeLaris Thickett, a friend of Jarolimke's. "That project was her baby — back in 1965; her special project. The Dorcas Society made the ornaments. Olga made us a diagram to follow so we could get each one in the right place when she couldn't be there. Yes, we really do miss her."

For those who believe the commercialization of the holiday, these churches offer hope. Christ still gets the spotlight there.



The bary hangs near the center height of the Christmas tree, in silence it speaks of praise to God.

What it means

- What are the symbols? The First Baptist Church of Paul provides these definitions:
1. Alpha and omega: The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which signify that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things (Revelation 1:8)
 2. Bell: A bell calling people to worship symbolizes the priority of the things of God over the secular.
 3. Bible, open: The word of God.
 4. Butterfly: Symbol of the resurrection and eternal life. As the butterfly leaves the pupa and soars upward with a new body, so through Jesus Christ are his followers borne home to a new life.
 5. Cup: A symbol of the blood of Christ and for the sacrament of Holy Communion.
 6. Chi rho: A monogram of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ.
 7. Christmas rose: Symbol of the reality of messianic prophecy — a white hardy rose that blooms at Christmas.
 8. Circle and triangle: Suggests the eternity of the Trinity.
 9. Anchor cross: Used by the early Christians in the catacombs.
 10. Budded cross: It suggests the young or immature Christian.
 11. Cross and crown: These symbolize the reward of the faithful in the life after death to those who believe in Christ. (Revelation 2:10)
 12. Cross Pattee: Resembles the Maltese cross. It's a form of the cross used widely for decorative purposes.
 13. Daisy: Conventionalized, symbol of the innocence of the Holy Child.
 14. Dove: The dove expressed innocence and purity. It signifies the Holy Spirit and

15. Fish: A secret sign used by the early persecuted Christians to designate themselves as believers in Jesus. The initials of the Greek words for Jesus Christ, God's son, Savior, spell the Greek word for fish.
16. Fleur-de-lis: One of the most popular symbols for Mary.
17. Lamb: The blood of a lamb without blemish was contended by God to be sprinkled on the doorposts of Hebrew homes in Egypt so his destroying angel might pass over and spare Israel. This was memorialized in the Passover festival. In the New Testament the lamb is often used figuratively to symbolize Christ and his sacrifice.
18. Lamp: A symbol for the word of God, probably originating from Psalms 119:105: "The Word is a lamp unto my feet."
19. Manger: Suggestive of the simplicity of poverty surrounding the birth of Jesus and typical of his life.
20. Shamrock (or clover): The prominent three leaves make the clover an easily understood symbol of the Trinity.
21. Shell with drops of water: A symbol of our Lord's baptism.
22. Star, epiphany: The star of Jacob in Numbers 24:17 finds its fulfillment in the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles.
23. Torch burning: As a Christian symbol of light, it signifies witnessing for Christ. "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16).
24. Trumpet: Symbol for the day of judgment, the resurrection, and the call to worship.
25. Harp: The symbol for music, especially that rendered in praise of God.

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Prime real estate?

Selling closed houses of worship a difficult job for pastors

MILWAUKEE (AP) — For sale: a charming, well-maintained building with high ceilings and classic architecture. Enjoy 38,000 square feet of space on a sprawling 14.25-acre lot. Minutes from downtown. Altars, bells and stained glass not included. Asking price: \$4 million.

Population shifts, declining Mass attendance and a shortage of priests in many areas have forced Roman Catholic leaders to consolidate parishes and sell off churches.

But selling a house of worship is no easy task. Pastors must placate parishioners upset by the sale and find a buyer who will respect the building's history.

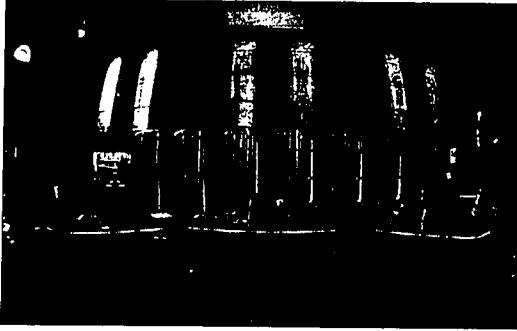
Parishioners in Pittsburgh were riled in 1996 when the former St. John the Baptist Church became The Church Brew Works, a restaurant that brews beer near where an altar once stood.

"The issue wasn't the beer," said Ronald P. Lengwin, spokesman for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. "The issue was that we were told by the parish all sacred items had been removed before the sale. We found out later they had not been removed."

Two of Milwaukee's 216 Catholic churches are on the market. Eight have been sold since 2000. Three of Madison's 134 Catholic churches are for sale after parishes merged, according to Brent King, spokesman for the Diocese of Madison.

Churches nationwide are undergoing similar changes.

"The Catholic Archdiocese of Boston put 60 churches up for sale in 2004, many of which were converted into condominiums. The North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church in Marion, Ind., has sold 39 churches in



A fish-eye lens photo of beer storage tanks in front of a stained-glass window in The Church Brew Works in Pittsburgh. Parishioners were riled when the former St. John the Baptist Church became The Church Brew Works, a restaurant that brews beer near the spot where an altar once stood.

the past 14 years.

Most churches are sold to other denominations with growing membership. But in some cases, religious leaders have been forced to seek buyers in the commercial market. St. Stephen Catholic Church in Milwaukee, built in 1847, sits about a mile from the Milwaukee airport and faces an adult lounge and a parking lot. The Rev. Richard Liska placed a "For Sale By Owner" sign in front of his brown brick church three years ago.

"His parish hopes to relocate to a more appropriate setting, but Liska acknowledged the move could be hard for families who have celebrated baptisms, weddings and funerals there for generations."

"Part of the reason to relocate is to go to more of a people setting rather than an industrial or commercial setting," Liska said. "Still, I think

parishioners would lament. When something has been a part of your life for a long time, there's lament."

Also, buyers are often intimidated by the cost of adapting a church for residential or commercial use, religious leaders said. The buildings tend to have high heating and cooling costs because of their towering ceilings and large open spaces.

And sales restrictions can limit the pool of prospective buyers, Liska said.

"We would not sell the property to anyone who would be using it for a purpose contrary to the nature, purpose or morality of a church — an abortion clinic, maybe, a gentlemen's club," he said.

Church officials typically hire real estate agents or rely on worshippers to spread news of the sale. But one

Internet-savvy congregation in central Indiana used eBay last year to sell its church to a Florida man who planned to convert it into a summer home. The 7,000-square-foot church sold for \$40,000. His name was Randy Davis, who expected it would fetch only \$5,000 to \$15,000 because it was in Redkey, a little-known community of 1,200.

Liska has worked with real estate agents, but he's hoping his "For Sale" sign will be as effective as a similar one in front of the former Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in Ellison Bay.

Carole Linden, a retired construction worker and occasional artist, spotted that sign as she drove by.

"It just seemed like a great piece of property," she said. "It's a magnificent piece of construction."

Religious games and toy makers see chance for growth

BOSTON (AP) — The "crazy, crazy Jewish fun" of Kosherland looks a lot like the board game Candy Land, except getting fishy substitutes for visits to the Ice Cream Sea.

In Catholic-opoly, like monopoly, the job is to bankrupt your opponents. The difference is it's done "in a nice, fun way."

And role-playing can get pretty realistic with the Biblical Action Figure of Job, which comes complete with bolts.

The market religious board games and toys like these is tiny, and a bit quirky. But sales numbers indicate demand is growing as families demand wholesome entertainment, selections expand and the Internet gives greater access to retailers.

Abe Blumberger of Jewish Educational Toys said people are much more willing to buy religious toys since he helped create Kosherland in 1995. His game is now offered on UrbanOutfitters.com.

"I think there's a recognition there's a small niche out there," Blumberger said.

Statistics on sales of religious games are hard to find. However, retail sales of inspirational gifts and merchandise, which includes religious toys and games, were an estimated \$1.9 billion in 2005, an 11.8 percent increase from the previous year, according to an April report by Packaged Facts, the publishing arm of MarketResearch.com.

The report projected 26.3 percent growth to \$2.4 billion in sales in the gifts and merchandise sector by 2010.

The games and toys cover a variety of faiths, from Islam to Mormonism, and include Risk-style games such as Missionary Conquest and talking plush dolls, including the smiling and sneaker-wearing Pray-With-Mantis.

In the Muslim "Race to the Kaabah," players advance by learning the meaning of the 99 names of Allah.

Kosherland teaches about Jewish dietary law, requiring, for instance, that players move backward if they mix milk with meat. In the Mormon game Mortality,



The Biblical Action Figure of Job, which comes complete with bolts, is part of a tiny, and quirky, market for religious games and toys.

good decisions help a player acquire "testimonies," which strengthen his faith and help him endure life's trials.

Many of the games were made by people with little or no toy-making experience who were inspired by deep religious conviction and an idea that wouldn't let go.

Cliff Rockwood of Tyngsborough, developed "Toby Huggables" because he wanted a doll for his daughter that reflected his family's spiritual values. Using informal gatherings with friends as market research, he and his wife developed "talking Esther, Moses and Jesus dolls" and have sold "tens of thousands," though Rockwood declined to be more specific.

Rebecca Sachs Norris of Merrimack College in North Andover and Nikki Bradford-Fralk of Iowa State University co-authored a paper on religious games and toys, which they say can be a powerful part of instilling values.

But they also worry about whether children can handle some of the more serious and complex messages the games try to send.

"These aren't trivial," Norris said. "They're really aren't."

In some games, for instance, the losers don't reach enlightenment or heaven, Norris said. Missionary Conquest awards extra points to players who are martyred by stoning as they try to establish missions in the Middle East.

Episcopal leader says Virginia vote doesn't mean a break-up

NEW YORK (AP) — The Episcopal Church is splintering, despite a decision by several Virginia parishes to leave and join Anglican conservatives, the head of the church said Monday.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said the parishes' move would not encourage

other parishes to align with Nigeria's Anglican Archbishop Peter Akinola, who has called the church's growing acceptance of gay relationships a "satanic attack."

"This is a handful of congregations of a total of nearly 7,200, the vast majority of which are engaged in healthy

and vital ministry," Jefferts Schori said Monday, a day after six Virginia parishes, including two of the state's most prominent, announced they would break away.

Four other Virginia parishes previously left, and two more will decide soon whether to do likewise, according to

parish leaders.

The Episcopal Church, the U.S. wing of the global Anglican Communion, has been under pressure from traditionalists at home and abroad since the 2003 consecration of the first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

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THURSDAY BOARD MEETING & BIBLE STUDY @ 7:30PM

FRIDAY NIGHT @ 7:30PM
Couples Bible Study

SATURDAY MORNING @ 7:30AM
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COMICS

B.C. By Johnny Hart

HAI! A JESUC DOLL! WHATS HE COMING HERE?
WELL, THING IS HIS BIRTHDAY, YOU KNOW.
WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT?
I READ IT SOMEWHERE.
OH, LOOK... A LITTLE TEAR! NOW, WHY WOULD THE SO-CALLED PRINCE OF PEACE WEEP DURING THE "WINTER RECESS" HOLIDAY SEASON?
HEH... WHY INDEED?

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

I THOUGHT THE KIDS WERE GOING TO BE SO GREENY THIS CHRISTMAS. WHAT HAPPENED?
I THINK IT WAS THE SORRY ABOUT YOUR OLD RADIO-CONTROLLED AIRPLANE THAT GOT THROUGH TO THEM.
THAT WAS SO MOVING, SO SWEET, SO BURNING.
WHATEVER IT HAPPENED TO, I HOPE THAT AIRPLANE!
HOW WOULD I KNOW? I MADE THE WORSE THING UP.

Baldo By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

POF!

Brevity By Guy & Rod

SODDY BREVITY!
DRIED UP CORN!
IT WASN'T UNTIL YEARS LATER THAT ANYONE WOULD THINK TO POP IT.

Dilbert By Scott Adams

I HEARD THAT THE GUY YOU VOTED FOR JUST CONFESSED TO HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH A SOUTRELL.
SHUT UP. THE GUY YOU VOTED FOR IS BEING SUED FOR CHOKING HIS SECRETARY.
IN SOME COUNTRIES THEY DON'T GET A CHOICE OF WHO TO VOTE FOR.
I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.

Doonesbury By Gary Trudeau

ALL HMM CARDS LEFT AND BEEN...
DO THAT...
BOYFRIEND...
DON'T WORRY...
I'M GOING TO CRY FOR A BIT.

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

What's this, Jessica?
Well, last therapy session.
You commented on how great my mother's cookies were.
OH, FABULOUS! PERFECTION!
Perfection... that's my mother. Well, to preserve a bit of my personal self-esteem, I made you some of my special holiday brownies.
How thoughtful!
Hmm... what is that unique aroma??
Is it... Is it... diesel fuel?
I'm going to cry for a bit.

