

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tonight, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Breezy to windy with a mix of clouds and sunshine. Highs up 20s to near 30.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

'First Fridays,' featuring the lively folk and bluegrass sounds of 'Heavwaters,' beverages sold by the glass, food tasting and more.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Blingo, sponsored by the Gooding County Historical Society, 7 to 10 p.m., Sally's Office Solutions, 338 Main St., Gooding, \$11 per packet (20 games), 934-4412.

BUSINESS

Ribbon cutting for Remussen Real Estate, 1:30 p.m., 1146 Eastland Dr. N., Twin Falls, 733-5600.

CLUBS

MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club of Twin Falls and Jerome, business meeting with guest speaker Judy Studebaker on infant massage, 11 a.m., Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Dr., Twin Falls, cost \$2 (see per child optional childcare in church nursery), 404-6528, (visitors welcome)

EDUCATION

Registration for three-credit English 202 Technical Communication, taught by Judy Gregg Hansen with focus on letters, instructions, reports, technical presentations, audience analysis, ethics of technical communication and more, 6 to 8:50 p.m., Thursdays, beginning Jan. 18, hansen@ccsi.edu.

FAMILY

'First Friday Dinner,' a buffet-style, traditional Basque meal sponsored by the Gooding Basque Association, 6 to 8:30 p.m., the Basque Cultural Center at the intersection of Highways 26 and 46 in Gooding, general donation of \$14 (seniors eat for \$12), 208-352-4266 or 306-5051.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.

HEALTH

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 48 Chapter of Jerome, a weight loss support group, 4 p.m., the Jerome Public Library, 100 1st Ave. E., Jerome, 420-3823.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium, 'Far Out Space Places,' 7 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 (includes child 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 email at sbrowne@magicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is seven, four days in advance of the event.

COMING TOMORROW

SAINTS AND POLITICS

Could a Mormon, actually get elected president?

SATURDAY IN RELIGION

OPINION MINI EDITORIAL

Diet pills: Personal trainers not included. The Federal Trade Commission is fining the marketers of four diet pills because they've been less than honest with you.

Want to submit a Mini Editorial for publication on this page? Send it by e-mail to minieditorial@magicvalley.com. Submitters 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.

MAGIC VALLEY



Skiers step back in time at Alta resort. Alta has been a ski area for 68 years, priding itself on its ability to fend off change and development through much of that time.

There's no truth to city plan rumor

TWIN FALLS — For at least two decades, the rumor mill has been busy manufacturing gossip that the city of Twin Falls sold its snowplows.

The city owns four plows and recently ordered two more plows at a cost of about \$3,000 each.

Two candidates named for Jerome job

JEROME — Two Republican lawyers want the Jerome County prosecuting attorney's job. In less than a month, one of them will have it.

But before the commissioners vote, two candidates will be ranked today by the Jerome Republican Central Committee.

Food drive brings in record amounts

TWIN FALLS — When the total weight of five food pickups surpassed 5,000 pounds, fatigue and elation set in at the South Central Community Action Partnership, which has a food bank that serves the Magic Valley.

Fatigue, because the partnership's hardworking, predominantly-female staff had toiled for weeks with College of Southern Idaho student volunteers to get the heavy loads to the right place. But even more so, the partnership's employees and volunteers were astounded and elated by the success of the food drive, which collected \$1,055 in donations from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day.

Man sentenced in HIV case

TWIN FALLS — Sleeping with Randy Sallee was like playing a game of Russian roulette, the prosecutor said. And Sallee's victim, who survived the game, never played it willingly.

OBITUARIES

- Lois Christine Andoe, 86
Mary Jean Katin Johnson, 85
Luelle Wylie Moon, 88
James Earl Stone, 70
Margaret 'Peggy' Lukoyano, 82

IDAHO/WEST



Orphaned bear cub refuses to hibernate

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The little bear scampering through back yards should be snug in its den, curled up beside its mother and sleeping away the harsh Alaska winter.

McKague to replace Sweet in state Senate

BOISE — State Rep. Shirley McKague, R-Meridian, was named Thursday by Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter to replace Sen. Gary Sweet, R-Meridian, who resigned last month to take a job with newly elected U.S. Rep. Bill Sali.

Higher ed issues face dim prospects

BOISE — Two longtime goals of education advocates, creating a statewide community college system and studying a stand-alone medical school, face dim prospects in the upcoming legislative session.

Parental consent bill unlikely to get hearing

BOISE — Idaho lawmakers likely will not propose new legislation to require minors to get their parents' permission to have an abortion, legislative leaders said Thursday.

Cable dispute made N. Idaho miss Fiesta

MOSCOW — Boise State's big win in the Fiesta Bowl on Monday remains a big mystery to many northern Idaho residents who missed the game because of a dispute between the local television cable company and Fox affiliate.

Death sentences fall to 30-year low

NEW YORK — The number of death sentences handed out in the United States dropped in 2006 to the lowest level since capital punishment was reinstated 30 years ago, reflecting what some experts say is a growing fear that the criminal justice system will make a tragic and irreversible mistake.

Resurgent El Nino may lead to record heat

LONDON — Deepening drought in Australia. Stronger typhoons in Asia. Floods in Latin America. British climate scientists predict that a resurgent El Nino climate trend combined with higher levels of greenhouse gases could make 2007 the world's hottest year on record.

NATION/WORLD



Mall guards undergo anti-terrorism training

The job of a shopping mall security guard normally involves controlling rowdy teenagers, finding lost children and patrolling parking lots. But starting this month, malls across the country will begin training guards for another task: fighting terrorism.

Democrats take over control of Congress

WASHINGTON — In a day of ceremony and historic change, Rep. Nancy Pelosi became the nation's first female House speaker on Thursday as Democrats eagerly took control of Congress for the final two years of President Bush's term.

Nuclear arms chief fired over security

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman on Thursday dismissed the chief of the country's nuclear weapons program because of security breakdowns at the Los Alamos, N.M., laboratory and other facilities.

Chargers' Tomlinson named NFL MVP

NEW YORK — Spell this one: NEW YORK. L.T. Record-setting LaDainian Tomlinson of the San Diego Chargers ran away with The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award Thursday the way he eluded defenders in leading his team to the AFC's best record (14-2) and a favorite's role for the Super Bowl.

Cowher to step down as coach of Steelers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bill Cowher is walking away from the most stable coaching job in the NFL — leading the Pittsburgh Steelers. Cowher called owner Dan Rooney on Thursday to tell him of his decision, and the team announced a Friday news conference not long after that. Cowher is expected to be there to say goodbye. Pittsburgh will immediately begin a search to replace the retiring coach, a person familiar with Cowher's status said Thursday night, speaking on condition of anonymity because the retirement had not been officially announced.

SPORTS



Bruins girls basketball team wins again

TWIN FALLS — Catching up to the Twin Falls girls basketball team won't be an easy task for its conference opponents. The Bruins' 47-41 win over the visiting Skyline Grizzlies at Baum Gymnasium was the first step in the second half of conference play as the victory put them at 5-0 in Region Four, Division 12-2 overall with three conference games remaining.

CSI men, women on the road tonight

The College of Southern Idaho men's and women's basketball teams are in Rangely, Colo., tonight and tomorrow for SWAC doubleheaders against the conference's perennial cellar-dwellers. Though both the CNCC men and women are 0-2 in SWAC play, both teams have shown signs that they can't be taken lightly this weekend.

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Times-News

Table with 3 columns: PRESENT, OBIT, and MULTIMEDIA. Lists various services and contact information.

Otter

Continued from page A1

Fred Zerza, a Simplot spokesman, confirmed the governor and his second wife were among those on the eight-passenger, two-pilot Hawker jet that departed for Phoenix on New Year's Day from the Simplot air depot at the Boise Airport. The travel party included J.R. Simplot, whose 2006 fortune is estimated by Forbes magazine at \$3.2 billion, his wife Esther, as well as J.R. Simplot's son, Don Simplot, two Simplot family friends, and Otter and his wife.

"He's a former employee of the company and he asked the Simplot if there was a possibility he could come down," said Zerza. "It was hitching a ride to get to the game, down and back, no other amenities at all."

Zerza said the company doesn't have an expectation of reimbursement when it provides an Idaho governor with a flight on one of its three jets.

Former Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has used a Simplot jet, Zerza confirmed,

adding past governors including Cecil Andrus have also flown on one of the company's aircraft. He didn't know if they reimbursed the company, for the cost of the flights.

Otter, a Republican, traveled to the game in Glendale, Ariz., on the invitation of Boise State University President Bob Kustra, Hanlan said.

After the inquiry from the AP, Otter's office called the Idaho attorney general's office to ask whether receiving a flight on a jet owned by a private company met the requirements of Idaho law.

Since 2002, Otter, who served three terms as a U.S. representative from western Idaho, has received at least \$12,400 in campaign contributions from J.R. Simplot, his wife, other family members or the company according to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, based in Washington, D.C. and campaign finance records filed with the Idaho secretary of state.

Otter's personal fortune is worth up to about \$12.5 mil-

lion, according to financial disclosures filed while he was still in Congress.

"That he was given space on the private jet was solely the result of his long-standing personal relationship with the Simplot family, Hanlan said.

"This isn't like a lobbyist situation. They have a relationship. It has been in the past a family relationship," Hanlan said. "This is different from a lobbyist trying to curry favor. The implication there is just not accurate."

Zerza said Otter and others aboard the flight had expected to return to Boise shortly after the game, which Boise State University won 43-12 over Oklahoma.

But their flight was delayed several hours after the billiardier, who turned 38 Thursday, fell from his motorized scooter as he was leaving University of Phoenix Stadium and struck his head.

J.R. Simplot regained consciousness Wednesday and was in stable condition after undergoing surgery at a Phoenix hospital.

Capitol

Continued from page A1

community college system to ask for that much money," Goeldie said.

Currently, Idaho has just two community colleges: the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls and North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene. Only 45 percent of Idaho high schoolers go directly to a college—the fourth-worst rate in the nation—and some blame the relative lack of affordable options, particularly in fast-growing Boise.

Last year, Treasure Valley Community College just across the border in Ontario, Ore., was invited by the private J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation to create a two-year community college plan for Boise and its suburbs. The foundation also offered to donate \$15 million to the Board of Education as seed money for a Boise-area community college.

But Goeldie warned against encouraging outside schools to expand into Idaho.

"My fear on relying on someone other than a government-sponsored institution is they are going to offer classes they can make money on," Goeldie said. "Classes that are cost-intensive, laboratory classes, maybe in upper divisions, maybe be offered."

Goeldie also warned against allowing other community colleges to offer temporary classes in Boise while the Legislature and local governments mull the issue. The interim committee's plan down a resolution that would help the College of Southern Idaho offer high-demand classes in Boise.

He called that plan a stopgap that could dampen voters' willingness to help pay for their own community college, but Rusche disagreed.

"While it may lessen the pressure a little, I view that as an inducement to getting the necessary voters to forming a district," he said.

Meanwhile, both lawmakers said their colleagues in both parties will likely offer a tepid

response to the state Board of Education and Idaho State University's request to study creating a state medical school.

On Wednesday, Idaho State University President Arthur Villas asked members of a panel that dolers out the state's share of a multi-billion-dollar class-action tobacco settlement to spend \$300,000 on a study.

Boyd & Wilma Tipton



of Filer will be honored at an open house to celebrate their

50th

wedding anniversary. The couple has 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 12 great grandchildren. The event is being hosted by their children on

Saturday • January 6, 2007 • 2:00-6:00 pm at the Twin Falls Shilo Inn

Announcements

Continued from page A1

announcement into an entertaining and informative broadcast.

The final broadcast is pre-recorded and then telecast in most of the classrooms about an hour later.

"I don't think we've had really major problems, but if we make a mistake then we always hear about it," said senior Steven Kinkelode, one of the first students involved in the program.

The students take pride in what they produce, and have added their own creative license to the announcements.

But the high school maintains a checks-and-balances system on the broadcast by monitoring what the students produce. It's something that seems to have added more gray hair to the head of David Quinley, the multimedia instructor.

On Thursday the multimedia students included a photo

slide show of high school students being, well, high school students.

Something that Quinley has been very careful about after the rap music incident.

"Oh, no. You guys didn't put in that (slide show) again, did you?" Quinley asked. "What do you guys want to do, get me fired?"

Times-News reporter Joshua Palmer can be reached at jpalmer@magicalvalley.com.

