

MONEY A9

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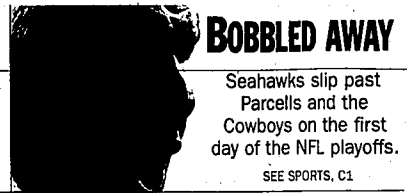
Your castoffs can be put to good use by others.

FAMILY LIFE, E1

BOBBLED AWAY

Seahawks slip past Parcells and the Cowboys on the first day of the NFL playoffs.

SEE SPORTS, C1



Good Morning

High: 40
Low: 23

Showers depart and clouds diminish. Details: C8

SUNDAY

Times-News

January 7, 2007

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MagicValley.com

Who's going to Canyon Ridge?

Twin Falls school officials ponder new enrollment policies

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Money, students, sports and academic programs are the ingredients of a lively debate.

But a debate is not what the Twin Falls School District wants when it opens the doors to a new high school in 2009.

The school district will soon begin more than a year of planning for new policies that will

decide who will be located to enroll in the new high school and what programs will be offered.

And if you think that dividing the town in half might seem like a simple solution, consider this: The two high schools will not offer the same specialized-academic programs — Canyon Ridge High School will be equipped with facilities for a nursing academy, while Twin Falls High School will be the only school equipped with agricultural science facilities.

Canyon Ridge will be located across the street from the College of Southern Idaho, so students will also be able to enroll in some college courses during the school day. The location of Twin Falls High School makes it difficult for students to travel to CSI during class changes.

One high school will have an established sports program, while the other will start from scratch.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A3

"We have looked at how other districts have added additional schools and we know there have been problems."

— Dale Thornberry, Twin Falls School District director of plant facilities

COLORADO AVALANCHE



Rescue personnel bring up an avalanche survivor near Berthoud Pass, near Empire, Colo., Saturday.

Huge avalanche buries cars in mountain pass

By Robert Weiler
Associated Press writer

DENVER — A huge avalanche knocked two cars off a mountain pass Saturday on the main highway to one of the state's largest ski areas, shortly after crowds headed through on the way to the lifts, authorities said.

Eight people were rescued from the buried vehicles and all were taken to area hospitals, said state Patrolman Eric Wynn. Details of their conditions were not available.

"Our crews said it was the largest they have ever seen. It took three paths," Stacey Stegman of the transportation department said of the massive slide on U.S. 40 near 11,307-foot Berthoud Pass, about 50 miles west of Denver on the way to Winter Park Resort.

Wynn said crews were probing the area for other vehicles but they believe all have been found.

Members of an Iowa church on a ski trip were among those swept away by the avalanche, including Darren Johnson, said his father, Don Johnson.

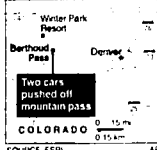
Darren Johnson was traveling in a four-car caravan with members of the Oakwood Road Church in Ames, Iowa, his father said.

He said his son was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries and was unsure whether other members of the church group were injured.

The avalanche hit between 10 a.m. and 10:30 and was

Avalanche described as 100 feet wide

Three snow storms in three weeks contributed to the size of Saturday morning's avalanche near Berthoud Pass that buried at least two cars.



See AP video coverage.
magicvalley.com

about 100 feet wide and 15 feet deep, Stegman said. The area usually has slides 2 to 3 feet deep because crews trigger them before more snow can accumulate, said Spencer Logan of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.

Three snow storms in as many weeks have dumped more than 4 feet of snow on parts of Colorado and authorities haven't had time to test all slide areas, Logan said.

"This is a tremendous amount of snow to come down the mountain for us," Stegman said.