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

WE'VE GOT HIM! HE'S OURS!
I LEFT A BANQUET AND ONE PRIZE ALBINO ON THE FREE CLOSET.
MEDICINE! THIS ONE TO THE HOSPITAL!
MOMMY! LOOK! THIS FLEET IS BEING BURNED! ARE WE GOING TO LIVE LIFE?
EACH OTHER.

Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

IRS
I MADE LESS MONEY THIS YEAR THAN LAST YEAR BECAUSE I SPENT SIX MONTHS FILLING OUT MY TAX FORM!

Luann By Greg Evans

PUZZLES!
WAKE UP! WE'RE EACH GOING TO OPEN A GIFT!
WHAT GOT INTO HIM?
THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, I GUESS.

Mallard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley

AMENDMENT 1:
CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW REPEALING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION...
IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISAPPEARANCE...
OR PROHIBITING THE FREE SPEECH THEREOF...

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

This year my greatness was Starring.
I made more cash than you.
I bought nicer things than you.
I had more success than you.
In short, here is my Summary of the last twelve months.
Me: Total domination.
You: Blah blah blah Who cares?
YOU REALLY SHOULD SEND OUT AN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LETTER.

Pickles By Brian Crane

ARE YOU THE LADY WHO CALLED ABOUT A CAT STUCK UP IN A TREE?
YES! MY MUFFIN IS WAY UP THERE. SEE? SHE HAS MY MUFFIN'S TONGUE IN HER MOUTH.
WELL, DON'T WORRY, M'AM. WE'LL HAVE HER DOWN IN NO TIME.
IT'S WORTH TWENTY DOLLARS IF THE TONGUE STAYS UP THERE.

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brad

I'M JUST TRYING TO ADD SOME AUTHENTICITY TO THE DECORATION!
I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL...
BUT GREAT COINTEGRATING THE TREE!
HOW ABOUT IF WE JUST GOVERNMENTALLY HUG?

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

WELL, ERIN AND I ARE GOING TO GET GLAZED ON OUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.
I WASHED MY HANDS BEFORE SHE PULSED HER HAIR CUT LIKE THAT.
YOU GET USED TO IT.

Stand under the mistletoe, Cancer

IF DEC. 23 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: At the moment you might have everything you could ever wish for, but in some key family matter you might be deceived or prone to deceiving yourself. Where your home or family is concerned, get the opinion of a trusted friend or adviser before making a change or giving in to a request. This is a good time to gather information, start a new study or enroll in a workshop. Next November and December your newly acquired knowledge can pay off with pleasure in mind, someone might pop out like a genie from a bottle and find a way to ensure that your wish is granted. Special favors are likely to be conceded.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Kris Kringle craves attention. Someone who has often played the part of the generous benefactor needs a break. Find ways to show genuine appreciation for those who support you. The probably good for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Set the mood. Entertain friends and family this weekend and

HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

don't be concerned if the carpet is stained or the dog chewed your shoe. People won't see past the glamour of holiday lights.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stand under the mistletoe. Your ability to attract romantic partners is in full swing most of the day. Weekend travels might include a few business matters that need a finishing touch.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Explore the possibilities. Drive out of your way to see a special holiday display or drop in to visit friends you haven't seen for awhile. Acts of kindness are sure to enrich your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get on the move. It is a perfect day for travel, sports or exercise. Make wise decisions concerning a family member. Home improvements could be part of your holiday itinerary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Dig around inside. The profound desire that stir your soul are for those who support you. The people you meet now might not be all they seem, but they could be beneficial in the long run.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Lady Luck is rooting for your team. That last minute donation can be deducted on your income tax form, but that isn't why you are so generous. Your piggy bank is filled to the brim.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Find fun with flair. Whether you are hanging bulbs on the eaves or doing last minute shopping you possess a good eye for detail and the ability to appreciate a good value for the buck.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep an open mind. The words and views of others could broaden your horizons. By adopting a charitable attitude you might change a relationship permanently for the better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get chummy with local Santa Claus. Someone who has both the ways and the means could offer opportunities or provide personal feedback that improves your standard of living.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Encouraging words work wonders. Faith in the future can make even the most outrageous, far-fetched dream possible. Hang your stocking wisely, care, as you are certain to get your wish.

Non Sequitur By Wiley

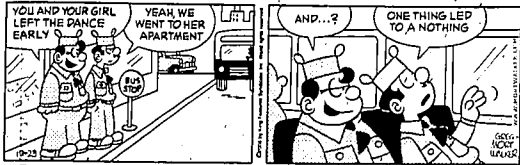
BRING A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO THE TERM "ANY MARKET GUN-GOLD SANTA RUBEN AND SATURDAY AS RUBEN AT THE SAME TIME."
SRP
SANTA FLEW UP BACK HOME, LEAVING HIS WIFE PRINCE AND GRITTY OLD PAUL SANTA CHRISTMAS
WOULD IT BE A PARTY?
NO, THANK YOU. I'D RATHER GO TO THE CARPET CLEANING SERVICE.
WANTS FOR ME?
NO, THANK YOU.

Strange Brew By John Deering

YOUR PICTURE ON SANTA'S KNEES?

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Born Loser

By Art Saftson, & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



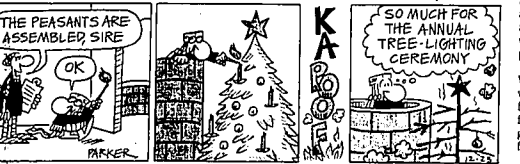
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



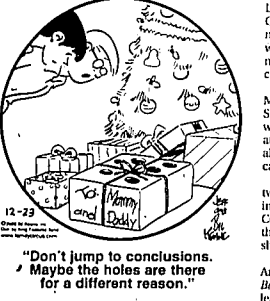
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CURS

By Bill Keane



Theft from gun collection has one family up in arms

DEAR ABBY: Daddy died a year ago. He was an avid sportsman who left behind a large gun collection. Mama is planning to sell it, with the help of a close friend of Daddy's.

This friend told Mama a few weeks ago that he thought some of the guns were missing. After some encouragement, she filed a police report. To make a long story short, some of the guns were located in a pawn shop. The thief was my baby sister 'Jan's' fiancé. He admitted to Mama that he took the guns a month after Daddy died. He had a key to the house and found the key to the gun cabinet, which she had hidden in her underwear drawer.

Mama has not pressed charges because of my sister. Jan claims she "loves" this felon. She says he is "so sorry" and "remorseful" and she knew nothing about the theft. Abby, my sister's 12-year-old daughter lives in the house with them, and her natural father is ignorant of this whole mess. Jan says she and her fiancé have been to a counselor, who told them they should stay together.

Mama now feels violated and unsafe in her own home. We find it unbelievable that Jan can even look this guy in the eye, much less continue to live with him. Her fiancé's picture is not good, and our parents gave her money for years that they could not



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

afford. I think the guy belongs in jail, but only Mom can bring charges. As long as this thief is in jail, our family will be in turmoil. What should we do?

—**STABBED IN THE BACK IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR STABBED IN THE BACK: Your sister's fiancé appears to be a sociopath or druggie — possibly both — and I doubt whether any licensed counselor told her they should stay together. The man must no longer be allowed in your mother's home, and her locks should be changed to ensure it.

Your niece's father should be informed about everything that has transpired. If he doesn't want custody, your niece should be assured that she can come to you if she needs to talk to you about "anything." Although you cannot force your mother to put your sister's fiancé in jail, that is where he belongs. By not pressing charges, your mother is enabling him to continue his criminal behavior.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I both came from "the

wrong side of the tracks," but have done better than the odds predicted we could for ourselves and our children. We have a 2-year-old and a newborn, both planned.

Recently, my mother-in-law, "Marina," was arrested by Children's Social Services and my 11-year-old sister-in-law was removed from her care. My husband and I have discussed attempting to get custody before, so this could be a blessing in disguise.

My problem is I do not want Marina in my home. My mother-in-law stole credit cards and bank cards from me when she was our roommate. Because we have babies in the house and are doing so well — I have a job and am completing my college degree, and my husband is also employed and will be starting school soon — I do not want this person in my house. We have worked too long and hard for what we have. Can you give us any suggestions? Lord knows we could use some help.

—**MEGAN IN MIAMI**

DEAR MEGAN: Considering your mother-in-law's history, your reasons for not wanting her in your house are understandable. Because she was arrested for abusing (or neglecting) her daughter, it's possible that she could be considered a danger to the child and ordered by the court to stay away from her and your house. Please look into it. An attorney can help you.

Origin of 'Twas the night before Christmas' in some dispute

This day in history: 'Twas the night before Christmas ... On Dec. 23, 1823, the Troy Sentinel published an anonymous poem, "Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas." Fourteen years later, Clement C. Moore would take credit for the now-famous poem — to the chagrin of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who remembered their late father writing the poem in 1808.

Despite the nursery rhyme, London Bridge never exactly fell down. Of the several known London Bridges, a wooden one was pulled over by Saxon warships in 1014. Since converting to stone in 1176, the Bridge has been torn down and replaced only twice. One was said in 1962 to an American developer who rebuilt it over an artificial lake in Arizona.

Garter snakes were named when garters were actually a commonplace item. People



thought they resembled a lost or discarded garter.

An elephant is so dexterous with its trunk that it can pick up a coin from the ground.

The Aztecs believed chocolate would cure dysentery, act as an aphrodisiac, and in large quantities, help you see the god Quetzalcoatl.

The George Washington Bridge to New York City is the busiest highway in the nation.

A lover of bears, whether real or stuffed, is called an arctophile.

The world's tallest skyscraper is now Taipei 101, standing 1,678 feet tall in Taipei, Taiwan. It reaches

about 165 feet higher than the former champion, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The highest free-standing structure remains Toronto's CN Tower at 1,815 feet.

"Holder down" was medical position you probably wouldn't want to have. Before anesthesia, hospitals hired burly guys to hold screaming patients securely on the operating table.

One bushel of apples weighs about 40 pounds and can yield about three and a half gallons of cider.

Revenge is sweet: We've been informed that Wes Craven, the horror-flick director, named his evil main character, Freddy Krueger, after a kid who used to bully him in school.

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

Woman poses as attorney for conjugal visit

BALTIMORE — A woman allegedly forged documents and assumed the identity of an attorney so she could have sex with an inmate at a Baltimore prison.

Police charged Tiffany Gwen Weaver, 29, of Reisterstown with seven counts stemming from the incident, including forgery, fraud, and false use of government identification. She faces up to 10 years in prison.

"It was an elaborate scheme," said Maj. Priscilla Doggett, a prison system spokeswoman.

On Nov. 13, Weaver appeared at the Maryland Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center, claiming to be an attorney for inmate Jason Moody, who is serving 30 years for manufacturing drugs said in charging documents.

Weaver allegedly had a Maryland State Bar Association Security Identification Pass with her name, identifying her as attorney Amanda Sprehn. She also gave jail officials a business card with Sprehn's name.

Once alone with Moody, the two began having sex, according to court documents. Corrections officials observed their behavior and cut the visit short.

The real Amanda Sprehn, an Annapolis attorney, told *The Baltimore Examiner* she was called to her firm received a

letter banning her from the jail. "I was out on maternity leave," she said. "They informed me they received a letter saying I had been caught having sex with an inmate — which was a real laugh."

Prison investigators met with Sprehn's firm and realized the business card and security pass were fakes. Further investigation led them to Weaver, authorities said.

Updates from North Pole available this Christmas

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Updates on Santa's Christmas preparations and climate. Callers merely dial the number 1-800-555-8355, and say "Santa" to hear the latest from the North Pole.

The phone service will begin tracking Santa's journey across the United States beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday, no matter the time zone.

The reports are customized for all 50 states; the system automatically determines

which recording to play based on the caller's area code.

Santa's elves, Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer are among the cast of characters expected to provide the phone updates.

'I am a liar' sign teaches Georgia man a lesson

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. — Craig Bruwet endured a painfully public punishment for lying to police — he marched up and down a busy road wearing a placard proclaiming "I AM A LIAR."

Brewet, 33, submitted to the court-sanctioned penalty Wednesday instead of facing trial for filing a false police report. Brewet said he has never been more embarrassed or humiliated.

"I've learned my lesson," he said.

Brewet told police last August that he had been kidnapped by two men in a parking lot, driven to nearby Macon and beaten up. Two days later, he admitted making up the abduction part of his story, police said.

Authorities said they do not know what really happened, and Brewet would not discuss it with a news reporter.

—*The Associated Press*

"IT'S FOR SANTA TO WIPE HIS FEET ON."

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Cold with more clouds than snow likely locally. High 30s.
Tonight: A chance of nighttime snow showers. Lows low 20s.
Tomorrow: Continued cloudy with little in the way of snow expected. Highs middle 30s.