Pills

Continued from page A1

A fine of at least \$8 million was levied against the marketer of Xenadine EFX, made by New Jersey-based Nutraceutical, Inc., formerly known as Cyndyne Technologies. The marketer was identified as FTC Research & Development, LLC, based in Manassas, Va.

Majoras said Xenadine had a study showing that people who took a placebo lost more weight than those taking the pill. The FTC's investigation also found that consumer endorsers — people who appear in the before-and-after pictures in many ads — lost weight by engaging in rigorous diet and exercise programs.

A \$12 million fine was assessed against Window Rock Health Laboratories, based in Brea, Calif., the marketers of CortiSlim. Majoras said CortiSlim falsely promised that all users would see permanent and fast weight loss, and that its TV infomercials would "deceptively format" to appear as talk shows rather than ads.

The Bayer Corp., based in Morristown, N.J., will pay a \$3.2 million civil penalty to settle the claims. The FTC said Bayer marketed One-A-Day WeightSmart with unsubstantiated claims including that it increases metabolism. Bayer violated an earlier FTC order requiring all health claims for its One-A-Day brand vitamins be supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

The marketers of TrimSpa, Goen Technologies Corp., will pay \$1.5 million. Both Goen and TrimSpa are based in Whippany, N.J. The FTC said Goen had inadequate scientific evidence to support claims that TrimSpa causes rapid and substantial weight loss.

Marketers for Xenadine EFX and CortiSlim did not return telephone calls for comment. Bayer disagreed with the

FTC's description of the company as a marketer of a weight-loss pill.

"It's a multivitamin," said Fricia McKernan, spokeswoman for Bayer HealthCare's Consumer Care Division. "We don't market ourselves as a weight-loss product."

Rather than go through the expense of litigation, Bayer decided the way to "close this issue" was to settle, McKernan said.

TrimSpa released a statement saying the FTC's investigation of a handful of its ads was "amicably resolved" without the company's admission of any liability.

Some of the fines could be returned to consumers who

purchased Xenadine EFX and CortiSlim. The marketers of the other two drugs paid civil penalties.

Consumers who purchased Xenadine EFX and CortiSlim directly from the marketers will be contacted by the FTC about getting their money back. People who bought the pills over the counter will have to wait a few months for the agency to put up a public notice on its Web site telling them how to recoup money.

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Twin Falls Canal Company NOTICE
Of Regular Stockholders' Meeting

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the regular meeting of the Stockholders of the Twin Falls Canal Company will be held on Tuesday the 9th of January, 2007. The meeting will be called to order by the Directors at 9:00 a.m. in the Rick Allen Room of the Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

Directors from District 2 (Twin Falls and South of Kimberly) and District 4 (Buhl) are running unopposed and will be elected for three-year terms.

Other business will also be transacted. There will be reports from the Company's General Manager, auditors and lawyers. There will also be reports concerning operation and maintenance efforts, 2007 water supplies, water call, and other matters of interest.

The corporate books will be closed for the transfer of stock effective December 29, 2006.

Proxies shall be filed with the Company's Assistant Secretary at the Company Office on or before January 5, 2007.

DATED this 8th day of December 2006.

TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY
Brian Olmstead, Assistant Secretary

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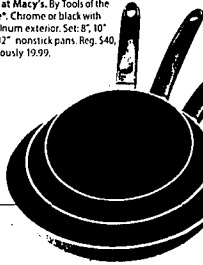
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CLEARANCE SUITS**
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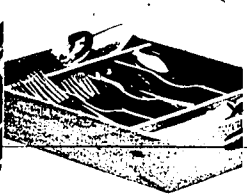
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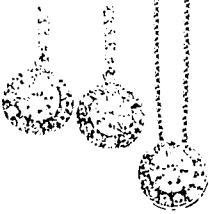
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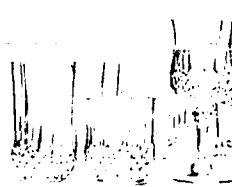
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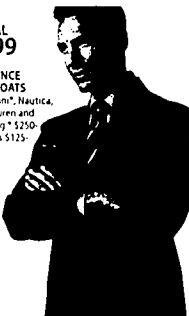
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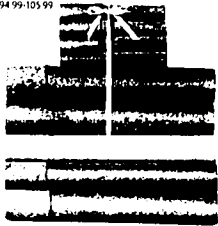
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EDITORIAL

'Imminent threat' to public not so clear in moratorium

Popular support may be telling Gooding County commissioners that they're on the right track with another dairy moratorium passed in the waning days of 2006. But legal minds may be whispering something else: Proceed with caution.

Commissioners Tom Fulkner and Helen Edwards voted for an emergency moratorium on dairy growth last week, making it the third dairy moratorium in that county in the past two years. Commissioner Bob Morgado cast his vote against the moratorium.

Commissioners are in a tight jam on the issue, since neighbors' dairy complaints have grown louder. The county's Planning and Zoning Commission is also near completion of a new confined animal feeding ordinance plan. Commissioners voting for the new ban on new dairy growth — which lasts 182 days, or until the new ordinance passes — said one reason they favored it was to prevent existing proposals from slipping in under old rules.

There may be some questions about the legality of that move, especially when state courts have set rigid rules for passing moratoriums. A Boise judge ruled four years ago that written documentation had to be made showing how dairies posed a major-risk to public health, safety or welfare.

Gooding County officials offered reasons along those lines in their latest moratorium. But some doubts exist about how well founded they are.

In March 2005, a different set of commissioners passed a 120-day moratorium because the county was struggling with an inaccurate figure for counting dairy cows. The commission extended the moratorium in July 2005.

But under the threat of a lawsuit by the Idaho Dairywomen's Association, the commissioners withdrew that resolution a month later. The IDA objected because of a state law tightly regulating back-to-back moratoriums.

Fast forward to today, and the IDA is likewise questioning the latest moratorium. In order to satisfy the burden of proof that public safety is at risk, county officials say phosphorus levels are on the rise in Gooding County and pose an imminent danger to county residents.

But high phosphorus levels don't pose a direct health risk. They do lead to environmental risks — such as more vegetative growth in streams and rivers. Most of the commissioners' resolution outlines concerns revolving phosphorus, with some additional points on nitrate levels, odor and flies. But the scientific data for a health threat from phosphorus seems thin.

While the IDA has the potential to sue the county, doing so would probably achieve little in the case of Gooding County. Dairymen have cooperated with the new CAFO ordinance, and it should be an agreeable document when it goes up for public comment in the coming months.

But with other counties, most notably Cassia County, waging their own debates over dairy moratoriums, the Gooding County resolution sends a cautionary message. Counties must give clear and distinct data showing how the public is imminently at risk without a moratorium, with facts that relate directly to human health.

Without a clear case of that kind, county officials might be defending loosely-reasoned moratoriums in court.

Times-News

Brad Hund ... Publisher Chris Steinbach ... Editor

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

'Caucus' does not represent all Idaho sportsmen

True Idaho sportsmen need to know the truth about this "Sportsmen's Caucus" that's claiming to represent them.

Research reveals that "big wigs" of the caucus are affiliated with such organizations as the Idaho Green Party, Nature Conservancy, Coalition of Conservation, Idaho Organizations, Idaho Conservation League and Department of Environmental Conservation as well as other environmentalist groups which focus on tying up land under the guise of "saving habitat," among other things, rather than actually working for the healthy balance of wildlife.

The Idaho sportsmen should let their lawmakers

know that this group does not represent all Idaho sportsmen. Another important fact is that this caucus lacks support from actual activist organizations such as the Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which oppose all hunting — what would the motive be here? It would start with domestic elk then go to bird farms, fish ponds, etc. This attack is an indirect step in the process to eliminate our Second Amendment rights. These are self-proclaimed "conservationists" who are environmentalist extremists in camo pushing political weight for groups who do not support a hunting heritage and/or even oppose it. Don't be fooled by what's going around about private elk harvest ranches; the truth is there for those who

Order goes to gallows with Saddam

Of the 6 billion people on this earth, not one killed more people than Saddam Hussein. And that's not all, but tortured and mutilated — and doing so often with his own hands and for pleasure. It is quite a distinction to be the pre-eminent monster on the planet. If the death penalty was ever deserved, an Iraq was more richly deserving than Saddam Hussein.



CHARLES
KRAUTHAMMER

For the Iraqi government to have looted both his trial and execution, therefore, and turned monster into victim, is not just a tragedy, but a crime — against the new Iraq that Americans are dying for, and against justice itself.

In late 2005, I wrote about the incompetence of the Saddam trial and how it was an opportunity missed. Instead of exposing, elucidating and irrefutably making the case for the crimes of the accused — as was done at Nuremberg and the Eichmann trial — the Iraqi government lost control and inadvertently turned it into a stage for Saddam. The trial managed to repair the image of the man the world had last seen as a hedged-up nobody pulled covering from a filthy hole. Now exulted and cleaned, he acted the imperious president of Iraq, drowning out in the coverage seen around the world the testimony of his victims.

That was bad enough. Then comes the execution, a rushed, botched, unholy mess that exposed the hopelessly sectarian nature of the Maliki government.

Consider the timing. It was carried out on a religious holiday. We would not ordinarily care about this, except for the



fact that it is in contravention of Iraqi law. It was done on the first day of Eid al-Adha as celebrated by Sunnis. The Shiite Eid began the next day, which tells you in whose name the execution was performed.

It was also carried out extrajudicially. The constitution requires a death sentence to have the signature of the president and two vice presidents, each representing the three major ethnic groups in the country (Sunni, Shiite and Kurd). That provision is meant to prevent sectarian killings. The president did not sign. Maliki contrived some work-around.

True, Saddam's hanging was just and, in principle, just. But the next hanging might not be. Breaking precedent completely undermines the death penalty provision, opening the way to future revenge and otherwise lawless hangings.

Moreover, Maliki's rush to execute short-circuited the judicial process that was at the time considering Saddam's conviction against the Kurds. He was hanged for the killing of 148 men and boys in the Shiite village of DuJail. This was a perfectly good

starting point — a specific incident as a prelude to an inquiry into the larger canvas of his crimes. The trial for his genocidal campaign against the Kurds was just beginning.

That larger canvas will never be painted. The starting point became the end point. The only charge for which Saddam was executed was that 1982 killing of Shiites — interestingly, his response to a failed assassination attempt by Maliki's own Baath Party.

Maliki ultimately got his revenge, completing Dawid's mission a quarter-century later. However, Saddam will now never be tried for the Kurdish genocide, the decimation of the Marsh Arabs, the multiple war crimes and all the rest.

Finally, there was the mule-ey crew — handpicked by the government — that constituted the hanging party. They turned what was an act of national justice into a scene of sectarian vengeance.

The world has now seen the smuggled video of the shouting and ranting that turned Saddam into the most dignified figure in the room — another remarkable achievement in burnishing the image

of the most evil man of his time.

Worse was the content of the taunts: "Moqtada, Moqtada," the name of the radical and murderous Shiite extremist whose goons were obvious in the chamber. The world saw Saddam falling through the trap door, executed not in the name of a new and democratic Iraq, but in the name of Sadr, whose death squads have learned much from Saddam.

The whole sorry affair illustrates not just incompetence but the ingrained intolerance and sectarianism of the Maliki government. It stands for Shiite unity and Shiite dominance above all else.

We should not be surging American troops in defense of such a government. This governing coalition — Maliki's Dawid, Maliki's SCIRI and Saif's Mahdi Army — seems intent on crushing the Sunnis at all costs.

Maliki should be made to know that if he insists on having this sectarian war, he can well have it without us.

Charles Krauthammer's e-mail address is letters@charleskrauthammer.com

Dieting may not be as effective as you think

BARRY GLASSNER

of almost 15,000 boys and girls ages 9 to 17. Over the three years that researchers followed them, dieters in the study gained more weight than the non-dieters and were more likely to engage in binge eating.

Another set of studies by a group of psychologists and nutritionists found that young girls are more likely to become overweight if obese later in life if their parents put them on diets. Still another study, conducted by the University of California, Berkeley, found that the heaviest adults were those who had begun dieting at a younger age and had done so more often than the rest.

In part, these studies may reflect the fact that the people most likely to diet early and often are those who already

have a tendency to be heavy. But if dieting were an effective route to long-term weight loss, wouldn't we expect them to get thin and stay thin?