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Inside today



Twin Falls Parks and Rec takes on cabin fever

SEE MAGIC VALLEY, B1



Some heroes struggle with changes fame brings

SEE PAGE A8



Japanese country fans hold annual hoedown

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Horoscope E3	Substance D3
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Men-Cassia B6	Weather C8



GYMNASTICS ICEBREAKER



McKenzie Martinez, a level 10 gymnast with Magic Valley Gymnastics, performs on the balance beam Saturday evening during the 2007 Icebreaker Invitational at CSI. Martinez, a seventh grader, earned an 8.5 to take second on the beam, while earning first in both the bars and the vault on her way to second place in the open division. Utah's Candice Smith took first place. FOR COMPLETE RESULTS, SEE PAGE C2.

Rising death toll in Iraq complicates Arlington tradition



An Arlington Lady honors Christine Brown, whose mother, Eleanor Brown, served in the Women's Army Corps.

By Brigit Scheidt
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — On a winter day when the rows and rows of white headstones were shrouded in a band of low-lying mist at Arlington National Cemetery, Jane Newman took her place in the white-gloved military honor guard. As the ashes of the latest fallen soldier arrived, she placed her hand over her heart in the civilian salute.

She didn't know this soldier or the family that shuffled behind his urn, shoulders stooped in grief. As usual, she knew only his name.

Keith Fiscus. His age, 26. His years of service in the Army, four, and the names of his next of kin. Yet when she went through the paperwork that morning, she felt a pang. He was one more soldier killed in Iraq.

When she was invited five years ago to become an Army Arlington Lady, Newman, the wife of a 30-year Army artillery officer and herself a retired Army nurse, was drawn to the group's mission: that no soldier is ever

buried alone. Every fourth Tuesday of the month, she spends the day at Arlington, standing graveside, hand over heart, at up to six funerals a day.

When she started, most of the soldiers she was burying were World War II veterans or soldiers who had lived long lives. Handling a condolence card on behalf of the Army chief of staff and saying a few kind words from the "Army family" to a grieving widow was never easy. But these days, as the death toll from the Iraq war has topped 3,000 and many of the buried are young soldiers, Newman and other Arlington

Ladies are finding it difficult to do their solemn duty. Some have asked to be excused. "I find myself saying, 'Stiff upper lip, Jane,'" she said after a funeral. "Stiff upper lip."

An Arlington Lady does not cry. An Arlington Lady is not a professional mourner. She is not a grief counselor, according to their strict Standard Operating Procedure. She is there simply so that somebody is. Since 1973, when the Army chief of staff's wife saw a veteran's funeral with no one attending, an Army Arlington Lady in

Please see **ARLINGTON**, Page A3

Arlington

Continued from page A1
 muted civilian dress and often muddy pumps, has stood graveside at every funeral at Arlington as the personal representative of the chief of staff. Occasionally, she is the only one there.

She is part of a society open only to military wives or widows and then only to those invited to join. The Navy ladies formed in 1985. The much smaller Air Force had Arlington Ladies as far back as 1948. Now, the Navy, Air Force and Army have about 50 Arlington Ladies each. The Marines do not want to participate. The Marines take care of their own, the groups have been told.

Arlington Ladies adhere to a strict dress code — no slacks, no bright colors. Sunglasses are permitted at all times. They stand at attention with the honor guard. Their role in the ceremony is brief: When the flag has been presented to the grieving family, they approach, offer a few words of comfort

and a handwritten note and back away, never once turning their backs on the flag.

"We add a little more personal touch to the military funeral," explained Margaret Mensch, the Army Arlington Ladies chair. "Yet not too personal."

Getting too personal got one Arlington Lady in trouble last year. After an emotional funeral in section 60, where the dead from Iraq and Afghanistan are buried, she kissed the foreheads of the widow and mother. "She was reprimanded for that," Mensch said.

But it was just that gesture that Cindy Upchurch, the mother of Spc. Clinton Upchurch, who was killed by a makeshift bomb in Iraq, needed that day. "It was a blessing," she said recently. "I don't remember who the Arlington Lady was, but she was elderly and she was so kind. You could tell she was heartbroken. And at that point in a mother's life, when you've lost a child in a violent death, in a war, you

need some human touch."