BURLEIGH/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Generally a dry and chilly day. Highs near 30.
Tonight: A little bit of snow may come to pass. Lows near 20.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy and cold with isolated flurries possible. Highs low in middle 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Snow showers will come and go with the passage of various storm systems for many days to come.
NORTHERN UTAH Dry weather expected.
IDAHO'S FORECAST Table with columns for City, Today, Tomorrow, High, Low, Wind, Precip.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes monthly and yearly data.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Dec 27, Jan 3, Jan 11, Jan 19.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Dec 27, Jan 3, Jan 11, Jan 19.

U.V. INDEX

Table showing U.V. index levels: Low, Moderate, High.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for Dec 27, Jan 3, Jan 11, Jan 19.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High, Low. Lists cities like Boise, Salt Lake City, etc.

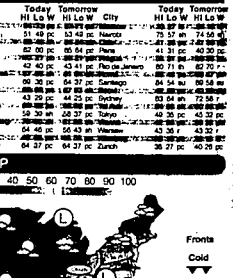
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High, Low. Lists cities like Albany, Albuquerque, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High, Low. Lists cities like London, Moscow, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY. Includes a photo of Gregg Middlekauff and his quote about climbing a wall.

CANADIAN FORECAST. Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High, Low. Lists cities like Calgary, Edmonton, etc.

Holiday travel mess continues despite Denver airport's reopening

DENVER (AP) — Denver's snowed-in airport reopened Friday for the first time in two days, but the backlog of flights around the country could take all weekend to clear, and many of the nearly 5,000 holiday travelers stranded here might not make it home for Christmas.
As planes began taking off again, passengers with long-standing reservations filled most of the outbound flights. That was bad news for those waiting to rebook flights canceled during the storm.
"Unfortunately, this comes down to basic math," said airport spokesman Chuck Cannon. "You've got thousands of people standing in lines and the airlines do not have thousands of seats."



UCLA law student Todd Garber, 23, sits down at Los Angeles International airport's United Airlines terminal Friday after failing to find an alternative connecting flight from Denver to St. Louis to visit his parents.

Denver International, the nation's fifth-busiest airport, closed to all flights Wednesday when a blizzard buried the city in 2 feet of snow, closing schools, offices and stores at the very height of the Christmas rush and stopping the mail, too.
An estimated 4,700 travelers canceled out at the airport Wednesday night, and close to 2,000 spent a second night on the hard floors and a few coats, according to the AAA.

front of long lines at ticket counters Friday morning.
Christmas 2006 will provide travel nightmare stories for years to come.
Albuquerque, N.M., resident Alan Kuhn met another stranded passenger, Denise Brien, in Denver and they organized a group to rent a van to run back and forth to downtown hotels.
On Friday, they decided they were standing in their last line.
"Yesterday, I couldn't get Frontier. I couldn't get on the

Web site and I couldn't get them on the phone," Kuhn said. "And that's when we said, 'If we can't get a flight today, we're going to drive.' The roads are open, the sun is out."
The delays at Denver had a ripple effect across the country.
At Chicago's O'Hare Airport, more than 100 flights were canceled by midmorning Friday. Passengers were told to expect arrival and departure delays averaging an hour.
At Hartford's Jackson Atlanta International Airport, twin brothers Leonardo and Lincoln Filogonio, 20, of Brazil, were turned away from a Delta flight to Denver on Thursday night and had little hope of getting back on schedule.
"We're going back every two hours to check and they're telling us that our flight is delayed over and over," Leonardo said.
In Denver, flights started from two of the airport's six runways, and two more runways were expected to be opened by snow by 6 p.m. United, the biggest airline in Denver, said it expected to resume one-third of its schedule Friday and the full schedule Saturday.
Airlines officials tried to explain to unhappy travelers at the airport that they cannot simply bring in extra planes to clear the backlog.
"When we get an airplane, we run it 10 hours a day every day," said Frontier spokesman Joe Hodas. "It's not like we can decide Dayton's not important and just pull some planes from there."

Todd Garber, a law student at UCLA, fumed at Los Angeles International Airport after his flight to St. Louis was canceled because it had a stop in Denver. "Next time I'm going to go through Phoenix," he grumbled.
The trend exemplifies the creative ways Cuban families are seeking to stay connected, despite the restrictions on travel and exports imposed by the governments on both sides of the Florida Straits, said Cuban-American activist Ramon Saul Sanchez.
"Fortunately, people try to

Cuban exiles send gifts home through Canadian Web site

MIAMI (AP) — A small but growing number of Cubans in South Florida are getting around the U.S. embargo that limits what can be sent to the communist island by sending their Christmas gifts through foreign Internet sites.
At least one Canadian Web site, www.Cubamax.com, allows people to ship items such as beef, jams and even deodorant to relatives in Cuba. While the gifts aren't the I-Pods and Sony PlayStations that Americans crave, they are much appreciated by Cubans who earn an average of \$10 to \$15 a month and often struggle to put enough food on the table.
The trend exemplifies the creative ways Cuban families are seeking to stay connected, despite the restrictions on travel and exports imposed by the governments on both sides of the Florida Straits, said Cuban-American activist Ramon Saul Sanchez.
"Fortunately, people try to

keep in touch with their families. Unfortunately, they have to go through all these measures," he said.
Antonio Cente, who left Cuba in the early 1980s and edits an online magazine of articles written by Cuban dissidents, recently ordered meat and other items to his adult daughter and son who live in Cuba. He said it was easier than going through one of the few authorized parcel services and safer than returning to the island.
"my uncle told me about it. It's better to send food instead of money. It's not so expensive, and you can help a bit," Cente said. "In Cuba you have your ration card, and you get chicken only once in a while. Only the children and the sick get meat."
A gift basket of assorted canned meats and other snacks costs about \$60. The Web site also offers electronics and appliances, although no one interviewed for this article said they purchased such items.

Advertisement for Tires LES SCHWAB. Includes a photo of a car and the text 'Updated Daily at magicvalley.com'.

Three dead after Army Blackhawk helicopter crashes during training mission near Seattle

ENUMCLAW, Wash. (AP) — An Army Blackhawk helicopter crashed on a mountain slope east of Seattle during a training mission, killing all three people aboard, military officials said Friday.
The UH-60 went down about 9 p.m. Thursday, according to a statement issued by Fort Lewis, an Army post south of Tacoma. Searchers found the first two

bodies quickly, then discovered the third Friday morning in the same general area, said Lt. Col. Dan Williams. He said the remains will undergo autopsies. The names of the dead were not immediately released.
The soldiers were members of the 4th Squadron, 6th Air Cavalry Regiment, which has been at Fort Lewis for a number of years, said David Kuhns, a civil-

ian spokesman with the post. Investigators were trying to piece together what caused the helicopter to crash. "It will be a lengthy process, but we aren't going to put a time limit on this," Williams said.
King County sheriff's deputies reached the crash site about an hour after the helicopter went down on the south side of 1,635-foot Mount Peak near

the county fairgrounds, about 30 miles east of Fort Lewis, said Deputy Rodney C. Chinnick.
The Army began using UH-60 Blackhawks in 1979 to provide air assault, medical evacuations and special operations support for combat operations. In August, a Blackhawk helicopter crashed in Iraq's Anbar province, killing two and injuring four.

Open House

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
 Selling Property? Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding time share and real estate scams, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7060.

Home For Sale

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SUNSHINE 160 acre ranch. \$595,000.

WENDELL New 2,000 sq. ft. custom home. \$189,450. Call Anthony 731-9690 Triple 7 Realty

GOODING New home for sale in Willow Sage Subdivision. Still under construction and time to pick colors. 1751 sq. ft., 4 bdrm., 2 1/2 bath, living room and family room. Asking \$205,000. Call 208-308-8804

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JEROME: PURCHASE NEW CONSTRUCTION: 2 bath quiet cul-de-sac location. Pay approx \$120 per month for the first 6 months (Principal & Interest only). Call Melinda 731-7852 for more information Western R.E. Group

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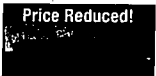
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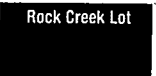
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Willow w/bonus room by TKO. 3 beds, 2 baths, 1,639 SF
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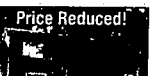
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Jerome
MLS# 98277195 \$174,794
If you need to move quickly you can move in today!
Call Richard: 731-2474



Under Construction
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98267687 \$174,900
Syringa By TKO. 4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 1,745 Sq. Ft.
Call Dave: 320-0926



Acreage
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98268309 \$199,000
Country acreage 2.50 AC. Home & out buildings.
Call Lynn: 410-2807



Wow!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98277592 \$199,000
3 BR 2 bath w/1,810 SF. Well maintained. Many updates.
Call Lynn: 410-2807



1 Acre Lot
DIETRICH
MLS# 98265841 \$200,000
3 Beds, 2.5 Baths on 1 Acre
Call Steven: 404-9017



Price Reduced!
JEROME
MLS# 98279457 \$204,900
4BR 2.5 BA, 2364 SF. Open floor plan. REALTOR owned.
Call Sarah: 948-0651



Acreage
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98278696 \$205,000
In town acreage w/water, 4 bed, 3 bath home. You'll love!
Call Brian: 404-3892



Turn-Key Operation
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98273226 \$209,000
Dining room & drive thru. Recipes included. Make it yours!
Call Richard 731-2474



Pending!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98266283 \$220,000
3 Bed, 2 Bath on Main, 1 Bed, .75 Bath up
Call Steven: 404-9017



Pending!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98278283 \$235,500
Remodeled home. Great location. Close to parks & schools.
Call Brian: 404-3892



Price Reduced!
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98266130 \$260,000
5 Acres w/4 Bdrm home-beautiful yard-super country home
Call Diana: 731-3588



Duplex
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98267455 \$282,900
NEW duplex (2003). Great location! 3 Bed/2 Bath per unit
Call Chris: 539-1246



FILER
MLS# 98267637 \$283,000
Brand New! Lots of unique features. 5BR, 3 Baths
Call Lynn: 410-2807



Horse Property
JEROME
MLS# 98278546 \$285,000
4 bed 2 bath on 1 acre. Beautiful inside and out.
Call Roger: 329-0032



TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98274369 \$415,000
Beautiful home on Morning Sun Dr. 6BR, 3 Baths
Call Lynn: 410-2807



Acreage
WENDELL
MLS# 98265877 \$424,900
5 Bed, 3.5 Bath on 3.68 Acres
Call Steven: 404-9017



Farm
TWIN FALLS
MLS# 98265893 \$1,500,000
Great Farm-Watch this for future development!
Call Lynn: 410-2807

View ALL Our Listings At: www.TwinFallsHassleFreeListing.com

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
|
Lyan Rasmussen
Owner/Broker
ABR, CRS, GRI
410-2807 |
Brian Rasmussen
REALTOR®
404-3892 |
Steven Bleibenberg
REALTOR® CRS
Million \$ Producer
404-9017 |
Diana Whitney
REALTOR®
Million \$ Producer
731-3588 |
Roger Urnenbach
REALTOR®
329-0032 |
Chris Jones
REALTOR®
539-1246 |
Sarah Hugley
REALTOR®
948-0651 |
|
Richard Bateman
REALTOR®
731-2474 |
Dave Foster
REALTOR®
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Michael Buffington
REALTOR®
948-5102 |
Peggy Connally
Exc. Assistant/
REALTOR®
732-3615 |
Brianna Hepworth
REALTOR® Assistant
Marketing Director
732-3616 |
Debbie Howard
Office Manager
733-5600 | |

208-733-5600
We Have A Passion For Real Estate!

Merry Christmas!

from all of us at



JEROME
700 S. LINCOLN
208-524-5554
1-800-278-9305
FAX 524-5565

TWIN FALLS
590 Addison Avenue
208-735-0590
1-800-440-5497
FAX 735-0548

BURLEY
144 W 15th
208-878-7878
FAX 208-878-7871

GOODING
520 MAIN STREET
208-934-4334
1-800-440-5455
FAX 934-5494

HAGERMAN
968 CEMETERY ROAD
208-837-6022
1-800-614-7554
FAX 837-6022

Sean Grays
Realtor
410-8285
Craig Bartlett
Realtor
724-1825
Robert Barola
Realtor
811-8914

Office Staff
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502 Homes For Sale

KIMBERLY Newly Remodeled 1,280 sq. ft. 3 bdrm., 1 bath, garage. Large fenced back yard. Ready to move in now! \$93,900. Call 208-734-3188 or 208-420-1321

Times-News will be closed **Mon. Dec. 23rd** for Christmas and **Mon. Jan. 1st** for New Years.