The reality is otherwise. Just about any diet scheme will result in temporary weight loss for almost anyone who follows it for a few weeks. Review the scientific evidence, though, and you discover that only a small proportion of people succeed in taking off much weight and keeping it off, even with the best of care.

Consider a 2002 study in the New England Journal of Medicine conducted by physicians from obesity programs within the National Institutes of Health. People who devotedly diet, exercise and get counseling for four to six weeks can expect to lose 5 percent to 10 percent of their weight, the researchers auspiciously report. Then, echoing the conclusions of numerous other studies, they add: "For the vast majority of persons,

weight loss is followed by a slow, inexorable climb to the pre-intervention body weight — or even higher."

Temporary reductions might be valuable in their own right were yo-yo dieting not associated with adverse effects on the dieters' immune and circulatory systems, ego and offspring. Children are more likely to develop weight issues of their own if their parents diet frequently.

Not an antidote to our national epidemic of weight gain, Americans' annual dieting binge is at best a symptom, and possibly a cause.

Rather than go on a New Year's diet, we would do better to resolve to eat well and moderately throughout the year.

Barry Glassner, professor of sociology at the University of Southern California, is author of the newly published "The Gospel of Food."

LETTERS

want it — so don't educate yourself on this issue by reading uneducated activist letters and Web sites.

ERIN MILLER
DAVID MILLER
Jerome

Article gave a numb response to energy policy

The Times-News article headlined "Lawmakers add renewable, alternative sources to draft energy plan" was bad political theater in which your paper must be considered a co-conspirator.

The Times-News chose not to cover the Energy Environment and Technology Interim Committee meetings over the past eight months, opting instead to attempt a front-page news story from a cursory review of the commit-

tee's meeting minutes and unquestioned acceptance of "spin" offered by Sen. Gannon and Rep. Stevenson.

If the Times-News had covered the meetings, it would have been able to report the meetings were dominated by the regulated utilities and poorly attended by legislators more interested in getting re-elected than in addressing Idaho's energy problems.

While offering platitudes about the efficacy of conservation and renewable energy, this committee rejected out-of-hand any actual commitment to renewable energy portfolio standards, which pointedly keeping the door open for coal (and nuclear) power — to avoid getting in Idaho Power's face. It turned back any attempt to take land use decisions for these large-

impact facilities out of the hands of rural county commissioners. And finally, pleading poverty, the committee went back on its promise to hold public meetings on the energy plan around the state.

Your readers would have been much better informed if, instead of this article, you had just re-published Rebecca Meany's two excellent articles on the Draft Energy Plan in the Mountain Express more than a month ago.

The brouhaha over Sempira's coal plant for Jerome County evoked the wrath and resistance of thousands of Magic Valley residents. Yet this committee has essentially dithered for eight months to let the issue calm down, ratified the energy status quo and nothing has changed.

It is ironic that Magic Valley

legislators Gannon, Stevenson, and Bell — all now safely re-elected — had a hand in this fiasco.

PETER REMMEN
Hagerman

Write to us

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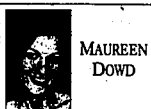
Stained glass, stained egos

It was a scene that Mary McCormack could have written for the devil out of a funeral for a fine, bland fellow that filled everybody with unflinching, unblatant thoughts. The formal serenity of the service, disguised, but only barely, the virulent rivalries and envious and grudges and grievances that have rolled this group for many decades.

None of the eulogists noted the irony that the man who ushered out one long national nightmare had ushered in another, the one we're living in now. It was Gerald Ford, after all, who gave America the gift of Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld — the gift that keeps on taking.

The two former Ford administration officials, who dominated Iraq to civil war and despoiled American values, were honorary pallbearers on Tuesday, as was that other slippery and solipsistic courier, Henry Kissinger.

The group was even more or less because of a remarkable tangle of peppy opinions that had tumbled out of the man in the coffin, posthumously. The late president, hailed as the most understated and decent guy in the world, had given a series of interviews on the condition that they be held until his death — a belated but bracing smackdown of many of his distinguished mourners.



MAUREEN DOWD

It was impossible not to wonder what the luminaries were truly thinking, as they sat listening to fogues of Brach and Brahms and encomiums to the ordinary-guy leader.

Nancy Reagan's imperious expression behind her big square sunglasses did not disguise the glowing words visible in the bubble over her head: "And they call this a funeral!"

It could not compare, of course, to the incredible Princess of Wales treatment that her husband had for his state funeral. And Nancy, hypersensitive to any slights to her Ronnie, would not have been pleased with Ford's interview with Michael Beschloss published in Newsweek, in which he blamed Ronald Reagan for costing him the 1976 election by challenging his nomination and then falling to hit the trail for him.

It was good of Ford to bring 41 and 43 together in a solemn respect for his uneasy competition over Iraq.

"Told you so, you sons of

guns — we were right to stop at Safwan and stay out of Baghdad," the father's bubble read, as he watched Rummy and Henry the K, both of whom had treated Poppy with such veiled contempt, as though he were a feather duster.

Those vicious Muqtada-loving Shites dancing around Saddam's dead body prove that Brent and I were right.

Lynne Cheney glared at Poppy as he gave his eulogy, knowing that he privately thinks that the vice president has destroyed not only Iraq and American foreign policy, but the Bush family name.

Her storm cloud of a bubble is expurgated.

Hillary's bubble was full of mockery for another New Yorker in the National Cathedral: "You think you're so smart, Rudy, but you leave your entire presidential battle plan in a hotel room for your rivals to find? The victim role doesn't suit you." Condi's bubble was as opaque as dark as Hillary's was risibly light — drooping with the inebriate that her nearby erstwhile mentor, Brent Scowcroft, had been right about Iraq after all.

As Poppy spoke from the altar, praising Ford's generosity, he must have been mulling that his predecessor was ungenerous in spitting on him from the grave. Ford told Beschloss that Bush Senior



had sold out the party to the hard right and had taken a phony, pandering position on abortion.

Poppy had to have enjoyed watching Dr. K get up and lavish praise on his old boss, after Ford had sniggered to Bob Woodward that the "coy" Bavarian diva had "the thinnest skin of any public figure I ever knew."

We graciously walked Betty Ford down the aisle, even as he must have curdled inside about her husband's telling Woodward that it had been a "big mistake" on the part of W.

Dick Cheney and Rummy to justify the Iraq war with non-existent WMD, "I just don't think we should go hellfire damnation around the globe freeing people, unless it is directly related to our own national security," he said.

Ex-presidents weren't supposed to address sitting presidents. Adding insult to injury, Woodward himself was in the cathedral. How did he manage to get all these dentibled confessions, W had to wonder. "Jeze,," his bubble read, "does he have an interview with my old man in the caui?"

Rummy's pop-up was as cocky as ever: "Golly, I've been gone three weeks and things are really looking up in Iraq."

James Baker's secret thoughts were as bright as his tie: "I tried to help you out, son, but you're too dang stubborn. Or 'resolute,' as you say, Stubble. A clear case of 'TMC — too much Cheney.'" Dick Cheney's bubble was trouble: "I'm surging, I'm surging, I'm surging."

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

Funding questioned for abstinence-only sex education

Diane Glass

Millions of dollars have been sunk into abstinence-only programs since the 1990s. Parents don't know how much earmark millions toward such programs in 2007. I think our money is better spent on 5640 toilet seats, like the ones purchased by the U.S. military back in the 1940s.

While there's nothing problematic with including abstinence as a viable option in sex-education programs, problems arise when (inapparent) millions of taxpayers' money is funneled into abstinence-only programs as the primary recommendation.

"Abstinence-only funding raises serious ethical and human rights concerns," writes an August 2006 article in the Journal of Adolescent Health. Such programs "are ethically problematic, being inherently coercive and often providing misinformation and withholding information needed to make informed choices." And academics aren't the only ones who feel this way.

Congressional staff analysis in 2004 reported that over 80 percent of abstinence-only programs contained "misleading, or distorted information about reproductive health." Young people in these programs learned inaccurate material about how HIV could be contracted through sweat, that women who get abortions are prone to suicide, and that touching another person's genitals can lead to pregnancy.

Truth is, abstinence-only programs are 100 percent effective only in theory. In practice, 95 percent of the American population has premarital sex, according to a recent study in *Public Health Reports*. Monogamy isn't a guarantee against risk either.

The institution of marriage is a risk factor for contracting AIDS in other countries. "In sub-Saharan Africa, the majority of newly HIV-positive women are contracting the virus within marriage from their husbands," says Steven Sindling, in a 2005 issue of *International Family*



DIANE GLASS

Planning Perspectives. American parallels to international statistics aren't hard to find. Marital infidelity is rampant. Around 50 percent of married women in 1995 will be unfaithful, according to a 2002 study in the *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy*. And, if infidelity wasn't bad enough, how about having your spouse cheat on you with the same sex?

Abstinence is an option. Maybe it should even be encouraged. But once sexual activity begins, knowledge about other forms of birth control and protection is invaluable.

Funding abstinence-only programs is not only unrealistic but also scientifically inaccurate and socially unsustainable.

Shaunti Feldhahn

Diane throws out lots of data — including inaccurate information from lobbyists with vested interests in trashing the abstinence movement — but ignores the most important statistic about abstinence-only programs: They work. So well, in fact, that they've saved millions of teens a lot of heartache.

This is one case where the odd liberal bias against a good-moral-choices program (why is that a bad thing, again?) is completely refuted by the spectacular results. Here's the reality:

The sort of comprehensive sex education that Diane advocates started in schools in the 1960s, suspiciously corresponding with an explosion in rates of teen sex. And of course, that wasn't all that exploded — so did teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, despite

WOMAN TO WOMAN

Should government money be spent on abstinence-only programs? Diane Glass, a left-leaning columnist, writes the commentary this week, and Shaunti Feldhahn, a right-leaning columnist, responds.

all that education about contraception. Then, the abstinence message became a movement in the early 1990s, first receiving government funding in 1995. Not only do these years in the public schools, we've seen a comprehensive reversal of a century-long trend, as teen sex rates dropped nearly 15 percent between 1991 and 2005 (to 48.6 percent).

That drop may seem minor, but with 26 million American teenagers in the balance, it means nearly 2 million teens making the choice to abstain during their most vulnerable years. That is a huge block of kids avoiding the emotional and physical ramifications of early sex.

I wish I had space to lay out the avalanche of real facts, such as the 2001 report by Columbia University researchers demonstrating that teenagers pledging abstinence until marriage are one-third less likely to have sex, and that even pledge-breakers delay sex by 18 months over their peers. Other studies show that kids

deleting sex even end up doing better at school and at avoiding alcohol and drugs.

Almost two decades ago, the government began teaching kids to completely abstain from drugs. We didn't teach "safe drug use," we taught kids to just say no, and gave them the ammunition to avoid peer pressure and do so.

Today, a Heritage Foundation study finds, the government spends \$12 on contraception education — which has proven totally



SHAUNTI FELDHAHN

inadequate — for every \$1 spent on abstinence educa-

tion. If anything, I'd say it was time to improve that ratio, not widen it.

Diane Glass (d2weclm@msn.com) is a writer and freelancer with a B.A. and M.A. in comparative religion. Shaunti Feldhahn (sefldhnh@yahoo.com) is a conservative Christian author and speaker, and married mother of two children. Both women have degrees from Harvard.

Sinus Misery?

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VARSITY BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Records as of Jan. 3

Boys Varsity Basketball Standings table with columns for Team, Conf., All, and Team, Conf., All for various classes.

Tigers' Hubsmith gets stops, hit shots

By Mike Christensen Times-News writer

RICHFIELD — Top-ranked and unbeaten Richfield may be led by standout senior Cassie Wood, but the Tigers are far from a one-player show...



Moie Hubsmith

Hubsmith scored a game-high 19 points, she hit the 100th and 101st 3-point goals of her career. In last Thursday night's win over Hagerman — the Tigers' first home game — she accomplished the feat — Hubsmith was presented with a ball by Kent to honor the achievement...

Magic Valley Prep Athlete of the Week

starting along with Wood, Angella Kent, a 4.0 student, has averaged about nine points, six rebounds, 3.5 assists and 3.5 steals in her career. "She has all the intangibles," said Steve Kent.

Idaho Media Boys Basketball Poll

Records as of Jan. 2

Idaho Media Boys Basketball Poll table for Class 5A through Class 2A.