Lt. Col. William Barefield, Arlington's senior Army chaplain, says he sees Arlington Ladies as leaders. "I watch the families. After we present the flag, you sense a little bit of sadness, like 'Oh, it's over,'" he said. And that's where the Arlington Ladies walk into what he calls "the eye of the storm: the unbearable sorrow for a death in war. They represent someone at the highest level of government. It's an acknowledgment that this life was one of a kind." Their duty days are still filled with the funerals of old veterans. Of all the troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, fewer than 300 are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. "Some are so young," Mensch said, "the families want them closer to home."

Mensch has been attending funerals, stoic and tearless, for nearly 30 years. But the young ones killed in combat are difficult. When one of the dead on her schedule one day turned

out to be her former honor guard escort, killed in Iraq, she had to steel herself. "You are still. You just don't cry when I got there. I thought, just concentrate on that leaf on that tree over there," she said. "A military funeral is very dignified. Very precise. It may sound cold, but that's the beauty of it."

Alba Thompson, an Army Arlington Lady, gets down on her knee and touches the hand of the widow or mother. It's hard, regardless of age, to approach what she calls this "sacred space." But it's especially hard when it's a young widow. Once, a widow wore a strapless dress. She caught herself wondering: Had she never been to a funeral before? Or was this his favorite dress?

"I tell them, I don't know what I can say right now to make you feel better. Just remember that thousands of people come through here, and when they see the name of your husband or your son, they'll know he was a good and

honorable man. They'll know he served his country," she said. "Some of them nod, and some of them weep."

Only the Navy Arlington Ladies will meet the families before the service and send follow-up notes several months later to see how families are faring. The Army is just so much bigger — and soldiers make up the majority of those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan — so the Army Ladies can't. Mensch

said. Nor does she want to intrude on families. "We're strangers to them."

At their desks — between funerals, the Arlington Ladies keep their politics to themselves. They are military wives. They do their duty. And sometimes, not everyone comes out alive. Having been wives or mothers of soldiers, pilots and sailors, the Arlington Ladies know what it means when a commitment is made to serve.

Schools

Continued from page A1
 These are all questions that the district will have to answer within the next year, and they are issues that the district wants the community to be aware of.

"Once this is decided, it will be implemented as policy, so we want to know what we are doing when we make these decisions," said Dale Thornberry, director of plant facilities for the school district. "We have looked at how other districts have added additional schools and we know there have been problems."

When Canyon Ridge High School is completed, the \$37.6 million school will be very different from the existing Twin Falls High School.

It will include specialized classrooms for health sciences, pre-engineering and residential construction. The athletic facilities will be smaller, but they will include an indoor running track and cardiovascular exercise room. The auditorium will be significantly smaller than the Hooper Auditorium at Twin Falls High School.

"The schools will have facilities that are distinct from one another, so we have to make sure that we do our research on how we manage student enrollment," Thornberry said. "There have been instances in other communities where one school would become the sports school because there was active recruiting of athletes at that school, so we need to make sure that what we do best serves everyone in the community."

The district has many options to choose from, which

include open enrollment — where students could enroll in the school of their choice — and restricted enrollment where student enrollment is designated by school boundaries.

"What could happen is that students will begin taking classes at one high school, until they decide what (program)

they're interested in," said Ben Allen, principal of Twin Falls High School. "If what they're interested in is offered at the other high school, then they would transfer there to take their capstone (final classes)."

The Twin Falls School Board will organize committees of educators and community members to help in the plan-

ning process. More information about the organization of the committees will be published in the *Times-News* as the school district begins the process.

"There will be a lot of unknowns within the next 18 months, and those are things we will have to answer," Thornberry said.

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"It's amazing. These people are really into it."

—Chris Wormer, a guitar player with the Charlie Daniels Band, as he looks out from the stage into a sea of cowboy hats and bright bandanas

Saddle up and ride

Devoted Japanese country fans hold annual hoedown

By Eric Takemage
Associated Press writer

KUMAMOTO, Japan — Yoshinao Tsuji has just one regret in life. He wanted to be born a cowboy.