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Editorial: Cassidy Friedman 733-3241
Circulation: 733-0931, ext. 1

All of us at the **Times-News**

TWIN FALLS 1788 square foot, 4 bdrm., 2 bath, \$117,500. We must sell now! Please call 208-308-0703

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom 2 bath, 1,586 sq. ft. Great Location. 451 Trotter Drive. \$164,500/make offer. Call Susie Richardson Canyonville Realty 208-420-3785 or susie@susierichardson.com

TWIN FALLS 3-bdrm., 2 bath, 1600 sq. ft. real property. Close to golf course! \$265,000 by appointment. Call 734-4101

MAGIC VALLEY AREA Are you ready to help **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 for you! Funded by USDA-RD and IHFA

For more information please call toll free 208-737-1470 or 1-866-335-2087

502 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS brand new 3 bedroom 2 bath home in Pleasant Meadows. Has extras, 1,218 sq. ft. \$139,900. Call 208-699-8581

TWIN FALLS By owner 1993 Tamrock Look. Amazing, lots from \$100 a sq. ft. 5 bdrm, 3 bath home, 3087/54 sq. ft., open fully finished main floor & basement. 3 car garage. Sawtooth School Dist. Over \$25,000 in picturesque landscaping. \$299,950. Agents welcome. Call 208-420-2010

TWIN FALLS duplex with (2) units, 2,000 sq. ft. total. Great income property. New siding, storm windows and roof. \$94,900. 11317 Y Avenue East Call 208-720-2506

TWIN FALLS From MLS Search. Free list of foreclosures www.magicvalley.com What's your home worth? www.magicvalleyhomevalues.com

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, microwaves, oak cabinets, laminate floor, open floor plan, 475 sq ft front porch, and river rock border. \$265,000 by appointment. 208-308-4920

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, microwaves, oak cabinets, laminate floor, open floor plan, 475 sq ft front porch, and river rock border. \$265,000 by appointment. 208-308-4920

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502 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS brick house, 2 bdrm possible 3, 2 bath, 1710 sq. ft., 150 Lakspur Dr. myweb.cabonne.net/208-420-3224

TWIN FALLS New Homes No Money Down OAC. Starting under \$130,000 \$782/mo 60+ APR 30 yrs Landscaping 3 yr. Choose your site. www.TwinFalls20.com or 1-888-823-6333 104103

WENDELL 3 bedroom 2 bath home, 1,500 sq. ft., fenced yard, close to elementary school. \$165,000. Call 208-876-3077

512 Farms/Ranches/Dairies
Idaho Water Company We buy water rights anywhere in Idaho for CREP. 410-0438

513 Acreage and Lots
View, 9 or 5 acres. \$120,000 or \$85,000. View and seclusion. Call 208-543-4238

GOODING \$79,900 Affordable home for large family. 3 bedrooms and den, oversized 1 car garage with room for a workshop. Call Pat 420-2347, or Scott 420-2347, #9825562 PC4721

GEM STATE REALTY, INC. 208-734-0400
TWIN FALLS Falls. Ave. near 3400 E. 1.5 acres, natural gas, water shares. Asking \$82,000 324-5477

502 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS Remodeled 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, 1166 sq. ft. on main level with basement. Large fenced lot with RV parking. \$119,000.

TWIN FALLS New home to be completed March in Rock Creek Trail Estates, 1,536 sq. ft. Buy now - you pick colors, flooring and upgrades. \$173,900. Call 208-731-1415

514
WENDELL 3 bedroom 2 bath home, 1,500 sq. ft., fenced yard, close to elementary school. \$165,000. Call 208-876-3077

515 Mobile Homes
BUHL 93 Marlette 2x5x3 bdrm, 2 bath, attached 1 car garage, very nice located at Moon Lake Village. \$55,000. Ron Brown 208-543-6547 or 208-539-6632

516
KIMBERLY E-Z down, E-Z payments, beautiful 3 and 2 bedrooms. Call 208-410-2332.

517
Furnished Homes
Classified Department
Representatives are available from 8:00 am-5:30 pm. Monday-Friday Call our office in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2

515 Commercial Property

WHO can help YOU sell your property?
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518
BUHL 93 Marlette 2x5x3 bdrm, 2 bath, attached 1 car garage, very nice located at Moon Lake Village. \$55,000. Ron Brown 208-543-6547 or 208-539-6632

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520
Furnished Homes
Classified Department
Representatives are available from 8:00 am-5:30 pm. Monday-Friday Call our office in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2

521
Unfurnished Homes
BUHL 2 bedroom 1 bath home. Available immediately. \$575 month + \$300 deposit. No smoking. 503 12th Avenue North Call 208-961-0197

522
Unfurnished Homes
TWIN FALLS 2 bedroom 1 bath, mobile home, no pets, long term. \$450 month + deposit. Call 208-543-8342

523
COUNTRY HOME on acreage, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, fireplace, fenced yard, 900 month.

TWIN FALLS SPACIOUS 3 bdrm. W/D hookup, appls, garage, no pets. \$650 OLBDR neighborhood. 3 bdrm., 1 1/2 bath, gas hardwood stove, patio, fenced yard \$900

NEW HOME 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, appls, fenced yard. \$995 month. The Mgmt 733-0739

521 Unfurnished Homes

BUHL 2 bedroom 1 bath, close to school, Pets neg. Call 208-358-0674

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the fair housing act which makes it illegal to advertise any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin or an intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination. "Familial status" includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people seeking custody or children under 18.

JEROME Bargain 4 bdrm., 2 bath, \$725 month + dep. 208-420-1669 or 208-420-2098

JEROME brand new 5 bdrm 2 bath in new neighborhood, 1500 sq. ft., 5 min to Walmart, near schools, 768-0188 or 720-5973 labloguier77@hotmail.com

JEROME Copy 1 bdrm, 1 bath, W/D hookup, storage shed. \$395 + dep. 208-420-3650

JEROME SMALL 1 bdrm., 1 bath, between Jerome & Wendell, no alcohol/drugs. \$375 + \$250 dep. 324-7911

K & G Property Management
Many locations & sizes available. Where landlords and tenants call 208-733-5570

KIMBERLY 2 bdrm, no smoking/pets. \$500 + \$350 dep. 423-6348 or 420-1488

KIMBERLY 3-4 bdrm, 2 bath, \$500, near the falls, w/d, appls, no pets ok, flexible lease terms. 731-5787

KIMBERLY E-Z down, E-Z payments, beautiful 3 and 2 bedrooms. Call 208-410-2332

SHOSHONE nice 3 bdrm, 2 bath, good location, \$650 - 1st last & \$200 cleaning dep. 888-7011 avies

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All of us at the **Times-News** with you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

TWIN FALLS 2.5 bdrm apt & house for \$650 per mo. 735-5342

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, \$450 No smoking/pets. E-Z move-in. Call 208-420-5170

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, central AC & heating, garage, fenced yard. Call 208-543-8263

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604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

BUHL 1 bedroom apartment. \$275. month + deposit. Call 208-734-0617

BUH. Immediate Move In! 2 bdrm. Apts. Avail. Also 3 bdrm avail in January.

Key Meadows. Call 543-2740

FILER 2 bedroom upstairs apt. W/D hook ups. appls. No pets. \$400 mo. + \$300 dep. Call 208-326-4797

JEROME Casa Del Prado Apts 1 bdrm for immediate move in. Federally assisted. Please Contact Cindy. 208-324-0572.

JEROME Links Apts. accepting applicants. 2 bedrooms available. all appls. W/D hook-up. AC, high speed internet, cable, garages, IHA accepted. Contact Cindy 208-324-0572.

JEROME Praxtwick Apts over 62 handicapped or disabled. 1 bdrm, all appls, private patio, AC incl, IHA accepted. Contact Cindy 324-0572.

JEROME upstairs apt. 2 bdrm., 1 bath. Water paid, \$400 month + dep. Call 208-543-8256 or 208-731-0547

KIMBERLY 3 Bedrooms, \$695 Twin Falls Rentals 734-4334 twinfallsrentals.com

TWIN FALLS A newer 3 bedroom, 2 bath 4-plex by CSI. Yard and garage. W/D hook-ups, paid water and garbage. No pets/smoking. \$595 + dep. Call 510-534-5559

TWIN FALLS Clean 2 bdrm, 2 bath on cul-de-sac. no pet/smoking. \$625 + dep. Water & sewer incl. Call 734-8973 ext 1004 to see.

604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

KIMBERLY Duplex 2 large bdrm., 2 bath, office, laundry room, close to schools. No smoking, no pets. \$625 per month. Call 208-734-0602 or 731-8891.

KIMBERLY/TWIN FALLS TAX REFUND! MOVE IN NOW to purchased home 212-6554.

KIMBERLY/TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm apt newly remodeled. 208-308-2941

TWIN FALLS 1 & 2 bdrm apts. \$400-\$425 + deposit. No pets. Call 208-733-3669.

TWIN FALLS 1, 2, & 3 Bedrooms \$300 - \$685 Twin Falls Rentals 734-4334 twinfallsrentals.com

TWIN FALLS 2 & 3 bdrm nice lg newly remodeled. 1 bath, carpet, appls. W/D hookups \$500-731-8250

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm. duplex, DW, AC, no smoking/pets. \$450 mo. and a duplex \$450 mo. 733-3742

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm. 2 bath, very clean, W/D, appls. No smoking/pets. \$595 month. \$200-400 first months rent with 1 year lease. 734-1143.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm. 1 bath. Carpet, appls. W/D hookups. No pets. By CSI. \$550 732-5408

TWIN FALLS 2 bedroom units. 1 & 2 bdrm. No pets. \$365-\$485 208-734-6502

TWIN FALLS very clean 2 bdrm, 2 bath, garbage/water incl. \$595 month + \$500 dep. No pet/smoking. Call 208-308-0830

WENDELL Lovely, like new, quiet 2 bdrm, 1 bath in triple, large master bdrm, all appls. 208-720-7601

604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

TWIN FALLS Close to CSI. 2 bdrm, split level, appls, elect heat, carpet, \$525 month. CLOSE TO PENNING Elementary, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, stove, W/D hookups, fenced yard, garage, \$750 month. SPACIOUS 2 bedroom, 2 bath, appls, gas fireplace, patio, garage, \$575 month. The Mgm 733-0739

TWIN FALLS duplexes. (1) 2 bdrm, 1 bath, \$500 mo. + dep. (1) 3 bdrm, 2 bath, \$650 mo. + dep. (1) 2 bdrm, 1 bath, \$500 mo. + dep. No smoking/pets. 736-0929

TWIN FALLS large 1 bdrm, appls. \$375. No pet/smoking. 337 3rd Ave. E. Call 208-735-0473

TWIN FALLS large 1 bdrm, appls. \$375. No pet/smoking. 337 3rd Ave. E. Call 208-735-0473

TWIN FALLS, N.W. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 2 car garage, all appls. No pets. \$540 mo. + \$500 dep. 731-9226

TWIN FALLS New duplex 1 bdrm with 2 bdrm, 2 bath, AC, garage. 429-2258

TWIN FALLS Paradise Place, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, AC, gas heat. Newwgr apt with all appliances. Non smoking. No pets. \$575 mo. Call Jenn @ 734-0062 or 731-6891

TWIN FALLS quiet clean lg 2 bdrm 1 bath, garage w/d, patio AC gas, W/D hookups no pet/smoking \$575 + dep 208-420-9555

TWIN FALLS Studio apt, close to CSI. \$425 month, all utilities paid, 287 Flor Ave. Krista 420-4136

TWIN FALLS The Falls Apts Phoenician View Townhomes 1 & 2 bdrm. No pets. \$365-\$485 208-734-6502

TWIN FALLS very clean 2 bdrm, 2 bath, garbage/water incl. \$595 month + \$500 dep. No pet/smoking. Call 208-308-0830

607 Office And Retail Rentals

WENDELL Now accepting applications for 2 bdrm apartments. Clean & moderate. Convenient location. Appl's, furn., DW, disposal, laundry rm on premises & rent based on income. Rancho Verde Apts. Wendell 598-8244

TWIN FALLS Old Town, Downtown office space \$300 for small office. To 2000 sq ft. Call 208-734-0629

TWIN FALLS small business space, 600 sq. ft. office with 1,000 sq. ft. shop. \$695 mo. + dep. 2283 Wright Ave. 208-736-6246

608 Commercial Property

Offices, Shop, Warehouse 1,150 - 122,000 sq. ft. Twin Falls Rentals 734-4334

TWIN FALLS New 600 sq ft office w/1600 sq ft warehouse \$700 month 530-7426.

TWIN FALLS Office Shop space for rent, 3500 sq ft. plus fenced outside storage area and large paved parking lot. 2043 Kimberly Road. Please call 420-1739.

TWIN FALLS Two office suites for rent at Eagle Point. 450 Falls Ave. Call 208-734-5681.

616 Roommates Wanted

BUHL furnished private room in large house. \$55 a week. Includes everything. No pets. 293-4750

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm. Apartment. Very spacious. Walking distance to CSI. \$640 month. 208-841-0844

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm. 1 bath house, near CSI. \$300 + 1/3 utilities. Avail 1/1 or 420-5879

607 Office And Retail Rentals

TWIN FALLS Old Town, Downtown office space \$300 for small office. To 2000 sq ft. Call 208-734-0629

TWIN FALLS small business space, 600 sq. ft. office with 1,000 sq. ft. shop. \$695 mo. + dep. 2283 Wright Ave. 208-736-6246

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Southern Idaho Home Style



EXTENDED DEADLINE!