Idaho Media Boys Basketball Poll table for Class 2A through Class 1A.

Idaho Media Girls Basketball Poll

Records as of Jan. 2

Idaho Media Girls Basketball Poll table for Class 5A through Class 2A.

Idaho Media Girls Basketball Poll table for Class 2A through Class 1A.

CSI hoops

Colleges of Southern Idaho head women's basketball coach Randy Rogers predicted prior to the season that the GNCC women would win "a game in our league this year. Maybe five. Let's go four."

freshman guard Jessica Glavier averages over 10.8 points per contest for the Spartans, while sophomores

Eagle Eyes

Tonight: CSI at Co-rado Northwestern CC, Rigby, Colo. On the buzzer: The Golden Eagles men and women play GNCC tomorrow night before hosting Fort Lake Community College for the annual SNAC games next Friday and Saturday.

Idaho wrestling team & individual power rankings by IdahoWrestlingNews.com

Idaho Wrestling News.com power rankings table for As of Jan. 3, listing team power rankings and top 10 power rankings for various weight classes.

Downwinders call for additional Divine Strake public meetings

Group wants extra hearings on non-nuclear blast

By Jennifer DeBoer
Associated Press writer

SALT LAKE CITY — An activist group from Utah and Idaho on Thursday criticized the federal government's plan for a series of public meetings to explain a planned non-nuclear blast in the Nevada desert.

Downwinders United wants the Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency to hold more meetings and drop the "dog and pony show" format that will provide information but not allow for public comment on the test.

"In our book that's pure propaganda," Downwinder United Preston Truman of Malad, Idaho said in a news release. "These town hall meetings with power points and poster board are not acceptable in view of the past legacy of fallout and lies."

Meetings are scheduled for Jan. 9 in Las Vegas, Jan. 10 in Salt Lake City and Jan. 11 in

St. George, Utah.

"We want hearings, not tellings," Truman said. "The group is calling for additional hearings in Kingman, Ariz., Idaho, Montana, southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico, including the Navajo Reservation. All are areas where fallout from Cold-War era nuclear tests has been documented."

Known as "Divine Strake," the blast would send a 10,000-foot mushroom-shaped dust cloud over the Nevada desert. Initially scheduled for June 2006, the blast was indefinitely postponed after a lawsuit was filed in federal court and the government said it needed time to sort out questions about whether it would kick up radioactive fallout from weapons tests at the Nevada site 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

"Downwinder" is a name commonly given to residents in part of Nevada, Utah and Arizona who lived downwind of weapons tests who later contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases.

The son of a downwinder, Utah's U.S. Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Salt Lake City, called the meeting format

limited.

"It's more of an open house than a hearing," Matheson said. "The Associated Press. I do encourage people to go. This is at least an opportunity that we didn't have before. But I do have similar concerns."

Downwinder United member Mary Dickson of Salt Lake City also said the group doesn't believe government claims that the 700-ton blast presents no public health hazards.

Las Vegas attorney Robert Hager, who represents plaintiffs in the lawsuit, said a newly released environmental assessment of Divine Strake acknowledges just the opposite.

"What the Pentagon is saying for the first time is there is radioactivity in the soil and that will become airborne as a result of this bomb," Hager said.

The report also projects an equal dispersion of the blast's cloud and said the level of radiation released would be below federal safety standards.

Experts who work for Hager disagree.

"Nobody can predict where that cloud will go," Hager said.

Cable dispute keeps N. Idaho TV viewers from watching Fiesta upset

MOSCOW (AP) — Boise State's big win in the Fiesta Bowl on Monday remains a big mystery to many northern Idaho residents who missed the game because of a dispute between the local television cable company and a Fox network affiliate.

So television viewers have come up with a new game plan: switch to satellite.

"This whole Fox thing has done a killing for our industry," Andrew Wasscain, a technician at All American Satellite in Post Falls, told *The Spokesman-Review*. "Most of it is because of football fans."

Fox affiliate KAYU Fox 28 is refusing to let local cable carrier Time Warner carry its programming for free, a decision affecting about 45,000 Time Warner customers in the Coeur d'Alene, Pullman-Moscow and Libby, Mont., areas.

"KAYU officials say it's not right that Time Warner gets their programming for free and then charges its customers for it."

"We've been trying for five months to resolve this issue, but Time Warner only takes it seriously when by law they're faced with taking Fox 28 off their cable system," said KAYU General Manager Jon Rand in

a video statement on the company's Web site. "After four extensions, we finally had enough."

KAYU pulled the plug in mid-December ahead of many college football bowl games.

But Time Warner officials say they shouldn't have to pay for something that is broadcast over the public airwaves.

"We believe that our customers should not have to pay a special surcharge to see the programming KAYU broadcasts via a public license

obtained to serve the community interest," Deena Gibbs of Time Warner wrote on the company's Web site.

The signal is broadcast over the public airwaves, but some television viewers said the picture can be fuzzy, as Coeur d'Alene resident Roy Tiefstich found out when he tried to watch Boise State's 43-42 overtime win over Oklahoma.

"You could tell where the players were on the field, but you couldn't tell where the ball was," he said.

CENTURY CINEMA 5 & BURLEY THEATRE www.centurycinemas.com	
NIGHT AT THE ROCKY BALBOA MUSEUM Sylvester Stallone • It ain't over 'til it's over 7:30 • 9:30 (PG)	CHARLOTTE'S WEB Diana Kruger • In the Coeur d'Alene valley comedy 7:30 • 9:30 (PG)
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS Will Smith • In the Coeur d'Alene valley comedy 7:30 • 9:30 (PG-13)	THE HOLIDAY Catherine Zeta-Jones • In the Coeur d'Alene valley comedy 9:00 ONLY (PG-13)
ERAGON Ben Barnes • One boy • One dragon • A world of adventures 7:30 • 9:30 (PG)	THE PRESTIGE Christian Bale • In the Coeur d'Alene valley thriller 7:30 • 9:30 (PG-13)

Northern Idaho flu outbreak intensifies

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — An outbreak of stomach flu in northern Idaho has intensified, an epidemiology specialist

said. Randy Lustig, epidemiology manager at Franklenside Health District, said the general population and senior facilities in the region have seen more people catch the bug.

"It is circulating in our community and it is very hard to avoid," Lustig told the *Coeur d'Alene Press*.

Twelve residents recently caught the flu at the LaCrosse Health and Rehabilitation Center in Coeur d'Alene.

"We screen all of our admissions to check to see if they've had symptoms, but unfortunately, there's a period of a day or two between the time they are exposed and when they start showing symptoms," said Gary Liesner, director of nursing at the rehabilitation center. "We only took admissions who didn't have symptoms at

the time, but my guess is that they had been exposed."

The flu can last about 40 hours.

"It is unpleasant, but very short," Lustig said. "It's misery and passes uneventfully."

Other senior facilities that are experiencing flu runs are Ivy Court, where about 20 people had symptoms, and Life Care Center of Coeur d'Alene, which reported 28 cases.

Because of the outbreaks,

senior facilities have been taking precautions that can include requiring residents to eat in their rooms, avoid resident transfers and have staff wear protective gear.

The best way to avoid the flu, Lustig said, is diligent hand washing.

"It's easy to get it when you think of all the surfaces you touch — door knobs, telephones, shopping carts — and how close people are during the holidays," she said.

Consent

Continued from page C1

of a 2000 parental consent abortion law against a Planned Parenthood suit. A judge ruled last April that the state must also pay Planned Parenthood's more than \$380,000 legal bills.

If the Legislature wants to address the parental-consent issue again, lawmakers need to take the time to craft a bill that they can be sure will not spawn any more expensive court battles, said Senate Minority Leader Clint Stenett, D-Ketchum.

"Every time, we spend another couple hundred thousand dollars in defense of an unconstitutional law," Stenett said. "We're close to a million bucks and that's from trying to stand up and protect and prove the constitutionality of something that always pushes the edge."

The state's previous laws have been struck down because they require a report to law enforcement if a minor has engaged in criminal activity. In Idaho, a 192 law makes it illegal for minors to have sex.

In a July 2005 ruling, U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winfield said the loss of anonymity that

a girl suffers when her sexual activity must be reported would have a "chilling effect" on her decision to have an abortion.

One legislative leader at the preview session, Senate Majority Leader Ian Davis, R-

Idaho Falls, said he thinks lawmakers should come back to parental abortion consent again this session, and that it's still possible to craft a legally viable bill over the course of the session.

"I actually hope we do see a

SEASONS GREETINGS

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IDAHO/WEST

Man charged in deaths of four firefighters appears before magistrate

By Nicholas K. Geranics
Associated Press writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — A crew has charged with involuntary manslaughter in the deaths of four firefighters in a 2001 wildfire appeared in federal court on Thursday to hear the charges against him.

Eliseo N. Daniels was released on his own recognizance by U.S. Magistrate Cynthia Imbrogno, who set a Jan. 30 date for his next court appearance.

"We're horrified the government has elected to file charges," federal public defender Jim Hunt said outside the courtroom. "This is a travesty of justice."

She said Daniels is being singled out for criminal prosecution even though the decisions on fighting the Thirty Mile Fire near Winthrop were made by numerous people. She predicted jurors would exonerate Daniels, a seasonal U.S. Forest Service employee who lives in the Wenatchee area.

As the statute of limitations was about to expire, federal prosecutors in late December charged Daniels with four counts of involuntary manslaughter and seven counts of making false statements to investigators. The charges carry penalties of up to five years in prison. Daniels was not arrested and appeared voluntarily in court Thursday. He remains free to travel in the United States, Imbrogno ruled. He is working at the Stevens Pass ski area, his lawyer said.



Daniels

On July 10, 2001, firefighters Tom Craven, 30, Devin Weaver, 21, Jessica Johnson, 19, and Karen Fitzpatrick, 16, perished in the extreme heat of the fire while they huddled inside aluminum fire shelters intended to save their lives. All were from central Washington.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Hopkins has said Daniels is accused of gross negligence for failing to order the firefighters out of hunk's way as the flames advanced and then making false statements to Forest Service and Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators.

Hunt said any claims against his client belong in civil court, not criminal court.

"This case has far-reaching consequences for all people who fight fires and put themselves in danger every day," she said.

He ordered the firefighters to come down from the rocky slope and whether he told a Forest Service employee to take two civilians into her emergency shelter.

The four died when they were trapped by the wildfire with 10 other firefighters and two campers. The other firefighters and the civilian campers escaped serious injuries.

A subsequent Forest Service investigation concluded fire bosses ignored numerous signs of danger, repeatedly underestimated the fire and allowed their only escape route from the dead-end canyon to be cut off. Nine employees and fire commanders were eventually

reassigned from active duty, while others quit or retired. The Forest Service has never released specifics of the investigation.

In the years since, the Forest Service and other wildland firefighting agencies have established minimum requirements for training and experience. The agency also has worked with OSHA to re-examine safety and training policies.

A federal law passed after the Thirty Mile fatalities requires an outside investigation of any wildland firefighting fatalities. The deadly blaze is believed to have been caused by an unattended campfire. No one has been charged with starting the fire.

Sleepless in Alaska

Orphaned bear cub not hibernating

By Mary Pemberton
Associated Press writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The little bear scurrying through back yards should be snuggled in its den, curled up beside its mother and sleeping away the harsh Alaska winter.

Instead, the orphaned bear cub is prowling back yards on Douglas Island near Juneau, scrounging for anything to eat — dog food, bird seed, dead

crowns. The tiny bear scoured big by Brenda Greenbank and Gary Rosenberg's beachfront home. Gary saw the cub for the first time a couple of days before Christmas after returning with deer from a hunting trip.

"He went out to the garage and thought he saw a dog car-



In this photo released by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, a black bear cub climbs a fence in Douglas, Alaska, last month. The orphaned bear cub should be in its den, sleeping away the harsh Alaska winter beside its mother but instead is prowling back yards on Douglas Island near Juneau, scrounging for anything to eat.

AP Photo/Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Mike Lee

rying away a front quarter. He followed it a bit and realized it was a tiny bear," Brenda said.

The next time Gary had a close encounter with the bear was when he was putting meat scraps for gulls and eagles in a tin atop the wood pile.

"The wood pile is just outside the front door. When he reached out to put another handful in there, he just about

touched that guy because he had his face buried in that pan," Brenda said. "The little guy had crawled up on the wood pile and helped himself."