He has the gear. The black leather chaps, order-made by Navajos in Arizona. He's got the turquoise accessories. The boots, the big Stetson hat. For one month every year, he lives on a dude ranch.

"I love everything about horses," he says, insisting on being called "Johnnie." "If only I wasn't a city boy from Kyoto." Johnnie isn't alone.

Cowboys and cowgirls from across Japan turned out by the thousands recently for "Country Gold," an annual event in the foothills of Mount Aso, a Southern Japan landmark, that has become probably the biggest homage to the Wild West this side of Tucson.

The show had all the fixings of a real hoedown. Miss Montana Rodeo had her own tent, where she spent the day signing autographs. There was a grub wagon, sell-

ing barbecue and beans on tin plates, an advertisement for recently un-banned American beef imports. And there was enough Jack Daniels flowing to fill a pool.

"It's amazing," Chris Wormer, a guitar player with the Charlie Daniels Band, said as he looked out from the stage into a sea of cowboy hats and bright bandanas. "These people are really into it."

Japan's country crowd is a decidedly older bunch. The music is a big draw, but many of Japan's Western wannabes say they were captured by country because they grew up on Western movies when they were kids, which places the demographic firmly in the 50-plus range.

"I just couldn't get enough of the Westerns," Johnnie, who is 63 and wears a long gray goatee, said as he saddled up his ride for a trot around the venue. "I knew that was the life for me."

Another factor in the Japanese country scene's small but devoted following is the tireless effort of one man —



Japanese country music enthusiasts perform a line dance Oct. 15 during the 18th Country Gold, country music festival in Kumamoto, southwestern Japan.

"Charlie" Nagatani, who founded the Country Gold festival 18 years ago and, with his band, the "Cannonballs," is this country's top country singer.

That isn't really saying much. Nagatani isn't exactly a household name. Though he's been playing country since 1956, he only has one CD, and it didn't make much of a dent in the charts. "I think it sold maybe 5,000 copies," he said. "That's total." But Nagatani knows how to throw a good shindig.

This year's Country Gold event, held in an open-air arena 500 miles southwest of Tokyo, drew about 20,000 peo-

ple. "This isn't just a Japan thing anymore," Nagatani said at a welcoming party in his "saloon," called — what else? — Good Time Charlie's, where he regularly plays shows before a few dozen fans, on a good night. "This is now a major country-music event."

Despite his obscurity in the mainstream music scene, Nagatani is about as close to the real deal as a Japanese country singer can get.

He has played 16 shows at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, toured the U.S. numerous times, done shows for American troops fighting in

Vietnam, performed for Japanese royalty and was named the 1998 International Promoter of the Year by the Country Music Awards.

He claims to be an honorary citizen of 33 states.

"He just blew us away when we saw him the first time," said the legendary country singer and fiddle player Charlie Daniels, who headlined this year's Country Gold along with the girl band Cowboy Crush and the Grasscats, an up-and-coming bluegrass troupe. "He came up on stage and bowed and looked very Japanese, and then he jumped right into 'I Walk the Line' and sounded

just perfect." Of course, no hoedown would be complete without line dancing, and several hundred line dancers — many well into their 70s — converged on Country Gold.

"I love the music, I love turquoise, and I love the look," said Chihiro Hall, who brought a team of line dancers halfway across Japan from Yokohama, which is just south of Tokyo. Her American husband, Eugene — a civilian contractor in Iraq — made a point of taking vacation so that he could be there, too.

"It's a great time," he said, beer in hand.

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Ford, Microsoft unveil high-tech dashboard

By Tom Krisher

Associated Press writer

DEARBORN, Mich. — CD players in automobiles could give the way of high-tech tapes with in-dash systems like one Ford Motor Co. and Microsoft Corp. are jointly producing to link cars with cell phones and personal music players.