Coming in the January 28th edition of the Times-News

- Landscaping • Decorating • Roofing • Flooring
 - Financing • Real Estate • Electrical • Plumbing
 - Title • Heating/AC • Furniture • and so much more
- Be part of the winter edition! Advertising deadline is January 6th. Contact your ad representative or **Chris Garcia** at 735-3225. cgarcia@magicvalley.com

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Entertainment Armoire
An entertainment armoire is a stylish addition to the den, living room or family room and a neat place to keep the TV, VCR and other electronic components. This beautiful series measures 70 inches tall by 39 inches wide by 23 inches deep and holds most 32 inch televisions.

Entertainment Armoire plan (No. 847) ...\$9.95
TV Cabinet Package (No. C115)
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To order, circle items. Please be sure to clip & send w/ check to: include your name, address and the name of this magazine. Allow Van Nuys, CA 91409 P.O. Box 2383 1-2 weeks for delivery.

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616 Roommates Wanted

200 Employment

COLLECTIONS
Collector. Must have computer/marketing skills. Exp a plus. Bilingual preferred but not req. Call 208-733-2120 for appointment

CONSTRUCTION
 Immediate openings for rough Concrete Steel Construction Laborers. Must have 2-5 years exp. Wage DOE. Fax resume to 208-324-7700 or call 208-420-8167

DENTAL
 Dental Hygienist Part-time dental hygienist needed for the Burley/Rupert area. Send resume to FHS, Attn: A. Snyder 794 Eastland Drive Twin Falls, ID 83301 EOE

DRIVER
 Delivery Driver for gas & diesel wanted in Gooding area. Class A & Hazmat req. Call 208-934-4151.

Classifieds: The answer to all your questions. 733-9931 ext. 2

200 Employment

DRIVERS
CDL-A Truck Driver. Van/Retro/ 45 states, walking floors 11 western states. 32 contracts. Per diem. Annual pay increases. Paid vacation. Medical insurance. 208-731-0234

DRIVERS
Rich Thompson Trucking, Inc. WYATTECOT DRIVER!!!

PLW OTR. Plant to plant. Home Weekly local routes, home daily also avail. 9.8% Quarterly Safety Bonus \$1000 Sign-on Bonus For Qualified Mill Falls. Scheduled Pay Increases, Full Benefits Package Avail. P/T/F Welcome. Class A CDL w/ N End. Come see us @ 23 West 100 South in Jerome or call (208) 324-3511!

200 Employment

DRIVERS
OUR TOP DRIVERS EARN \$55,000 ANNUALLY

REGIONAL & LONG HAUL AVAILABLE CLASS A CDL REQ.

IDAHO MILK TRANSPORT 800-967-2911

200 Employment

DRIVERS
TOP GUN TRUCK DRIVING ACADEMY CLASS "A" CDL

Instruction 735-6656

GENERAL
 FT Seasonal Office Assistant/Warehouse for fast paced work environment. Computer exp/cpe phone skills required. Shipping exp a plus. Bilingual preferred but not required. Physically fit 150 lbs minimum. Some Lab work. Resume required. Call 208-733-9277 for more info.

200 Employment

DRIVER
 Now Hiring Bus Drivers Paid Training Western States Bus Call 208-733-8003

DRIVERS
 O/O's & Cattle Truck Drivers. CDL Req. New equipment. Team and local Drivers Call 208-733-2979

GENERAL
 House Manager position open at the Walker Center in Gooding \$9,000/yr. Call 934-8461 Ask for Charle or Julie

200 Employment

DRIVERS
 CDL Class A locally good pay. Call 208-733-7300

MANUFACTURING
 Manufacturing positions available with local sign shop. Knowledge in welding and CNC a plus. Fabrication preferred but we will train motivated individuals. Competitive pay and good benefits offered at this dynamic workplace. Please apply in person at 1925 Elmbery Rd.

MANUFACTURING
Spears Mfg Co. is accepting applications for the following FT positions:
 •Packaging
 •Production
 Material Handler
 •Warehouse
 •Production
 Machinist

59-\$12/hour (depending on position)
 •401K
 •Employee health, dental, life insurance, vacation, paid holidays
 •409(a) Health
 Applications available
Spears Mfg Plant Security Office 2152 S. Jerome, Idaho
 Spots is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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 © Puzzles by Pappocòm

3	4	6	8	9
5	8	4	9	1
7	5	1	4	
9				6
3	9	1	2	5
6	9	8	3	2

MEDIUM # 14

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for todays puzzle on page C-12.

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION
 The Times-News is seeking a District Sales Manager in our Twin Falls Circulation Department. This is an excellent opportunity for an energetic and ambitious professional to bring their skills and ideas to a growing organization. This entry-level management position includes responsible management in managing youth and adult carriers; sales promotions, collections and customer service. The successful candidate must be a valid drivers license and good driving record along with good time management skills. Must be dependable and be able to work alternating weekends.

The Times-News offers an excellent benefits package which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401(k) retirement, employee stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation. Check out our website at www.magiclevelley.com.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to: Times-News Attn: Trisha Mitchell P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303 E-mail: tmitchel@magiclevelley.com

200 Employment

DRIVERS
 208-734-8645 or apply in person 640 Filer Ave W, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Why leave a job you don't need it. Sell these unwanted items in the Classifieds today. 733-9931

200 Employment

GENERAL
 Mountain West Components is hiring for the following full-time positions with competitive pay:
 Sawsyers, Builders/Laborers, Designers, Lumber Estimator and Truck Driver

Experience preferred but not required. Please Call Jackson at 324-2800 or email resume to jackson@mwtrucks.com

So Hablo Espanol!

200 Employment

GENERAL
 Need money for the holidays? Positions Available

- No Sales Involve!
- Base Pay Up To \$11.00 an hour!
- All Paid Training!
- Flexible Scheduling - You Pick Your Days You Want to Work
- Shift Start Times Conclude with School Schedules
- Bonuses offered on monthly basis!
- Fun, Positive work environment!
- Great for first time job or career!

Please apply at 840 Meadows Dr #1 Twin Falls or please call (208) 733-5601 and mention this ad for bonus opportunity! Working distance from GSII!

200 Employment

DISC VERY
 Need money for the holidays? Positions Available

- No Sales Involve!
- Base Pay Up To \$11.00 an hour!
- All Paid Training!
- Flexible Scheduling - You Pick Your Days You Want to Work
- Shift Start Times Conclude with School Schedules
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- Fun, Positive work environment!
- Great for first time job or career!

Please apply at 840 Meadows Dr #1 Twin Falls or please call (208) 733-5601 and mention this ad for bonus opportunity! Working distance from GSII!

200 Employment

MECHANIC
 Experienced and energetic. Under limited supervision perform skilled mechanical repair and preventive maintenance work on automotive, small engine and diesel engines. Ability to keep accurate records of equipment in fleet. P/O's License. Halley Nursery 208-788-3161

MECHANIC
 The Idaho Transportation Department is accepting applications for a Mechanic in Shoshone. The State of Idaho offers an excellent benefits package. For a copy of the job announcement and information on applying please contact Idaho Transportation Department, P.O. Box 22, Shoshone, Idaho 83452; phone (208) 886-7800 or apply on line at this website, www.idot Idaho.gov Class 1222008, EEO/AA

200 Employment

MEDICAL
 Idaho's Largest in home care agency has the following immediate opening: CNA Supervisor We are growing and need Supervisors for various areas in the Magic Valley. This is a challenging position for a CNA with Supervisory experience. Will supervise, schedule and direct employees. Home health care experience a plus. \$10.00 PLUS Per hour depending on level of experience. To schedule an interview, please call A Full Time Agency 733-9100

200 Employment

MEDICAL
 NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY Sign On Bonus. Direct Care \$7 to start. Individuals who learn quickly and have driver's license & car insurance. Assist persons with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence. Apply at Inclusion South, Inc. 1411 Falls Ave. #205 Located in the West Gro. Business Park Twin Falls, ID 83301

RECEPTIONIST
 Receptionist needed. Computer, phone, greeting & customer service skills required. Full-time Mon-Fri, 8-5 Experience in Exccl. Duties a plus. Send resume to P.O. Box 5179 Twin Falls, ID 83302.

200 Employment

VETERINARY
 Veterinary Tech. Exp with large animals. Send resume to PO Box 386 Gooding ID 83309

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
 Federal information - free. Remember, no one can promise you a federal job. For free information about federal jobs: Call Career America Connection 478-757-2000

EARN EXTRA CASH BY DELIVERING THE Times-News

We are currently accepting applications for independent contractors to deliver the Times-News to our customers. Are you available between 3 and 6 am, seven days a week? See how much extra income you could make in just a few hours each week.

DO YOU LIVE NEAR ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS? IT'S AN EASY WAY TO PICK UP EXTRA CASH...

Capri Dr. Chase Dr. Falls Ave. TWIN FALLS	Altrutz Dr. Dorlan Dr. Heyburn Ave. W. TWIN FALLS	Applewood Dr. Duval Cr. Juniper St. N. TWIN FALLS	Aspen St. Atlantic St. Saddle St. TWIN FALLS
Brookfield Ct. Galena Ct. Stoncrest Ct. TWIN FALLS	Alyssa Ave. Caswell Ave. W. Filer Ave. W. TWIN FALLS	Crestview Dr. Sparks St. N. Washington St. N. TWIN FALLS	Lynwood Blvd. Fremont St. Alder St. TWIN FALLS
Carriage Ln. Eastgate Dr. Sagebrush Dr. TWIN FALLS	Morning Sun Dr. Sunbeam Dr. Carriage Ln. N. TWIN FALLS	Bitterbush Dr. Sagebrush Dr. Trotter Dr. TWIN FALLS	Twin Parks Dr. Park Meadows Cr. Parkway Dr. TWIN FALLS
11th Ave. E. Addition Ave. E. Maple Ave. TWIN FALLS	Crestwood Dr. Del Mar Dr. Shery Dr. TWIN FALLS	Jackson St. Monroe St. Quincy St. TWIN FALLS	Town Routes Sign On Bonus KIMBERLY
16th - 19th 18th St. - 18th in Almo - Hansen BURLEY	Oakley - Burton Spencer - Teton 21st - 27th BURLEY	Atlantic - Birch Fairmont Boardwalk BURLEY	Oakley - Contant Yale - Park Ave. 11th - 16th BURLEY
4th Ave. E. 3rd Ave. E. Link Apartments JEROME	S. Lincoln Ave. W. Ave. I. (Sign on Bonus!) W. Ave. I. (Sign on Bonus!) JEROME	Town Route Motor Route Excellent Profit FILER	Town Routes Sign On Bonus FILER

Call now for more information about routes available in your area!

Jerome: Haley, Shoshone, Gooding & Wendell: Kathy Harman 735-3348
 Jerome: Filer, Buhl, Castleford: Kelly Harman 735-3348
 Twin Falls: Kristyn Canary 735-3346
 Burley, Hazelton, Rupert, Heyburn, Oakley & Kimberly: Brad Fowler 735-3302

STAR WEST SATELLITE
 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/DFW Free Fax to 208-464-2108 Attn: Chris or email nmanager@starwestsatellite.net For Details Call 866-317-9399

SALES
 Friendly growing company has an exciting opportunity for a bilingual Sales Associate. No experience necessary. Complete training provided. You'll also be motivated & outgoing. Excellent benefits! Call (208) 429-3251 ask for Case Drug free workplace EOE

SALES
 TOYOTA sales are great with a superb new model lineup! You'll also be selling the shpest used cars in town. We offer great commissions and a 5 day work week. Start date will be 1-2-07. If you are experienced Automobile Salesperson who would enjoy working in a clean atmosphere apply in person at 230 S. Shoshone W. Twin Falls, ID 83301 733-3891

WILLS
 230 Shoshone W. Twin Falls, ID 83301 733-3891

CLASSIFIEDS
 It pays to read the fine print! Call The Times-News to place your ad 208-733-9931 ext. 2

WELDER
 Position opening for a Welder. Rebuilding of semi tractors and tractors. Experience helpful. Benefits. Must pass drug test. Burley, Hazelton, Hazelton, Kenny or Mary 208-438-6599

DRACO INVESTMENT GROUP
 CASH for Bonds or Real Estate Contracts. Call today for more information. (no obligation quote. 208-733-3821.