While Rosenberg has seen the bear several times, Greenbank saw it just once. She estimates its size at about 25 pounds — the size of a small dog.

"He is just a little black fuzzi-ball," she said. "I just can't see him surviving without a mother to protect him ... but miracles have happened."

Grant Hilderbrandt, a regional supervisor for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, said if the cub isn't captured, his chances of surviving are poor.

"Being an orphan, his chances are not very good to start with," he said. "It's a hard life out there."

Black bears in southeast Alaska normally go into hibernation in late October or early November, but pregnant sows typically go in first. No one really knows for sure what triggers the need to hibernate but it probably has to do with the weather getting colder and food scarcer, Hilderbrandt said.

"They are asleep but not completely out. They get up and move around and nuzzle the cubs, but it's a very relaxed state," Hilderbrandt said.

McKague tapped to replace Sweet in Idaho Senate

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter appointed State Rep. Shirley McKague on Thursday to replace Republican state Sen. Gerry Sweet of Meridian, who resigned last month to take a job with newly elected U.S. Rep. Bill Ball.

McKague, R-Meridian, who was just elected to her sixth term in the Idaho House, is a Natupia High School graduate, retired legal secretary and former service station owner.

McKague votes on issues such as property tax relief during the Aug. 25 special

session and adding a gay-marriage ban to the Idaho Constitution have underscored her credentials as a tax-wary social conservative.

"Rep. McKague has been a stalwart, reliable and hard-working member of the House," Otter said in a statement. "Sen. McKague will bring those same qualities to representing her constituents."

By naming McKague over fellow Republicans Mary Hagedorn and Ron Burnham, Otter set into a motion a new round of reshuffling as the 2007 Legislature is due to begin on Monday.

Spokane Diocese agrees to pay at least \$48 million to people molested by priests

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Spokane Catholic Diocese has agreed to pay at least \$48 million to people molested by priests as part of a deal to emerge from bankruptcy, a federal mediator announced Thursday.

Federal Bankruptcy Judge Gregg W. Ziv in Reno, Nev., said the settlement would provide survivors with some measure of closure and allow them to move forward and continue the healing process."

The proposed reorganization plan was filed in federal bankruptcy court in Spokane. It still must be approved by victims and another bankruptcy judge.

The settlement would be financed by \$20 million from six insurance carriers; another \$10 million from the sale of the bishop's office building and other assets and contributions from Catholic entities; and \$10 million from the diocese's 82 parishes, Ziv said.

The number of victims who would be covered by the settlement was not immediately clear. About 150 individual claims were filed against the diocese as part of the bankruptcy, although not all of those chose to sue.

The diocese serves about 90,000 Catholics in eastern Washington. It filed for bankruptcy protection in 2004, citing claims by abuse victims of about \$81.3 million against

assets of about \$11 million.

The settlement requires Spokane Bishop William Skjastad to publicly support eliminating statutes of limitations on child sex crimes and to personally visit each parish where children were abused to urge parishioners to come forward with reports of abuse.

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For Virginia kids, success begins early

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — To any parent who has wondered which children are most likely to succeed in life, a new national report offered an answer Wednesday drawn from selected measures of economic affluence and academic achievement.

The Quality Counts 2007 report, published by Education Week, found that Virginia scored higher than any other state on a new "chance-for-success" index that estimates the average child's opportunities based on factors such as family income, parental education, employment trends, test scores, preschool participation and graduation rates.

Connecticut placed second, followed by Minnesota, New Jersey and three states in fifth: Maryland, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. New Mexico ranked last.

Idaho was ranked 35th. The District of Columbia, included in the state rankings, scored 31st, in part because relatively few families have incomes well above the poverty line and because many public school fourth-graders scored poorly on a national reading test.

Over the past decade, the annual Education Week report focused on performance in kindergarten through high school. This year, researchers took a broader view in an effort to show the multiple challenges states face in the drive to improve education at all levels, close achievement gaps and ensure that students will be competitive in the workforce.

"We can't just think about school as the silver bullet. It's not the only thing happening in society," said Christopher Swanson, director of the non-profit Editorial Projects in Education Research Center in Bethesda, Md., which developed the index. "A lot of what we're looking at are things that relate to socioeconomic advantage or disadvantage. Unfortunately in many cases, the gap between rich and poor kids doesn't narrow over the school years."

Nuclear arms chief fired over security breaches

By Steve Marlow
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman has fired the head of the nation's nuclear weapons program, Linton Brooks, because of security breaches last year at weapons facilities, including Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Declaring that it was "time for new leadership," Bodman said in a statement Thursday that he had asked Brooks to resign and leave his post as administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration by the end of the month.

The dismissal comes in the wake of embarrassing security lapses, including the Oct. 17

discovery by Los Alamos County, N.M., police officers of drug paraphernalia and computer flash drives with highly classified information in the trailer home of a contractor after responding to a domestic dispute call.

That led to a harshly critical report in late November by the Energy Department's inspector general, Gregory Friedman, who said that security procedures in key areas at Los Alamos National Laboratory were "non-existent, applied inconsistently, or not followed."

While Bodman refused to elaborate on his statement, the removal of Brooks also comes as Democrats, determined to hold oversight hearings on the nuclear labora-

ries' security problems, take control of the House of Representatives.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said in a statement

Thursday that he will take more than a new boss to fix the problems, which are far more systemic and pervasive in nature.

He added that "the new Democratic Congress will exercise the oversight responsibility ... to get to the bottom of the dysfunctional nuclear weapons

complex's problems."

Brooks, the top NNSA official since mid-2002, is not an expert on computer security. But he has spent four decades working on national security issues, starting as a Navy officer and later dealing with nuclear weapons issues at the Pentagon, National Security Council, Navy, State Department and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in three Republican administrations.

Brooks said in a statement Thursday "This is not a decision that I would have preferred, but it was made by a thoughtful and honorable man and is based on the principle of accountability that should govern all public service."

In the Bush administration, Brooks has been an advocate of building a new generation of nuclear weapons over the next decade, devising post-Cold War missions for nuclear weapons and of modernizing U.S. nuclear weapons facilities, some of which date back to the 1940s.

"He was a very intelligent public servant with a great deal of integrity," said Joseph Cirincione, vice president for national security issues at the Center for American Progress, Cirincione, who strongly disagreed with Brooks, said the security lapses had done little actual harm.

"I would feel better if Brooks were being dismissed on policy grounds rather than security grounds," he said.

Negroponete's departure as spy chief sparks acrimony on Capitol Hill

By Greg Miller
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The abrupt departure of John D. Negroponete as the nation's spy chief prompted angry responses from Capitol Hill and triggered a new debate Thursday over whether a position created to fix the U.S. intelligence problems is itself fundamentally flawed.

President Bush is expected to announce Friday that Negroponete is leaving the post to become the top deputy at the State Department. Bush also is set to nominate retired Vice Adm. J. Michael McConnell to be the next director of national intelligence.

The shuffle comes just 18 months into Negroponete's tenure at the job. And while he has received mixed reviews for his reform efforts, lawmakers and senior intelligence officials said the switch is a significant setback for the office, which oversees the 16 U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA.

"I'm very concerned that taking out the top guy at a critical juncture is going to cause some backsliding," said Rep. Jane Harman of California, who was the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence

PROFILE New post possible for Negroponete

National Intelligence Director John Negroponete, 57, is expected to resign to become deputy secretary of state.



Negroponete

Education — Bachelor's degree, Yale University, 1960
Experience — National Intelligence Director, April 2005-present; ambassador to Iraq, 2004-March 2005; United Nations, 2001-04; Philippines 1993-96; Mexico, 1989-93; Honduras, 1981-85.
Other positions — executive vice president, McGraw-Hill, 1997-2001; deputy national security adviser, 1987-89; deputy assistant secretary of state, 1980-81 and 1977-79.

Committee when Congress passed the legislation creating the DNI post. "It's a very steep learning curve. And any new person will have to play catch-up."

Negroponete's departure is the second major edit from the DNI office in a matter of months. His top deputy, Air Force Gen. Michael V. Hayden, left last spring to become director of the CIA. When Negroponete and Hayden were nominated for the intelligence

posts in 2005, they were described as a team whose combined skills and expertise were indispensable to the success of establishing the new agency and enacting sweeping intelligence reform measures passed in 2004 by Congress.

"I'm disappointed that both he and Hayden have left, but the DNI office," said Lee Hamilton, a member of the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks and made the creation of the DNI job one of its principal recommendations.

"I think we are beginning to see better sharing of information in the intelligence community, and I also think it's a work in progress and an awful lot needs to be done," Hamilton said. "It is therefore a little unsettling to me that your two top leaders move out of the DNI office within a matter of months."

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Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

1. I THOUGHT YOU WERE LEAVING FOR GOLF.
2. I FEEL LIKE I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING.
3. HOW ABOUT YOUR BAGPIPES?

Blonde By Dean Young & Stan Drake

1. DAGWOOD IS HAVING HIS AFTER-OWNER NAP. NO OTHERS.
2. THEN WAKE UP! THIS IS IMPORTANT!
3. YAWN. AND THEN WE BRACE-UP TO ESTIMATE BY SKUNKS-N-Y.
4. EXCELLENT! NOW GO BACK TO SLEEP! HE MAKES MORE SENSE ASLEEP THAN WHEN HE'S AWAKE.

The Born Loser By Art Sansom & Chip

1. DRAT!
2. THEY SAY THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE—THOSE WHO USE A PENCIL TO DO CROSSWORD PUZZLES AND THOSE WHO USE A PEN!
3. THEN THERE'S THORNAPPLE—HE USES A CRAYON!

Garfield By Jim Davis

1. LIZ IS BRINGING FUDGE OVER...
2. JON LIKES LIZ, AND I LIKE FUDGE.
3. THIS COULD BE THE START OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL!

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

1. MY MOTHER-IN-LAW CALLED ME "UNCOUTH."
2. THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
3. FIRST, I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT "UNCOUTH" MEANS...

Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

1. WHO DO YOU THINK IS PRETTIER, LIZ OR BETH?
2. IT'S KINDA HARD TO TELL AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.

Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

1. YOUR GRANPA WROTE A LOT IN HIS DIARY.
2. "WHY AM I IN THIS CAGE? I NEVER DID ANYTHING WRONG. I HATE IT IN HERE! I SHOULD BE OUTSIDE FLYING AROUND LIKE OTHER BIRDS."
3. [Snoopy in his doghouse]

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

1. THE PRESS SAYS YOU'RE SPENDING MORE ON THE MILITARY THAN THE POOR.
2. HOGWASH!
3. THE POOR SPEND TWICE AS MUCH ON THE MILITARY AS I DO!

Dennis the Menace By Haack Ketchum

1. ONE MORE THING... WOULD YOU PLEASE FIND MARGARET A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD?
2. [Dennis looking at a house]
3. [Dennis looking at a house]

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

1-5. [A family sitting at a table eating cereal]
"I was flying a spoonful of cereal to him, and I overshot his mouth."

Man's affair with one sister threatens marriage to other

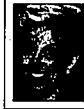
DEAR ABBY: A few years ago I had an affair with a woman I met at a local benefit. I'll call her "Desiree." I would love her, it a few years later, Desiree would become my sister-in-law.

My wife has always been jealous of her "more attractive" sister. She reminds me of that fact every time we visit. Now Desiree is having money problems, and she's threatening to tell my wife about our "historical" fling. I don't accommodate her needs.

My marriage is already on thin ice because I ran over my wife's dog and forgot our anniversary in the same week. What should I do?

—BLACKMAILED IN BURBANK
DEAR BLACKMAILED: If you knuckle under to your sister-in-law's threats, her money problems will be over and you will be paying her off for the duration of your marriage. Be smart. Nip this in the bud by telling your wife everything. It isn't your fault that you met her sister first. You should thank your lucky stars that you wound up marrying the right one.

DEAR ABBY: I am a young woman who has entered the workforce for the first time. I work at a large company that employs very few women. Abby, I am a very average girl who has never been the center



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

what has been happening. It is up to management to put a stop to it—and if they don't, it should be reported to the local labor board.

of attention, but here at work it's a different story. Here, I get treated like a supermodel.

People fawn over me, ask me personal questions, ask me out and just want to be my friend. It's hard to get work done with so many men coming by every day, and it's embarrassing for me.

I have tried to be cold to some of them to get them to stop coming by, but it doesn't work. How can I discourage random people from coming by just to say "hi" and have a conversation all the time? They don't start conversations with all the men who sit near me, so why should they start one with me? It's making me want to leave the company and never come back.

—PLAIN JANE IN TEXAS
DEAR PLAIN JANE: The time has come to have a talk with your supervisor or director of human resources about this. What appears to be your "what appears to be your work performance" could be construed as sexual harassment. Please do not leave a formal report about

DEAR ABBY: My sister sent out an invitation for a baby shower to be held for her son's wife. The invitation gave the address where the shower was to be held, and at the bottom of the invitation was a handwritten note that read: "To be held at Greg's new home."

I interpreted the note as a "suggestion" that guests bring a housewarming gift as well as a baby gift. Otherwise, the invitation would have just given the address. Is this a new gimmick now? I try to get as many gifts as people can? I acknowledged the invitation by sending my regrets.

It is just my the wrong way. I now keep my distance from the family and do not attend any family functions. I rarely visit or have contact with any of them. I would appreciate your opinion.

—SISTER "LIZZY" IN ARIZONA
DEAR "LIZZY": I don't know your sister, but if the note at the bottom of the invitation was a bid for an extra gift, it was certainly a veiled one. Because you asked for my opinion, I'll give it to you straight: I think you overreacted.

S.F. began to look golden this day in 1933

This day in history: Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge began on Jan. 5, 1933, in San Francisco. It would open, ahead of schedule and under budget, four years later.

The Fenelon uses an average of 666 rolls of toilet paper a day. Some toads don't have to drink much water. They have a patch of skin on their backs that absorbs moisture into their bodies. They can get most of the water their bodies need by simply sitting on moist soil.

Because of the death of his father, Saul (Mark Twain's) Clemens left school forever at age 12. If all he could've accomplished if he'd graduated.

Other famous grammar school dropouts include John Phillips, Sam Mussulis, Charles Dickens, Charlie Chaplin.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
Eric Barrett & Jack Wingo

sweaters and scarves isn't a new fad. There's evidence that Navajo Indians and ancient civilizations in Scandinavia did the same thing.

In the 1940s, Betty Crocker was voted the second best-known woman in America, second only to Eleanor Roosevelt. Not bad for a person who doesn't exist.

A recent survey of the night sky calculates the number of stars that can be seen by Earth's telescopes to be about 70,000,000,000,000,000,000 (70 sextillion). Scientists say that's 10 times the number of grains of sand on the Earth, and nearly the number of molecules of water. You could scoop out of the Earth's oceans.

A dictionary of provincial English defines a Spherdab as "a scandal-monger who goes from house to house dispensing news."

'Private' elevator goes back to private use

CHICAGO — Cook County Board President Todd Stroger has lost his private elevator.

It hasn't gone missing — but it's now open to the public. Just a few weeks after was set aside for Stroger's private use. When staff members commandeered the elevator closest to Stroger's fifth-floor office at the county building last month, they said it was needed to keep the chatty official on schedule.

"It's really for expediting his schedule so we can get him places and get everything completed," spokesman Bill Figel said at the time. "It's one of many features to modernize county operations, but it also speaks to his inclination to stop and talk to everybody."

But spokesman Steve Mayberry said the elevator "simply isn't seen as necessary and was stopped not long after it was put in place."

"The president takes whatever elevator comes first," Mayberry said.

Suspect turns himself in to begin year with clean slate
DYERSBURG, Tenn. — A Texas man warned on an outstanding warrant turned himself in to police so he could start 2007 with "a clean slate," police said. Christopher Lee Torres, 29, was wanted on a probation violation warrant for assaulting a police officer in Kleburg County, Texas, in April 2006. Torres called police from a Dyersburg motel on New

Odds and ends

Year's Day and told them he wanted to be taken into custody. Torres said that he'd thought about this all night and decided he wanted to start the new year off on a clean slate, officers wrote in their report.

Torres was being held in Dyer County Jail pending extradition to the Texas county's seat of Kingsville, about 37 miles southwest of Corpus Christi.

Driver finds himself in bank lobby — car and all
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas — It wasn't quite the kind of deposit employees of the International Bank of Commerce were expecting Wednesday morning when Ramanbhai Patel showed up.

Patel's car crashed into the bank's lobby, going through a window and part of a wall before stopping. No one was injured. Police Chief Robert Rodriguez said Patel, who lives on the island, apparently put his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake while trying to park.

He stepped off the brake, panicked, and the next thing he knew, he was inside the bank, Rodriguez said. Police are still investigating and no citations were issued Wednesday.

More to erase towns from map greeted with outcry
ATLANTA — Po Biddy Crossroads will be back on the map. So will Hopelucki and Dorchester from the map.

The 488 communities wiped from this year's version of the state highway map will be restored, the Georgia Department of Transportation said Wednesday.

"These communities are as much a part of the fabric of our state as our major metropolitan areas," said Vicki Gavalas, the department's spokeswoman.

The towns were erased from the map after the transportation department decided it wanted a clearer, more legible version of the map to hand out to free visitors centers and tourism hotspots.

The move led to an outcry among some small-town officials, who said the erasure of places like Cloulandin, Poetry Tulip and Chattogaoville were an insult to rural residents.

News of the cartographic change prompted a flood of map-related letters and phone calls to the governor's office as well as a number of complaints from lawmakers. "We're glad that they've seen the light and put it back on there," said Dennis Holt, who led an effort to restore the name of western Georgia's Hickory Level. "Our concern is: Will they do this again? We'll be waiting, we'll be watching."



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OUTDOORS

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INSIDE: Search and rescue teams show different capabilities, D2

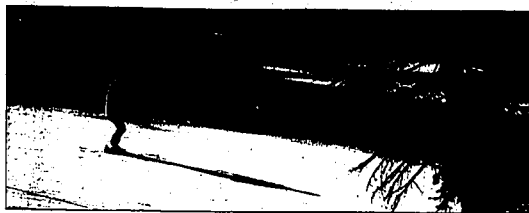


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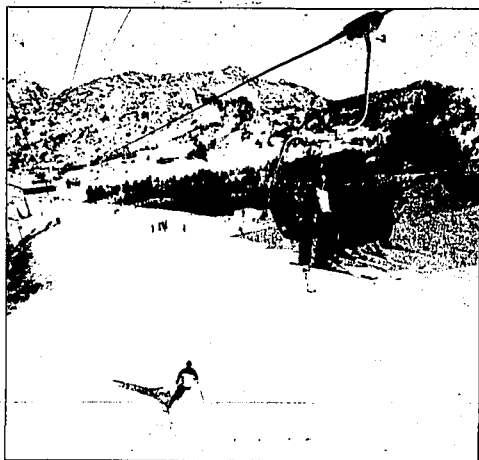
FRIDAY

JANUARY 5, 2007

INSIDE: Ask the officer, D2 | Wandering geologist, D2 | Everest climber moves to Utah, D3



A skier takes a run at Alta Ski Resort in November.



AP Photo

For skiers Only



Skiers travel to the bottom of the mountain at Alta Ski Resort, in this Nov. 19 file photo, in Alta, Utah.

Above, skiers take the lift up as others take the slope down at Alta Ski Resort on Nov. 19 in Alta, Utah.

Skiers love to step back in time at Utah's Alta resort

By Sara Kupler
Associated Press writer

If you go ...

ALTA, Utah — To reach this tiny ski town at the top of a canyon, you jump on an easy flight to Salt Lake City, followed by a 45-minute drive into the mountains. But somewhere along the way you go through a time warp.

Alta has been a ski area for 68 years, priding itself on its ability to fend off change and development through much of that time. Skiing purists and Utah locals have been quietly enjoying its beauty for decades, but some of us are defecting here from pricier, more upscale resorts elsewhere because it reminds us of why we fell in love with the sport. "I had never skied Utah, but once I had, it's now my annual pilgrimage," said lifelong skier Seth Bingham, who grew up in Denver and swooshed down his first mountain at age 9. He is now an attorney who also works two days a week at a ski resort in Durango, Colo.

Bingham and I met on a snowy afternoon at Alta, when my father and I happened to share a table with him while stopping for lunch at a mid-mountain lodge.

Like Bingham, my family is serious about skiing. Legend has it that my father used to pack lunches and eat them on the lift because he couldn't bear to waste time away from the slopes. Ever since he first put me in ski boots at age 4, I have been a skier, and I even went to college in

<http://www.alta.com> or 801-359-1078.

Lift tickets, \$52 a day. To reach Alta from the Salt Lake City airport, you can rent a car for the 45-minute drive, or take a shuttle bus or taxi. Options include Alta Shuttle, <http://www.altaaltitude.com/> or 866-274-4226, \$28 per person each way, leaves the airport every 20 to 30 minutes from 7:30 a.m. to 2 a.m.



Colorado so I could be close to the mountains where I spent so much time as a kid. But a lot has changed in the ski industry there since I was younger. Towns are sprawling, resorts are expanding, prices are skyrocketing (lift tickets at one major resort are up to \$85 a day). The skiing is still excellent, and we certainly haven't abandoned our first love. But in Alta, we have found a throwback to simpler times — when apres ski was a bowl of chili by the fire, not martinis and a two-hour wait for dinner.

The first time my dad and I went to Alta a few years ago, we loved the atmosphere as we drove into the old silver mining town, where most of the businesses are locally-owned, including the five lodges at the base.

We felt a tug of nostalgia as we inched up the mountain on the main chair lift, which was then a slow-mov-

ing double-seater that felt very 1970s and took nearly 20 minutes to reach the top. The trip takes you from a base of about 8,350 feet above sea level to about 10,400. Alta's highest point is 10,550.

The lift was replaced in 2004 with a faster four-seater that now zips to the top in about eight minutes. At other resorts, skiers typically welcome these types of improvements, but at Alta, loyalists were dismayed, and it took an entire season for most of them to come around, according to Alta spokeswoman Connie Marshall. Alta lovers tend to be alarmed if anything changes (there was once an uprising over new furniture in one of the lodge lobbies), and so the resort takes very seriously any proposals to upgrade or renovate.

"People say, 'This is why I love it here. We go other places to get the



Skiers get ready to hit the slopes at Alta Ski Resort earlier this ski season.

bella and whistles," Marshall said. "People feel like they've come home when they're here."

Boasting more than 500 inches of snow each season — a dry, fluffy snow resulting from a combination of desert effects and the Great Salt Lake — Alta is also unmatched in terms of quality runs and deep powder that seems to last forever.

Part of that is because Alta still doesn't allow snowboarders on its 116 runs, which cover 2,200 ski acres. At the risk of offending my snowboarding friends, I have to say this is another reason why I like skiing here — I love snowboarders, but without

them, the loose snow doesn't slough off the mountain as quickly.

Without all the glitz, the resort also manages to keep its prices reasonable.

Lift tickets this year are \$52 a day, with savings for multiple-day purchases, and comfortable slopeside lodging can be found for under \$250 a night.

"At Alta, it's not about the customer experience of showing you how well-behaved the mountain is, it's just about the skiing. It's all about the skiing," Bingham said. "And you're willing to put up with a little bit of quirkiness to get that."

OUTDOORS

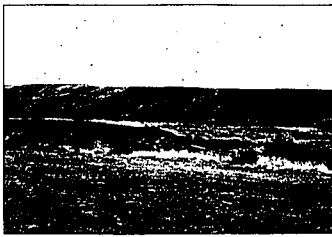
A look at the other Bliss landslide

River rafters, and residents of the Hagerman/Bliss area are familiar with the pesky Bliss landslide. The sediments that compose this feature are nestled into a large alcove on the north side of the river just below Highway 30 in Bliss.

Taking River Road downhill from Bliss, one cuts through the hundreds of thin beds of sediment that constitute much of the slide material, and can see the contortion and random orientation of the layers resulting from intermittent movement over the years.

Fewer people, I suspect, are aware that another large slide occurred across the river. This feature is nearly indistinguishable from the surrounding hillsides and is not visible to the river, or the residents at its base. The top of the feature lies a quarter of a mile away from the river and rests on a broad terrace created by the Bonneville Flood — 10,000 years ago as it widened the pre-existing canyon through this stretch.

The reason for this feature's camouflage is due to its age. The young hillsides visible from Hagerman have been active within the past 20 years. Their bare, chaotic slopes have not had sufficient time to revegetate, and therefore, stand out as brighter spots on



The concave scarp and hummocky failed block profile is typical of failures seen along the Snake River canyon from the Hagerman Valley downstream of Hammett.