802 Appliances 803 Bazaars And Crafts 806 Electronics 810 Furniture & Carpet 811 Heating and Air Conditioning 812 Miscellaneous For Sale 816 Office Equipment and Supplies 901 ATVs 906 Snow Vehicles

APPLIANCES All types and models. Starting price \$65 with warranty. Appliance repairs. Delivery available. Call 208-733-0114

Buy It Sell It A Times-News Classified Will fill every need. Call Today 208-733-0931 ext 2 or visit us online at www.magvalley.com

805 Electronics HDTV, 52" DVD Player, 5.1 Surround, large Entertainment Center, 32000000. Prices negotiable on items in the car. Call Dave Kromm, 208-733-0931

806 Electronics TOSHIBA 50" TV. The wide high definition. Stand included. Call 208-733-0176

810 Furniture & Carpet BEDROOM SET 5 p.c., solid wood, new never used. List \$1295. Will sell for \$429. 420-8350. Can deliver.

811 Heating and Air Conditioning FIREPLACE SAVE \$3 like new propane gas, heats 2500-3000 sq. ft. black wood trim. \$1,600. 423-5308

812 Auctions ENTERTAINMENT CENTER with 27 inch TV, \$100. Moving boxes, assorted sizes. Call 424-9533

816 Office Equipment and Supplies DESK handmade, walnut, with glass top. \$300 or best offer. Call 208-431-4141

901 ATVs YAMAHA '02 Kodiak 4 wheel, extra clean, asking \$4000. 208-2275 or 733-0339

812 Miscellaneous For Sale AIR HOCKEY TABLE. \$8. \$50.00. Excellent! Complete. Call 208-265-6574

906 Snow Vehicles POLARIS '10 700 RMK, 130" track, 2006 miles, nice sled. 208-423-5177

820 Tools & Machinery TABLE SAW 10" bolt drive, contractors 3000 lbs. 3 hp Sears Roebuck. Call 208-324-4634

902 Motorcycles HARLEY DAVIDSON '98 FL 3728 original Harley Davidson 5 spd. runs, rubber mounted engine, on 2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2490-2491-2492-2493-2494-2495-2496-2497-2498-2499-2500-2501-2502-2503-2504-2505-2506-2507-2508-2509-2510-2511-2512-2513-2514-2515-2516-2517-2518-2519-2520-2521-2522-2523-2524-2525-2526-2527-2528-2529-2530-2531-2532-2533-2534-2535-2536-2537-2538-2539-2540-2541-2542-2543-2544-2545-2546-2547-2548-2549-2550-2551-2552-2553-2554-2555-2556-2557-2558-2559-2560-2561-2562-2563-2564-2565-2566-2567-2568-2569-2570-2571-2572-2573-2574-2575-2576-2577-2578-2579-2580-2581-2582-2583-2584-2585-2586-2587-2588-2589-2590-2591-2592-2593-2594-2595-2596-2597-2598-2599-2600-2601-2602-2603-2604-2605-2606-2607-2608-2609-2610-2611-2612-2613-2614-2615-2616-2617-2618-2619-2620-2621-2622-2623-2624-2625-2626-2627-2628-2629-2630-2631-2632-2633-2634-2635-2636-2637-2638-2639-2640-2641-2642-2643-2644-2645-2646-2647-2648-2649-2650-2651-2652-2653-2654-2655-2656-2657-2658-2659-2660-2661-2662-2663-2664-2665-2666-2667-2668-2669-2670-2671-2672-2673-2674-2675-2676-2677-2678-2679-2680-2681-2682-2683-2684-2685-2686-2687-2688-2689-2690-2691-2692-2693-2694-2695-2696-2697-2698-2699-2700-2701-2702-2703-2704-2705-2706-2707-2708-2709-2710-2711-2712-2713-2714-2715-2716-2717-2718-2719-2720-2721-2722-2723-2724-2725-2726-2727-2728-2729-2730-2731-2732-2733-2734-2735-2736-2737-2738-2739-2740-2741-2742-2743-2744-2745-2746-2747-2748-2749-2750-2751-2752-2753-2754-2755-2756-2757-2758-2759-2760-2761-2762-2763-2764-2765-2766-2767-2768-2769-2770-2771-2772-2773-2774-2775-2776-2777-2778-2779-2780-2781-2782-2783-2784-2785-2786-2787-2788-2789-2790-2791-2792-2793-2794-2795-2796-2797-2798-2799-2800-2801-2802-2803-2804-2805-2806-2807-2808-2809-2810-2811-2812-2813-2814-2815-2816-2817-2818-2819-2820-2821-2822-2823-2824-2825-2826-2827-2828-2829-2830-2831-2832-2833-2834-2835-2836-2837-2838-2839-2840-2841-2842-2843-2844-2845-2846-2847-2848-2849-2850-2851-2852-2853-2854-2855-2856-2857-2858-2859-2860-2861-2862-2863-2864-2865-2866-2867-2868-2869-2870-2871-2872-2873-2874-2875-2876-2877-2878-2879-2880-2881-2882-2883-2884-2885-2886-2887-2888-2889-2890-2891-2892-2893-2894-2895-2896-2897-2898-2899-2900-2901-2902-2903-2904-2905-2906-2907-2908-2909-2910-2911-2912-2913-2914-2915-2916-2917-2918-2919-2920-2921-2922-2923-2924-2925-2926-2927-2928-2929-2930-2931-2932-2933-2934-2935-2936-2937-2938-2939-2940-2941-2942-2943-2944-2945-2946-2947-2948-2949-2950-2951-2952-2953-2954-2955-2956-2957-2958-2959-2960-2961-2962-2963-2964-2965-2966-2967-2968-2969-2970-2971-2972-2973-2974-2975-2976-2977-2978-2979-2980-2981-2982-2983-2984-2985-2986-2987-2988-2989-2990-2991-2992-2993-2994-2995-2996-2997-2998-2999-3000-3001-3002-3003-3004-3005-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TIMES-NEWS



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Photographers
Ashley Smith and Meagan Thompson

The Times-News team consists of people and numerous part-timers who bring you your daily newspaper.

We're particularly fond of our veterans who are the backbone and glue of our organization. The dean of our crew is Harold Sampe, who recently marked his 50th year at the paper. And how's he doing? Better than ever. In fact, Harold set an all-time production record last week at his job (burning press plates), which he's done to perfection longer than many of our employees have lived.

Or how about Bob Leazer (39 years), our "go-to guy" in advertising composition who can set type more quickly and accurately than anyone before, and likely after, him. At the next desk over from Bob is Gordon Curtis, whose cheerfulness has been a tonic to his co-workers and customers for 37 years. Gordon reports to retail manager Linda Fischer, who has called the Times-News her work home for 34 years. In accounting, Linda McGuire has blended her efficiency with a calmness and steadiness that's infectious to everyone around here, for 27 years.

If you by chance missed your paper in the morning or let your subscription lapse, you've been greeted by Sandi Falconburg. She's been serving Times-News subscribers for 24 years and should be awarded a Ph.D. in customer service. Reba Davis, who manages our advertising inserts with great distinction, has worked for us for 25 years. In news, there's not a more productive, creative or funnier writer than Steve Crump, a veteran of 23 years. The husband-wife team of Eldon and Tanya Knutsen has 37 years between them in our distribution department. When they go on vacation, the publisher holds his breath.

Other staffers who have worked 20 or more years for us include Lana Hansen, Mark Richardson, Karen Dickman, John Knerler, Janet Goffin, Jerry Johns and Mary Karren.

We also have some younger faces in each department whose skills and new ideas impress and challenge their more-senior colleagues. They'll be admirable successors to the generation or generations ahead of them.

The Times-News' local payroll is more than \$5 million annually, which includes benefits of health, dental and eye care; an impressive profit-sharing retirement plan and stock-purchase plan; and life and disability insurance.

A successful newspaper requires all people, from all disciplines, to work together closely, while being respectful of one another, 365 days a year. That's our intention ... every day of the year.

Thank you for your support.
-- Brad Hurd, publisher



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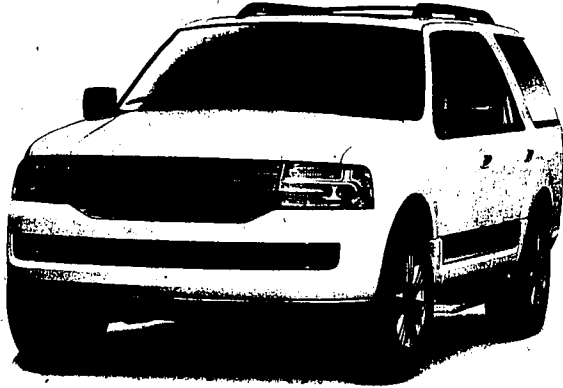
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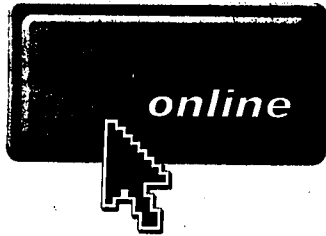
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9	7	5	2	3	8	6	1	4
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6	2	8	4	9	1	7	5	3
8	5	6	1	2	3	9	4	7
2	4	7	6	5	9	1	3	8
3	9	1	8	4	7	2	6	5
4	8	3	9	1	2	5	7	6
7	6	9	5	8	4	3	2	1
5	1	2	3	7	6	4	8	9

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1994 CHEVROLET TAHOE LE 4X4 #4151A V8 1/4 TON - ALLOYS - CD - 170K MILES - LOCAL - MAINTENANCE	2002 MITSUBISHI LANCER ES #7111A 4DRS - 170K MILES - 100% POWER WINDOWS	2005 KIA RIO 4DR #7111A 4DRS - 170K MILES - 100% POWER WINDOWS	2003 DODGE NEON SXT #7111A SPORT MODEL - 170K MILES - 100% POWER WINDOWS
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2001 HONDA CIVIC 2DR EX #7111A SUNROOF - 53,610 - CD	2003 GMC YUKON SLT #4101A V8 1/4 TON - 4DRS ENTRY - REAR AIR	2000 AVAION XL #7711A 50/50 BLACK 3DR - ALLOYS - VERY NICE	2003 PONTIAC MONTANA VAN #4101A 4DR - 4DRS ENTRY - ALLOYS - CD - 38,000 MI
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2006 CAMRY LE 9/100,000 MI WARRANTY • CHOICE FROM 2	2006 TOYOTA SIENNA LE VAN 9/100,000 MI WARRANTY • CHOICE FROM 2
2006 CAMRY LE 9/100,000 MI WARRANTY • CHOICE FROM 2	2006 TOYOTA SIENNA LE VAN 9/100,000 MI WARRANTY • CHOICE FROM 2
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2006 CAMRY LE 9/100,000 MI WARRANTY • CHOICE FROM 2	2006 TOYOTA SIENNA LE VAN 9/100,000 MI WARRANTY • CHOICE FROM 2

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Times-News

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Editorial: Cassidy Friedman 735-3241
Circulation: 733-0931, ext. 1

All of us at the Times-News with you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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TOYOTA '06 Camry LE

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Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter to Santa Section! The letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to the Times-News as "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!

Dear Santa,
 My name is Justin Henry and I am a kid who goes to Bickel Elementary. Please bring me a good this year. Thank you for bringing me my friends.
 Justin

Dear Santa,
 how are you? Are the reindeer. Do you have your christmas as the up. This is what I want. can I have a kitten please?
 your friend
 Mariah

Dear Santa,
 How are you? My sister loves Elmo! How is Mrs. Claus? For Christmas I want An American girl horse rider. Also could you bring Baby Alive?
 Your friend,
 Claire

Dear Santa,
 My name is Sadie Stevens. I am in second grade at Bickel Elementary. For christmas can you bring me an Art Ensel with an eraser markers? Thank you for being a great Santa!
 Sincerely Your Friend
 Sadie Stevens
 age 7

Dear Santa,
 My name is Derrick Finch and I am a boy. I am seven years old. Please bring me a Flywheel. I have been a good boy.
 From Derrick
 age 7

Dear Santa,
 How is Mrs. Claus? Are the toys turning out right? I would like a tame achi for Christmas. I would like a Baby Alive for Christmas too please.
 Your friend,
 Syniah

Dear Santa,
 My name is Aysia. I am 8 years old. I want cinderella clothes for cinderella. I have been a good girl. Love,
 Aysia Umarova.

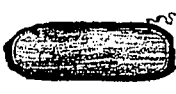
Dear Santa,
 My name is Lady. How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? Is the North Pole cold? I bet you have a beach. I bet you have a wife. Mrs. Claus is your wife. I want a little phone. I want heels so bad.
 I am you best friend am I not your friend?
 Your friend
 Brady Wadner

Dear Santa,
 My name is Makeya. Please don't tell my mom my name is Lee. How is the reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? Do you remember me? I want heels. I am 7 years old and I want a bell off your sleigh. I really like your Christmas books.
 Your friend
 Makeya

Dear Santa,
 My name is Eldar. I want a good boy. I do my home work every time.
 Love,
 Eldar Khodakov
 Merry Christmas

Dear Santa,
 my name is Leo. I want a shell shocker for christmas. I think I deserve it because I do all of my home work.
 Love,
 Leo
 age 7

Dear Santa,
 My name is Cynthia Ortega. I am a second grade student and I run a straight A student. I go to Bickel Elementary School. For Christmas, I want a game called Sight Word Bingo. I am hoping you come Santa.
 Thank you!
 Cynthia Ortega
 age 8



Dear Santa,
 My name is Alexander Escobedo and I am a second grade student. Please bring me a new xbox game. It is called second man. I have been mostly good. Thank you for being Santa a great person.
 Your Friend
 Alexander Escobedo

Dear Santa,
 My Name is Bailey M. M. how are the reindeer and Rudolph, and Mrs. Claus and the elves? I would like a dirtbike that is a little bigger than Tylers and a little faster than Tylers and I would like a bell off your sleigh.
 your friend
 Bailey

Happy Holidays from all of us at

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GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

May the joyous spirit of Christmas
resound
throughout your
heart and home
this holiday
season.
For your loyal
support,
we are deeply
grateful.