THE WANDERING GEOLOGIST
Lawrence P. Gronowey

the hillsides. But this older slide mass may be around 13,000 years old if the saturation that resulted in failure of the hillside is due to the Bonneville Flood. This would have provided plenty of time for the bright scarp to revegetate to the point of blending in with the rest of the hillside

above the river. While the vegetative cover and ridge-top skyline of this feature are similar to the adjacent slopes, it can be discerned fairly easily by looking for two key clues. First, all landslides have a scarp at the head of the failure. Looking carefully at the hillside across the river along a line defined by River Road at its junction with Highway 30, you will notice a broad concavity at the top of the hillside. This is the scarp. You can approximate the size of the failure by extending an imaginary line along each side of

the scarp down to the river terrace.

Second, notice that a single, thin lava flow is visible near the top third of the hillside and extends in both directions from, and through, the scarp. This is the Shoestring Road Basalt, which forms a single flow unit wherever it is seen in exposure.

But if you look closely at the top of the failed block below the scarp, you will notice it bears a thin cap of this basalt which is tilting back toward the hillside. As the block failed, it carried a small section of the Shoestring Road Basalt with it as it slid toward the river, resulting in two levels of basalt when we should only see one.

Landslides of this type are common sites along the Snake River channel from Hagerman downstream to past Hammett. Saturation of the older Lake Idaho sediments by the Bonneville Flood resulted in large slope failures wherever the conditions were right. Identify these failures by looking for a concavity on the hillside directly above a hummocky mass of material.

Lawrence Gronowey is the past president of the Idaho Association of Professional Geologists. He welcomes e-mail at lgronowey@idaho.com

Sun Valley set to host national ski tour

Times-News

SUN VALLEY — Sun Valley Resort will host the inaugural stop of The Honda Ski Tour, a new North American four-stop mountain festival and action/vibe fest with Base Camp Music Experience headliners such as the breakout rock band of the year Hinder, Three Days Grace, DJ Aero, Wallers w/ DJ Logie, Swollen Members, Kamphire Collective, Eban with DJ Zuz, Don Carlos, Jillian Ann, Finger Eleven and more.

The BaseCamp Music Experience at Sun Valley will feature over 10 big-name musical acts alongside the multi-day alpine festival including a pro photo competition, film festival, street bonfires, and countless parties. The Honda Ski Tour's Sun Valley stop will be nationally televised (in a one-hour show) on ABC television on Jan. 20 at 4 p.m. MST.

Confirmed athletes for the tour's halfpipe competition include X Games medalist Simon Dumont as well as X Games competitors Matt Phillippi, Laurent Favre and Justin Dorey.

Athletes competing for the skiers' competition include Olympians Daron Rahbeks, Reggie Crist, and Casey Puckett. X Games commentators Zach Crist, Davey Barr, Enik Gavaggia, Markus Wittner, Stanley Tayer and Kyle Sulz are also competing.

"Sun Valley resort is excited to host the first-ever Honda Ski Tour stop," said Sun Valley PR and Marketing Director Joe Silbunch. "This is an unprecedented event for us. We're thrilled to have world-

class athletes on our mountains along with the live music and excitement throughout the town of Ketchum."

The nightlife at The Honda Ski Tour stop of The Honda Ski Tour will feature live on-the-slope action/vibe fest with Base Camp Music Experience headliners such as the breakout rock band of the year Hinder, Three Days Grace, DJ Aero, Wallers w/ DJ Logie, Swollen Members, Kamphire Collective, Eban with DJ Zuz, Don Carlos, Jillian Ann, Finger Eleven and more.

Showingcase the year's best action sports segments from the biggest producers in the game, the Lifetime Film Festival covers the entire spectrum of action-adventure filmmaking. Special guest appearances by some of the greatest action sports athletes will give spectators a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet these megastars.

Five world-class photographers will showcase some of the best work of their careers to determine the winner of the Sun Valley Pro Photo Shootout. Scott Markowitz, Tony Harrington, Charlie Munsey, Corey Rich, and Gene Dworkin will show audiences with epic images front across the globe, including skiing, surfing, kayaking, climbing and more.

It will be up to the attendees at The Honda Ski Tour in Sun Valley to cast their votes and choose the winner.

Difficulty of the search

Oregon searches point out divergence in capabilities

By Jeff Barnard
Associated Press writer

GRANITE PASS, Ore. — Three high-profile searches in Oregon — climbers stuck in a blizzard on Mount Hood, a family stranded in their car on a remote logging road, and a boy lost on foot in Crater Lake National Park — show that where people get lost has a lot to do with the nature of searches to find them.

But even highly organized searches don't guarantee happy endings.

In each search — one run by county sheriff's departments, one that mixed efforts by city and state police, counties, and the victims' families, and one run by a top National Park Service crisis management team — people died or were never found.

The search effort that has drawn the most scrutiny, for the family of James Kim deep in a national forest near the Oregon coast, has prompted calls for better information management by searchers and coordination among state and county agencies.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski has said he wants to look at reviews of the recent searches to see where the state can offer help, particularly on funding.

The vast majority of search and rescue missions end successfully, and do not draw public notice. Only when things go awry or people die do people start to question the system.

"It's kind of like a seat belt. It doesn't come into the public's eye until you need it," said John Miller, search and rescue coordinator for Lane County, which conducted 115 of the 996 search and rescue missions in Oregon last year — the most of any county in Oregon.

Few last more than a day, Miller said. "Those are the ones you have the least opportunity to participate in and you probably have the least experience dealing with because they are so infrequent. Generally, those are the ones with the most potential for loss of life, too."

Miller feels training and funding around the state are inconsistent, and could be improved.

"That view is not fully embraced by state search and rescue coordinator Georges Kleinbaum.

"Those of us at the state don't feel there is any lack of competence," Kleinbaum said. "I know we've got three high-profile missions very recently. There are still another 800 or



Jason Ramsdell, of Yosemite Search and Rescue, rappels down the side of Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park, Ore., Oct. 17, near the spot where 8-year-old Sammie Boehlke, of Portland, was last seen.



Karl Kim, right, talks to rescue personnel Dec. 4 in Meritt, Ore., after she and her two daughters, Sabina, 7 months, and Penelope, 4, were rescued in the mountains of southwest Oregon. The body of her husband, James, 48, was later recovered.

900 this year alone that weren't high profile."

The state offers advanced training that does not require it for coordinators, who usually have other duties to juggle, Kleinbaum said. His office requires volunteers and coordinators to go through a basic training course, which includes map reading, survival skills and the structure of the incident command system that is now standard for wildfires and emergencies. But the agency does not keep track of what training each county coordinator has, figuring someone with experience but no training is better than no one at all.

The situation varies from state to state in the West, and from county to county within many states.

"Throughout the West, county sheriffs traditionally have jurisdiction over search and rescue operations, except in national parks, and the priority each sheriff gives search and rescue funding, training, equipment and personnel ultimately determines how good they are. In Oregon, state law put sheriffs in charge, and they often delegate the responsibility

to a search and rescue coordinator, who may also be a deputy or emergency services director. Many rural counties are strapped financially, looking at cutting sheriff's patrols, closing libraries, and reducing road maintenance. Federal timber payments have helped them build up search and rescue equipment, but expired this year, leaving funding in doubt. Search programs are almost exclusively staffed by volunteers.

"The trick is, if you want to get lost in a state that uses a sheriff's coordinator, you want to pick your county to get lost in," said Rick Goodman, the retired head of search and rescue for New Mexico state police and a training consultant. "Some counties are up to the state of the art. Other counties don't have a lot of missions and could use some expertise."

After problems with some searches, New Mexico took authority away from county sheriffs in 1978.

"Everywhere I go, almost I think, 'Boy if I wanted my kids to get lost, I'd have them do it in New Mexico,'" said Goodman, who helped write the law.

In New Mexico, searches on the scale of the three recent high-profile Oregon cases would have required a what is called Type I manager, or, run by an experienced, highly trained team with a state police.

A search and rescue advisory board reviews warrants, and in cases involving injury or death sends its findings to the attorney general. State police can require coordinators to get more training, or pull their certification.

"Somewhere there needs to be a body that can review these things and make some findings of fact and recommend or mandate that changes are made so you have better coordination, better resources allocation," said Goodman.

In Oregon, state officials can review the conduct of a search, but have no enforcement power if they find negligence or incompetence.

The three recent searches in Oregon are marked by differences.

The most recent one, for three out-of-state climbers lost on Mount Hood, was run by the Hood River County sheriff's department, which conducts 10 to 20 per year on the state's highest peak.

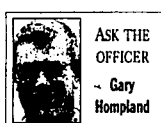
Hood River and neighboring Clackamas County, which cover Mount Hood, have developed a "play book" based on the many searches, and when they were notified three climbers were missing earlier this month, they went right to the book, said Hood River Sheriff Joe Wampler.

"Between them and us we opened that book, and page by page went down through there. It makes us feel good that all that practice and planning works," said Wampler, himself an experienced climber and licensed pilot.

Expiration dates vary for licenses

Q: I hunt, fish and trap and someone told me they expire on different dates. I don't want to be caught in violation but I'm confused about when I need to renew my licenses.

A: I understand your confusion; let me try to make it a little easier to understand.



ASK THE OFFICER
- Gary Hompland

Generally, all individual sporting licenses such as hunting and fishing licenses and all big game tags and permits expire on December 31. Waterfowl and upland game hunters as well as those wishing to hunt coyotes and jack rabbits must purchase new hunting licenses in the New Year.

Commercial licenses such as trapping, commercial fishing, taxidermy, fur buying, shooting preserve operator, etc. are valid for the entire season, usually spanning part of two years or, in some cases multiple years.

These licenses expire on June 30th.

Unfortunately there are a couple of exceptions. The migratory waterfowl stamp or "duck stamp" is valid for the entire waterfowl season and is valid from July 1 of one year to June 30th of the following year. Duck hunters should save last

year's license if the stamp is attached, or least must save their stamp in order to be legal to hunt waterfowl in the New Year.

Another exception is for licensed falconers. They must purchase both state and federal licenses that are valid for three years.

Additionally, all Idaho licenses and permits list the valid dates and expiration dates on their face. If sportsmen still have questions about when their licenses or permits expire they can contact a regional fish and game office for assistance.

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

Craters events, free-ski day top HDNA calendar

TWIN FALLS — Trails at the Craters of the Moon National Monument and a Nordic ski event at Magic Mountain will highlight a meeting of the High Desert Nordic Association next Wednesday.

The cross-country ski organization will meet at 7 p.m. at Idaho Joe's Restaurant, 598 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Dan Cress, HDNA president, said all people interested in cross-country or back-country skiing are welcome to attend.

David Freiberg, recreation planner with the Bureau of Land Management's Shoshone office will describe cross-country ski trails at Craters and other winter recreational opportunities at the monument.

Plans will also be completed for the HDNA's role in the Nordic ski event on Saturday,

Jan. 13 at Magic Mountain Ski Resort. The event is a joint effort involving the Idaho State Parks and Recreation Department, U.S. Forest Service, Magic Mountain and the HDNA. The association provides equipment and basic cross-country ski instruction at the event. It runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HDNA members will also consider plans for other events and activities including a moonlight ski, group ski trips and clinic participation.

The association is comprised of members from throughout the Magic Valley, and meetings monthly from November to March. Further information about the HDNA may be obtained by calling 733-1882 or 733-8654. More information about the Jan. 13 event can be obtained by calling Malad Gorge State Park at 837-4505.

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Table of American Stock Exchange data including volume and index.

AROUND THE WORLD

CHILE

Navy plane spots U.S. sailor drift off coast

SANTIAGO — A Chilean navy search plane has spotted an American solo sailor on his storm-battered yacht off the southern tip of South America, and a trawler was heading to rescue him, the military said Thursday.

Ken Barnes, of Newport Beach, Calif., also made visual contact with the pilots from his yacht, which has two broken masts and a disabled engine, the navy said.

Barnes, 47, set off from Long Beach, Calif., on Oct. 20 on a 44-foot ketch called the *Elysivater* in hopes of sailing around the world. His girlfriend, Cathy Chambers, said he called her Tuesday in California on his satellite phone to say he was in trouble due to a storm.

He told Chambers he had lost engine power and steering and had two broken masts and broken hatches. The *Elysivater* was also taking on water in 46-mph winds and 25-foot swells, she said.