Here's to a season filled with tenderness,
love, and the best of friends.
Appreciate your making this year a memo-
rable one. Merry Christmas!

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Malta, ID 83342
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Thank you,
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WISHES AT
CHRISTMAS**

May your holiday shine as bright
as a Christmas tree with all its light!
We appreciate you and look forward to
serving you in the new year.



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*Thinking Of You
At Christmas*



No matter where you spend the holiday season,
know that our best wishes are with you.

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Jingle Bells...
Jingle Bells ...
Jingle All The Way!

Oh what fun it is for us to wish you all a very
Happy Holiday!

Wishing you all the best this Christmas and beyond.
Your visits are always fun for us... thanks!

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Thanks!

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season, we're grateful to thank you
for all the folks who have made us
feel so loved here at B&B. We
wish you all a very healthy and
happy holiday season!

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OF BEST
WISHES**

...And a round of
applause for
you, our loyal
customers and
friends. Here's
hoping your hol-
iday delivers lots
of peace, harmo-
ny and joy.
Merry
Christmas
and thanks!

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Merry Little Christmas!*

In this season snowy and white
We send our wishes warm and bright
And hope that the holiday brings to you
Everything you want it to!

With heartfelt thanks and warm wishes
from all of us this holiday season...

McCain

McCain Foods USA, Inc.
Burley, Idaho

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IS IN THE AIR!**

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Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter
 These letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to
 Classified "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!



Dear Santa,
 My name is Bryson. I'll
 put out some water for
 the reindeer this Christmas
 could you illt me have a
 ride in your sleigh? How old
 are you? What do reindeer
 eat? Do reindeer really fly?
 your kid, Bryson

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good
 girl this year. I helped my
 dad clean my house. May I
 please have an electrical
 set for Christmas? I hope
 you have a Merry Christmas
 Love,
 Ashley Parle

Dear Santa
 I am glad
 it is snowing. How are you
 doing? I wish you were
 here with me. I wish
 for a hair for my hair. I
 need it blue. A few
 kids in our class had
 chicken pox. I have a
 treat for you please
 write back.
 From
 Kait Gimmis

Dear Santa Claus,
 Did you have Thanksgiving?
 How are the reindeer? I want a
 mini-reindeer please. I will leave
 milk and cookies on the counter.
 from your friend
 Emily Mackie

Dear Santa,
 I have been a
 good girl this year. I
 cleaned my room every
 day. May I please
 have an iPod Video?
 I hope you have a safe trip
 I love,
 Fernando Hernandez

Dear Santa,
 I have been a
 good girl this year.
 I made my bed every
 day and set the table
 every day, and helped
 my mom by vacuuming. May
 I please have some
 cards and a watch for
 Christmas? The magic table
 yours truly,
 Sofia and Nathan

Dear Santa
 My home is Hunter
 I have been quiet
 when I have been
 playing I want a phone
 for Christmas.
 Your friend
 Hunter

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good
 boy this year. I helped
 Mom vacuum the house.
 May I please have a
 deck of cards, a bicycle and a
 Wii. I hope you have
 a safe trip.
 Love,
 Wilson Hoss

Dear Santa,
 I want three Monster
 Trucks, I want 5 sets of
 Sea Monkeys, and I want
 a game. Are you real?
 Love,
 Reese Wighamman

Dear Santa,
 Hi Santa. My name is Emily
 Wadsworth.
 I am in 2nd grade. How are the
 reindeer?
 I want a watch, and I want a new
 clock.
 Your friend,
 Emily Wadsworth

Dear Santa,
 I want a new
 KTM dirt bike
 for Christmas and
 a new bicycle for
 Christmas. I would
 like a new back pack.
 Love,
 TJ Speers

Dear Santa,
 I would like an Easy Bake
 Oven. Also I would like a
 big huge stuffed dog. Last I
 want some make up. Thank
 you Santa.
 Merry Christmas
 Sydney Steen

EATON DRILLING & PUMP SERVICE
 Season's Greetings
 May you enjoy a wonderful holiday with family and friends. We're very grateful to you for your support, and look forward to serving you again next year.
 24-HOUR SERVICE
 485 S. IDAHO ST. • WENDELL • 536-2223

Happy Holidays
ASSIST AUTO BROKERAGE
 275 S. Idaho, Wendell • 536-1900
 Serving Gooding County

May Your Holidays Be Filled with Magic
TODAY'S IMAGINE
 Flower Frey 731-8516 • Sondra Fisher 212-5712
 Angie Arbaugh 404-2257
 1904 Addison Ave. East • Twin Falls • 735-1250

Dear Santa,
 Our Twin Falls office will be closed to move January 26 to our new location:
 1439 North College East & Locust
 We will be open for business the 29th. You can find us there next Christmas.
Pioneer Federal
 Twin Falls • 659 Blue Lakes • 735-0814
 Gooding • 1624 Main • 934-4414
 Jerome • 1865 S. Lincoln • 324-8553

Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter to Santa. These letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to the newspaper. Classified "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!

Dear Santa
I want to tell you what I want for Christmas. I want a long sleeve shirt with a lightning McQueen key chain. That's what I want.
Love,
Spencer Parks

Dear Santa
Happy Merry Christmas I love Christmas very much. Christmas is nice for me.
Love,
Hope

Dear Santa,
I have been good for Christmas. Other people that are poor I've said for I was thinking I can give them my money. Well I'm going to want to have toys for Christmas.
Love,
Daniel Ement

Dear Santa
Hi Santa I want a long Hanita in a fan for my Mom. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother.
Love,
Superman

Dear Santa
Hello Santa I've been good this year. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother.
Love,
Caleb Rottman

Dear Santa
What is it like in the North Pole? My brother really wants legos. I really want headphones and a Benetton watch.
Love Harley

Dear Santa
I have been very good. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother.
Love,
Jordan Gibbs

Dear Santa
Santa I have been good. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother.
Love,
ALEX Bernhardt

Dear Santa
I want some lip gloss for my sore lips. They are getting cold and dry at recess. I can't wait till Christmas.
See you soon. I hope
Jordan Gibbs

Dear Santa
Have I been a bad boy? I hope I have been a good boy. I would like a Power Ranger and a set.
Love,
Connor Booth

Dear Santa
How are you doing Santa? I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother.
Love,
Nicholas Weber

Dear Santa
I have been very good and I haven't got a Redbus in school yet. I want horse slippers and pajamas. I want a hamster. I'll share with my sister.
Yours Truly
Dramia Rowe

Dear Santa
What I want for Christmas is a mini motorcycle. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother.
Love,
London Davidson

Dear Santa
Hi Santa I have been good. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother. I want a car for my brother.
Love,
Alexa Weaver

Dear Santa
I have been a little bad but I am doing better. How are the reindeers? At school we are giving a play. I want a scanner for Christmas. I hope I see you at the mall.
Love
Alexis D.

HARVEY'S Office Plus
YOUR BEST VALUE OFFICE SUPPLY

Happy Holidays

1860 Kimberly Road • Twin Falls
734-9560

Happy Holidays

To Magic Valley, Wood River, Eastern Idaho and Nevada areas: Thank you for giving us the privilege of serving you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at

S & G PRODUCE
520 Locust Street South
Twin Falls • 733-3405

Wishing You a Joyful Holiday & A Happy New Year!

Higley & Associates, Inc.
2016 Washington St. N. Suite 1
Twin Falls, ID • 733-0866



Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter to Santa Section!
 These letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to the Times-News Classified "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!

Dear santa,
 I hope your Christmas was good. I want a Tomagotchi. You can eat the cookies but save some for Mrs. Claus.
 Loves
 Emily

Dear Santa
 I hope you had a nice time with the elves. For Christmas I want a stuffed monkey. I hope you get all the children in the world all they want.
 Love,
 Eric

Dear Santa,
 I want a xbox for me to play on. I know what I want for Christmas. I want a xbox, a Nintendo DS and a guitar.
 Love,
 Anthony

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl all year. I listened in school. I made a book mark for my teacher and I share my toys. May I please have a phone, a Barbie, and a book.
 Merry Christmas,
 Jada

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl all year. I listened in school. I made a book mark for my teacher and I share my toys. May I please have a phone, a Barbie, and a book.
 Merry Christmas,
 Jada

Dear Santa,
 I was wondering if you are hungry, because my mom is baking cookies for Christmas. I want The Legend of Spyro, Ultimate Spider man and a Pokemon game.
 Love,
 Ethan

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I listened in school. I helped clean the house. I listened in school. I helped with the dog. May I please have a doll.
 Merry Christmas,
 Jaden

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I helped clean the house. I listened in school. I helped with the dog. May I please have a doll.
 Merry Christmas,
 Jaden

Dear Santa,
 How is your elves and Mrs. Claus? I want a joke book.
 From,
 Jaden

Dear Santa, I am being good. I want a scooter and a xbox. Santa my dad wants money. I want to see my mom again at my house. Have a Merry Christmas Kyle.

Dear Santa,
 I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. soon it will be Christmas just like that. Zooom. I wish I could have a Blaster 200. Thank you and I wish for my Mom and dad to make \$500 a day.
 Love,
 Matthew

Dear Santa,
 I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. soon it will be Christmas just like that. Zooom. I wish I could have a Blaster 200. Thank you and I wish for my Mom and dad to make \$500 a day.
 Love,
 Matthew

Dear Santa,
 How are your elves? you are doing great. I want a new bike please.
 Love,
 Cassie

Dear Santa,
 I love Christmas. I want a iPod, a X-box, a PS2, and a new car.
 Love,
 Kevin

Dear Santa,
 How was your Christmas last year? I bet you're a great guy and the elves too? I want a play station 2.
 From,
 Bryce

Gietzen Electric Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
 SERVING ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS
 543-4610
 Fax: 543-4611
 Email: getbdp@magicklink.com
 Estimates gladly given -
 5th Avenue South • Buhl, Idaho • 543-4610

Wishing you Peace this Holiday Season!
Evelyn Mallea, LCSW
Alexa Deetz, LCSW
 1002 Shoshone St. E. • Twin Falls, ID • 734-7714
 Individuals, Couples & Family Counseling

Merry Christmas from all of us at:
J&B Jones, France, Basterrechea, & Brush, Chtd.
 Certified Public Accountants
 714 Main Street, Gooding, 83330 • 934-8411

Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter
 These letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to
 Classified "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl
 this year. I got my mean
 a glass of milk.
 I cleaned the tv of bore
 my dad.
 I please have stuff
 to do out with. Like hats
 of art stuff.
 Merry Christmas
 Broer Lorenus

Dear Santa,
 I have been a
 good boy this year. I
 cleaned the house
 in school. I had
 clean the dishes. I had
 my money in pieces. I
 can't wait for a
 day as a Christmas
 new and day after
 Merry Christmas
 Ooohhoo! Best man

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good gift
 this year. I helped
 clean the house and
 I help half semester
 track. May I please
 have a pass word game and
 I hugable love hats and a
 electric. I hope for
 Christmas

I have been a good
 boy this year. I helped my friend
 Nathan get on the wing set
 at noon. May I please have
 the Or cards, Pokemon cards
 and a la-croquet for Christmas.
 I hope you have a nice trip
 Love,
 Jordan Leaver

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good
 boy this year. I listened in
 church. I cleaned the grapes
 I helped my grand yet to
 the house when he got
 hurt. May I please have
 a play kitchen 2, a crew boat,
 and a six cell figure.
 Merry Christmas
 Bucky Smith

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good
 boy this year. I helped
 my neighbor by taking
 care of their dog.
 May I please have a
 new digital camera.
 Merry Christmas
 Matthew

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy
 this year. I helped the
 dishes and fix up my
 clean my room and vacuum. May
 I please have an air soft gun
 for Christmas. I hope you have
 a safe trip. Merry Christmas
 Love,
 Wade Sawyer

Dear Santa,
 I have been a
 good boy this year. I
 cleaned the family room
 and entry way. May I
 please have a Laser
 Battle. Merry Christmas
 Love,
 Zach Hendry