One of the navy pilots, Capt. Gonzalo Vasquez, told Chilean state television that the *Elysivater* was not in danger of sinking. The navy also said the storm that had battered the yacht had passed and the weather had improved greatly.



American sailor Ken Barnes waits to be rescued Thursday on his disabled yacht. A fishing trawler was sailing to rescue Barnes, whose round-the-world solo trip was interrupted a week ago when his 44-foot ketch hit a storm that broke both its masts and soaked Barnes' supplies and food.

The explosions went off one after another at 10:30 a.m. in the Mansour neighborhood setting fire to a gas station and incinerating at least a half dozen cars.

In addition to the dead, police said at least 25 people were wounded.

Firefighters sprayed streams of water on the wreckage as soldiers and civilians staggered around in a daze. "What do they want from us? What do they want from us?" one Iraqi soldier

asked, referring to those behind the blasts. Blood pooled among scattered containers for propane and kerosene, near where tea cups lay toppled on a blanket spread over wood crates.

A woman in a black Muslim veil sat weeping on a curb outside Yarmouk hospital, where victims were taken. The wounded lay on stretchers crowded into the hallway inside.

— The Associated Press

occurs irregularly. But when it does, winters in Southeast Asia tend to become milder, summers in Australia get drier, and Pacific storms can be more intense. The U.N.'s Food Aid Organization has warned that rising temperatures could wreak agricultural havoc.

In Australia, which is struggling through its worst drought on record, the impact on farmers could be devastating. The country has already registered its smallest wheat harvest in a decade, food prices are rising, and severe water restrictions have put thousands of farmers at risk of bankruptcy.

600 militiamen and the Ethiopian and Somali troops took place far to the southwest near the border with Kenya.

Some militants were trying to escape by sea but that U.S. Navy forces were deployed to stop them. Somali government spokesman Abdurahman Dinari said. Three al-Qaida suspects wanted in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa are believed to be leaders of the Islamic movement. The Islamists deny having any links to al-Qaida.

IRAQ

Bombs hit Baghdad as two more face execution

BAGHDAD — Twin car bombs killed 13 people Thursday in an upscale Baghdad neighborhood after a lull in violence during an Islamic holiday, and Iraq prepared to execute two of Saddam Hussein's co-defendants despite an inquiry into an unruly scene in the former dictator's execution chamber.

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BRITAIN

Scientists: 2007 could be world's warmest year

LONDON — Deepening drought in Australia, stronger typhoons in Asia, floods in Latin America.

British climate scientists predict that a resurgent El Nino climate trend combined with higher levels of greenhouse gases could torch off a fresh round of ecological disasters — and make 2007 the world's hottest year on record.

"Even a moderate (El Nino) warming event is enough to push the global temperatures over the top," said Phil Jones, director of the Climatic Research unit at the University of East Anglia.

The warmest year on record is 1998, when the average global temperature was 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the long-term average of 57 degrees. Though such a change appears small, incremental differences can, for example, add to the ferocity of storms by evaporating more steam off the ocean.

There is a 60 percent chance that the average global temperature for 2007 will match or break the record. Britain's Meteorological Office said Thursday. The consequences of the high temperatures could be felt worldwide.

El Nino, which is now under way in the Pacific Ocean and is expected to last until May,

SOMALIA

600 Islamic militiamen battle government forces

MOGADISHU — Somali government troops backed by Ethiopian soldiers battled about 600 Islamic militiamen Thursday on the southern tip of this Horn of Africa nation, and U.S. Navy forces prevented the militants from fleeing by sea, authorities said.

A U.S. diplomat said she hoped peacekeepers from the region could be in place by month's end in Somalia, where the Council of Islamic Courts militias were driven from the capital of Mogadishu and much of the south last week. But peacekeepers could face bloody reprisals from the militias, who want to rule by the Quran and have vowed to launch an Iraqi-style guerrilla war.

Somalia hasn't had an effective central government in 15 years, and Mogadishu resident Musse Ali said foreigners will also have to protect themselves from warlords and freelance militiamen.

"The peacekeepers will be targets for terrorists," said Ali. "They will have to face them."

Somalia's interior minister said thousands of Islamic fighters were still hiding in the capital. "There are 3,500 Islamists hiding in Mogadishu and in the surrounding areas, and they are likely to destabilize the security of the city," Hussein Audeed said.

The battle between the esti-

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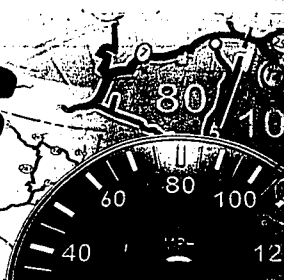
The Snow Center

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Wheels

& classifieds



2007 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500

Breaking new ground

RoundHorn®
By Ken Chester, Jr.
Motor News Media Corporation

Witness the style and sophistication of the all-new Chevrolet trucks and SUVs for 2007. Big, wide, modern and refined, the automaker developed an all-new chassis for its profitable full-sized light-duty trucks a mere six years after the last major upgrade.

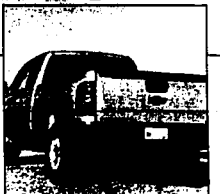
Boasting best-in-class horsepower, towing capability and fuel economy, Chevrolet introduces the all-new Silverado 1500 half-ton pickup truck for 2007. Featuring a distinctive exterior design and spaciouly refined interiors, the automaker is looking to continue its truck momentum that began in early 2006 with the debut of its brand-new, full-sized SUV models.

The all-new Silverado extended cab pickup truck features three cargo box lengths — 5 ft. 8 in., 6 ft. 6 in. and 8 ft. Boasting a new exterior designed with a strong and refined appearance, the new Silverado looks muscular and capable — even standing still.

Available in Work Truck, LS, LT and LTZ trim levels, power for the all-new Chevrolet pickup truck is provided by a host of light-duty Vortec truck engines. This roster of motive power includes the 4.3L V6, 4.8L V8, 5.3L V8 and a 6.0L V8. Several versions of the Vortec 5.3L V8 available for the Silverado were engineered to be E85 capable — meaning they can run on any mix of E85 ethanol fuel and/or regular unleaded gasoline.

Torque is transferred to the ground the following GM-sourced Hydra-Matic electronic four-speed automatic transmissions: 4L60, 4L65 or 4L70. Consumers can also choose between a two- or four-wheel driveline configuration for the best application of cargo hauling and vehicle traction. The optional four-wheel drive system is knob operated on the dashboard and has 2H, Automatic, 4H and 4L settings.

On the road, the Chevrolet full-size pickup truck is smooth and strong at speed, yet quiet and capable on- or off-road. The 2007 Chevrolet Silverado delivers enhanced



The 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 — wide modern and refined

2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 by the Numbers

WHEELBASE:
Short cargo box
151.9; overall length: 220.6; width: 79.9; height: 73.8 (2WD), 73.7 (4WD).
Standard cargo box
143.5; overall length: 230.2; width: 79.9; height: 73.9 (2WD), 73.7 (4WD).
Long cargo box
157.5; overall length: 249.2; width: 79.9; height: 73.6.
DRIVING:
4.3L V6 — 195 hp at 4,600 rpm and 260 lb-ft of torque at 2,800;
4.8L V8 — 295 hp at 5,000 rpm and 305 lb-ft of torque at 4,800 rpm;
5.3L V8 — 315 hp at 5,200 rpm and 338 lb-ft of torque at 4,400 rpm;
6.0L V8 — 367 hp at 5,500 rpm and 375 lb-ft of torque

stability and driving confidence from a new, boxed frame that is significantly stronger and stiffer — 234 percent increased torsional stiffness and 62 percent increased vertical bending stiffness. A hydroformed front section enhances both the smooth ride characteristics and crash protection.

A three-inch wider front track and one-inch wider rear track facilitate increased sta-

Price: The base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for the 2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Extended Cab pickup truck starts from \$22,109 for the 2WD Work Truck up to \$34,895 for the LTZ 4WD with the 8 foot cargo bed. Destination charges add \$900.

at 4,300 rpm.
TRANSMISSIONS:
electronic four-speed automatic.
PAYLOAD CAPACITY:
2,150 lbs.
Towing capacity:
10,500 lbs.
SAFETY FEATURES:
Dual front airbags, four-wheel anti-lock brakes, OnStar communications system, tire pressure monitor, full size spare tire, automatic headlamp control and daytime running lights. LTZ adds recovery hooks, alarm system, remote keyless entry and automatic power door locks. 2LT adds fog

lights as well as a smoother, controlled ride, particularly when cornering or with a full load. A new coil-over shock front suspension is mounted to the frame via a high-strength, precise attachment system for exceptional rigidity and delivers a linear, responsive ride that enhances the truck's fully planted driving feel.

The new Silverado offers five different suspension sys-

tems, each tailored to suit specific driving requirements. They include: Z83 — a solid smooth ride; Z95 — enhanced handling and trailer towing; Z71 — enhanced off-road capabilities; Z90 — maximum street performance with 20-inch wheels and NHT — maximum capacity trailering.

Inside the passenger cabin, the Silverado is more spacious with increased storage space, improved comfort

and more convenience. Flush surfaces, tight gaps and tolerances suggest a crafted interior of above average quality. Larger controls and door handles are designed to work easier with gloves. Some upmarket models are equipped with a new 40/20/40-split front bench seat featuring a fold-down armrest and storage compartment.

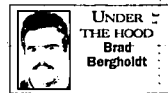
A large capacity, "double" glove box is integrated into the instrument panel on entry level models.

Rear seat passengers were not forgotten, with improved rear seat room and comfort. Improved access to the back of the passenger compartment is achieved with new rear access doors that open 170 degrees. A new stadium-style rear seat with a 60/40-split design is an available option. It can easily be folded up to provide an uninterrupted load floor. Either section of the split seat can be stowed independently, allowing room for both cargo and a rear-seat passenger.

When to replace your tires?

Q. I'm concerned about the condition of two of my tires as I drive in the rain — quite often. They're worn but not yet bald. How badly is my traction compromised by tires that are in this condition? Unfortunately, it'll be spring before I can afford to replace them. Will deflating them slightly help? Should the best tires be mounted on the front or rear? My car is a Honda Accord.

—Tom G. Novato



A. As a rule, tires should be replaced when the tread wears down to 2-32nds of an inch, or when the wear bars (ridges within the tread grooves) become flush with the tire surface. Depth can be gauged by inserting a penny into the tread. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, the tread is too shallow.

For those who frequent wet pavement 4-32nds of an inch is a safer minimum.

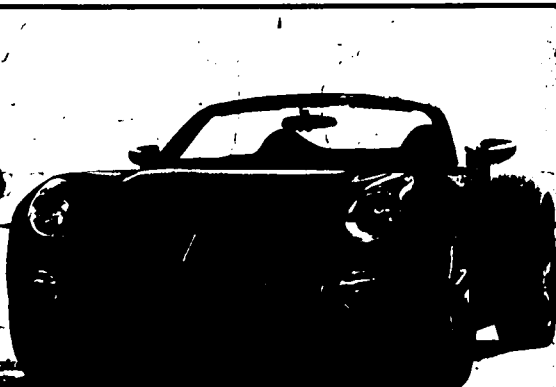
Tread depth is important to channel away water, which can dramatically decrease tire contact with the road. Tread design and depth, tire width, inflation pressure, vehicle weight and speed are all factors that determine when hydroplaning can occur. Warm tread, low-inflation pressure, wide tires and high speed are all trouble in the making.

It's not unusual for front and rear tires to wear out at differing rates if they aren't frequently rotated. The front tires of a typical passenger vehicle wear more rapidly than the rears due to greater weight and steering-propelling forces.

The best place to put a new pair of tires is on the rear of the vehicle. This might seem odd, but losing front tire traction is more easily dealt with than the rear. When the limit of traction is reached, the vehicle understeers, which is easily detected and correctable. If the rear tires lose traction first, an over-steer condition can lead to a difficult to correct spin.

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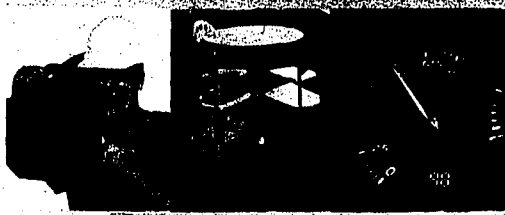


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