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good
 girl this year. I helped my mom
 clean the table without anyone telling
 me. May I please have an iPod
 for Christmas. I hope you have
 a merry Christmas.
 Love,
 Madeline
 Nelson

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl
 this year. I help cleaned the
 living room, and helped the table
 my I please have little pet shop
 wheels around play ground.
 Merry Christmas
 Kennedy Santos

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy this
 year. I was in a ton of Christ
 in the school. I did 20 times.
 May I please have a football
 for Christmas. I hope you have a
 fun trip.
 Love,
 Tyson Lewis

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good
 girl this year. I helped my mom
 clean the table without anyone telling
 me. May I please have an iPod
 for Christmas. I hope you have
 a merry Christmas.
 Love,
 Madeline
 Nelson

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy
 I helped take out the
 trash. I helped vacuum
 I cleaned my room every
 day. May I please
 have some Yahtzee and
 a kemono. I hope you're safe on
 your trip.
 Love,
 Jacob Moller

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good
 girl this year. I helped my
 mom clean the house. I
 helped my friend. May I please
 have a 1/2 size car. I hope
 for Christmas. I hope you have
 a safe trip.
 Love,
 Ashlynn

Dear Santa
 This year I have been very
 good for my parents. Last year I liked
 the Scooter you got me. This year I would
 like some books and some puzzles and
 a guitar for my room. I would like a piece
 of you and Mrs. Claus and your sled and min
 ster and your elf's. And a Tomagatchi and
 some love and movies and that's all I would
 like for Christmas.
 Love,
 Lacey

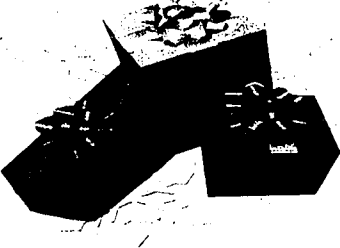
Merry Christmas! to All Our Customers
John's Auto Repair
 171 Blue Lakes Boulevard South
 Twin Falls • 733-3785

Merry Christmas
 & Happy New Year
KEEGAN, INC.
 2570 Eldridge Avenue • Twin Falls • 733-5371

Happy Holiday's
 Peace & Goodwill
Argus Electric
 420 5th Ave. W.
 Twin Falls, ID • 733-4422

Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter
 These letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to the newspaper
 Classified "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!



Dec. 9, 2006
 Dear Santa,
 I want a scooter for Christmas. You are the best what is your real name? My name is Grace.
 Love
 Grace
 Le Baron

Dear Santa,
 I want a sleeper set for Christmas. I hope you will come to our house on Christmas. When it is Christmas I get excited.
 Love,
 Britany
 Brownlee

Dear Santa,
 I have to be a good girl this year. I finished in school. May I please have a new shoe?
 Merry Christmas
 Jenny Lopez

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I helped my family take out the garbage. May I please have a camera for Christmas? Merry Christmas, Santa. Sincerely,
 Asia

Dear Santa,
 My name is Emily Black. I am a student at Bickel Elementary in second grade. Please bring me a Beethoven CD and a box of donuts. I like practicing rapping. I do my homework every Friday. Thank you for giving me toys.
 Love
 Emily
 Black

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I helped my family. May I please have a new book?
 Merry Christmas
 Jaden Walter

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I helped my mom put on the Christmas lights. May I have a new mitten?
 Merry Christmas
 Hailey Vior

Dear Santa
 I like Christmas because I get so many presents. I hope you have over the top. The most about Christmas is when Santa brings present to every ones house.
 Love
 Ryan Walter

Dear Santa
 I want a iPad a Christmas tree a race, a ticket to Hollywood and a box of donuts. How many elves do you have?
 From,
 Sean
 Climer

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I helped my brother. May I please have a new book for Christmas? I hope you have a very Christmas.
 Merry Christmas
 Jaden Walter

Dear Santa
 I want an X-Box 360 with games and a Daxter Game. I want a PlayStation 3 too. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.
 Love,
 Jarlan
 Whitney

Dear Santa,
 I want a new jacket for the winter. May I please have a new book for Christmas?
 Love,
 Jaden Walter

May the Spirit of the Holidays last all year long!

Apex Containers
 2535 Beryl Ave.
 Twin Falls, ID • 733-1022

Best Wishes for the Holidays!

Marvin D. Chamberlain, CPA
 465 Locust N.
 Twin Falls, ID • 734-2444

Love & Kindness Throughout the Year!

Blayze Towing
 1215 Addison Ave. E.
 Twin Falls, ID • 736-0777

Season Greetings Thank you for a Great Year!

WESTERN WASTE SERVICES
 Western Waste Services
 1560 Eldridge Ave. • Twin Falls, ID
 734-6969

Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter to Santa. These letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to the newspaper. Classified "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!



Dear Santa,
 My name is Chastly Castro and I am a second grader at Bick Elementary School. I live in Twin Falls, Idaho. I love it here is it?
 Please bring me a new sunhat green a good girl this year. Thank you for being so nice.
 Sincerely,
 Chastly Castro

Dear Santa,
 I like to play soccer and I like to read books. I have a dog named Max and a hamster named Timmy. I like to play with my friends and I like to go to the park. I like to go to the movies and I like to go to the zoo. I like to go to the beach and I like to go to the mountains. I like to go to the city and I like to go to the country. I like to go to the water and I like to go to the snow. I like to go to the sun and I like to go to the moon. I like to go to the stars and I like to go to the planets. I like to go to the galaxies and I like to go to the universe. I like to go to the whole world and I like to go to the whole universe.
 Love,
 Sadmir

Dear Santa,
 My name is Makayla Sebring. I want to have a new Xbox 360 for Christmas. I have two dogs, one is a Golden Retriever and the other is a Pit Bull. I like to go to the park and I like to go to the movies. I like to go to the beach and I like to go to the mountains. I like to go to the city and I like to go to the country. I like to go to the water and I like to go to the snow. I like to go to the sun and I like to go to the moon. I like to go to the stars and I like to go to the planets. I like to go to the galaxies and I like to go to the universe. I like to go to the whole world and I like to go to the whole universe.
 Love,
 Makayla Sebring

Dear Santa,
 My name is Jason. I want to have a new Xbox 360 for Christmas. I have two dogs, one is a Golden Retriever and the other is a Pit Bull. I like to go to the park and I like to go to the movies. I like to go to the beach and I like to go to the mountains. I like to go to the city and I like to go to the country. I like to go to the water and I like to go to the snow. I like to go to the sun and I like to go to the moon. I like to go to the stars and I like to go to the planets. I like to go to the galaxies and I like to go to the universe. I like to go to the whole world and I like to go to the whole universe.
 Love,
 Jason

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy this year. I helped my mom and dad take out the trash. I helped my dad clean up when I got home. May I please have a game called Call of Duty? I have a safe trip.
 Merry Christmas!
 Jacob Jones

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I helped clean and I helped my mom when she was sick. May I please have a princess attack?
 Merry Christmas!
 Dec. 23, 2006
 Dec. 23, 2006

Dear Santa,
 Can you get me a X Box 360 for Christmas and if you can't get me some Legos. How is Rudolf and your elves?
 Love,
 Nicholas Tigue

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy this year. I helped clean the house. I helped my brother when he was sick. May I have a new skateboard and a new bike and a Game Boy?
 Merry Christmas!
 Jacob Jones

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy this year. I helped Mom and Dad take out the trash. I helped Dad clean up when I got home. May I please have a game called Call of Duty? I have a safe trip.
 Merry Christmas!
 Clayton Harschberger

Dear Santa,
 I have been a good boy this year. I helped my mom and dad take out the trash. I helped my dad clean up when I got home. May I please have a game called Call of Duty? I have a safe trip.
 Merry Christmas!
 Clayton Harschberger



Dear Santa,
 I have been a good girl this year. I helped clean and I helped my mom when she was sick. May I please have a princess attack?
 Merry Christmas!
 Dec. 23, 2006
 Dec. 23, 2006

Dear Santa,
 I want to have a new Xbox 360 for Christmas. I have two dogs, one is a Golden Retriever and the other is a Pit Bull. I like to go to the park and I like to go to the movies. I like to go to the beach and I like to go to the mountains. I like to go to the city and I like to go to the country. I like to go to the water and I like to go to the snow. I like to go to the sun and I like to go to the moon. I like to go to the stars and I like to go to the planets. I like to go to the galaxies and I like to go to the universe. I like to go to the whole world and I like to go to the whole universe.
 Love,
 Makayla Sebring

Dear Santa,
 Santa I have a lot of love to be good I want every buddy to have a good Christmas.
 Love,
 Alex Bernards

Happy Holidays
 Hendry & Sons
 818 Elm St. N. • Twin Falls, ID
 732-5618

Wishing You a Pocketful of Joy!
 Westphal & Son's Electric
 21333 U.S. Hwy 30 • Filer, ID
 734-9244

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
 Gary & Becky Creek

Dear Santa

Just in the "Nick" of time, it's our letter
 These letters were written by area 2nd Graders and submitted to the
 Classified "Elves" and are now on their way to the North Pole!

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa,
 I want to be magic
 please. And I want a Gel
 too please. And a yo-yo please.
 And a remote control monster
 truck please. And a toy
 dream please.

Name Brandon
 2006/12/11/08
 I have been good
 like an x-box, a
 play station 2, and a
 Nintendo
 Love
 Name Trevor

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa
 Please give me some
 money I've been very
 good this year please
 I give my money please
 get me a rolling backpack
 because I don't want
 to hurt my back
 please send me these
 things.
 Love,
 Name Hunter C.

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa
 I have been very nice
 This year I would like
 Pear Of Skates a bike and some
 movie please.
 Name Eliza

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa
 I have been good and
 this year. And thank you
 for giving me a birthday present. And
 if you could, I would like a
 pet cat, a helmet, a play
 a soccer ball, some books,
 a play station game and a
 date for my sister.
 Name from Hunter

Dear Santa
 My name is Kayla Marie Hill and am good
 girl.
 Please bring me a new stereo I love to
 listen to hip hop or country music.
 Thank you for being such a great person.
 Your friend,
 Kayla Hill

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa,
 I have been good
 like an x-box, a
 play station 2, and a
 Nintendo
 Love
 Name Trevor

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa
 Please can I have
 some money and my
 favorite books. I would
 like a book on the life of
 Jesus. I would like a
 book on the life of
 Santa Claus. I would
 like a book on the life of
 the apostles. I would
 like a book on the life of
 the prophets. I would
 like a book on the life of
 the kings. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the saints. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the martyrs. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the virgins. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the widows. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the orphans. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the poor. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the sick. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the lame. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the blind. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the deaf. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the dumb. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the ugly. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the outcast. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the despised. I would like
 a book on the life of
 the despised.
 Love,
 Name Rebekah Con

Dear Santa,
 Thank you for the Bratz last year how
 played with them alot. And I wish I could
 have a Tamagotchi, a secret santa, a hot
 tub, a Bratz house, a big jump rope,
 a new bike, a sweetie, a long sleeve shirt, pants, a CD
 player, and the books Judy Moody. Oh and I almost
 forget, I wish I could have a picture of you and
 a big hug and a kiss.
 Love,
 Name

Dear Santa
 I have been a good girl
 this year. I listened to
 what I helped me more
 and did not order. I hope my
 birthday is good next
 year. May I please have
 a better Abby Cadabby
 from my party. I would like
 to go to my party please.
 Whitney Mae Wilson
 Merry Christmas
 Santa

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa
 Please can I have some
 money because I am
 very, very, very poor and
 so I could buy toys and
 that is all I want.
 Sincerely,
 Name Christy

December 8, 2006
 Dear Santa
 I have been good
 like an x-box, a
 play station 2, and a
 Nintendo
 Love
 Name Trevor

Dec 4, 2006
 Dear Santa
 I would like a new name
 Santa Clause. My birthday
 is on December 25, 2006.
 I would like twenty four
 pet smo animals.
 Merry Christmas
 Aaliyah
 Garcia

Dear Santa
 I have been a good
 boy this year. I listened
 to what I helped me more
 and did not order. I hope my
 birthday is good next
 year. May I please have
 a better Abby Cadabby
 from my party. I would like
 to go to my party please.
 Whitney Mae Wilson
 Merry Christmas
 Santa

Dear Santa
 What I want
 for Christmas is a
 Chad Read back pack.
 And a pet mouse. The
 name is a hat I like
 my cousin's. And for my
 friend baby brother to
 bring and get out
 of the hospital and so
 he doesn't have
 to stay in. And some
 money. And some
 money. And some
 money. And some
 money.
 Love
 Brockton

Warm Christmas Wishes
 Intermountain Taxidermy
 3540 China Ridge Drive
 Kimberly • 423-6301

WESTERN STATES CAT
 would like to wish you
 & your family
Happy Holidays

This Christmas honor Him who IS,
 and who WAS, and who is to COME...
our LORD JESUS!
CANYON CARTRIDGE
 In the Wind o' plaza, behind Jack in the Box
 734.9768