The "Sync" system being unveiled Saturday at the North American International Auto Show connects popular iPods and all other digital music players — including Micro-

soft-nascent-Zune — to in-dash software through a USB port. Drivers will be able to pick songs, artists or genres using voice activation or controls on the steering wheel.

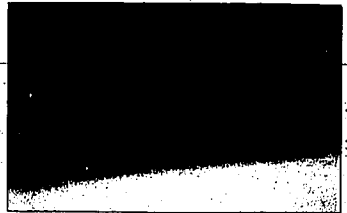
The system also links Bluetooth-capable smart phones and personal digital assistants to the car's electronics, allowing the car system to pick up Internet broadcasts. An electronic voice even will read inbound text messages through the sound system, complete with a vocabulary of slang abbreviations such as

"LOL" for "laughing or loud." Sync ratchets up the car electronics war as the struggling Ford tries to compete with General Motors Corp.'s OnStar system, Daimler-Chrysler AG's MYGIG in-dash hard drive storage system and similar devices offered by other manufacturers.

It gives Ford leadership, at least for now, in what is becoming an increasingly competitive race in cabin electronics, said Kevin Reale, an AMR Research Inc. automotive analyst who has been briefed by

Microsoft on the Sync system. "It's going to give them some competitive differentiation in being able to provide capabilities of personal electronics in the vehicle," said Reale, who predicted that other manufacturers will catch up quickly with other electronics suppliers.

Just last week, Hughes Telematics and Daimler-Chrysler teamed up to develop a new system. The whole race places the venerable CD in danger of extinction.



This is a prototype dash display on a Ford Focus vehicle in Dearborn, Mich. Ford Motor Co. planned to on Sunday unveil this new system, designed with Microsoft Corp., that integrates iPods and cell phones with steering wheel and voice controls.

Mercury 'hot spots' identified

By Juliet Eklerta
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Two newly published scientific reports suggest that mercury contamination has created at least five "hot spots" in New England and Canada, places where the neurotoxin has accumulated in fish and wildlife to such an extent that it could harm human health and local ecosystems.

The 11 scientists, who work at institutions including Syracuse University and Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, analyzed how mercury has accumulated in two indicator species in the northern United States and southern Canada. In both cases, they were able to identify several regions where mercury in yellow perch and common loons was above acceptable levels.

David Evans, who heads a Maine-based nonprofit group called the BioDiversity Research Institute and is one of the papers' lead authors, said the study shows that some areas of the country are more susceptible to mercury pollution than others.

"You need to look at the fish and wildlife to understand what areas are problematic," Evans said. "A coal-burning plant in a wetland area would have far greater impact on human health and wildlife than a coal-burning plant in a dry, grassy area."

Taken together, the two papers, published in this month's edition of the peer-reviewed journal *BioScience*, represent the most comprehensive ecological analysis of mercury accumulation ever conducted in the United States. They are significant because the Environmental Protection Agency has created a system requiring electric utilities to cut their mercury emissions 70 percent by 2025 but allowing power plants to trade pollution credits in reaching that target.

Under the Clean Air Mercury Rule, power plants in some regions may emit more mercury than others, which has prompted some to question whether the new system will result in mercury hot spots across the country.

One EPA official, who spoke on the condition that he not be identified because of agency rules, said the two papers raise questions about the system, which will begin to take effect in 2010. In the 2005 federal notice announcing the rule, the agency wrote that it would "evaluate and take appropriate action" if more information emerged about mercury hot spots.

"There's a growing body of evidence that there are places where mercury deposition is a serious problem," the official said. "This is something that needs to be looked at very carefully before putting in a cap-and-trade system."

But EPA spokeswoman Jessica Emond said the agency remains committed to the rule.

"U.S. mercury air emissions have dropped by 45 percent since 1990," Emond said. "Under the Bush administration, the U.S. is the first nation in the world to regulate mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants."

Scott Segal, a lobbyist who represents electric utilities, noted that when the nation adopted a cap-and-trade system for sulfur dioxide, the largest polluters cleaned up fastest.

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Oil feeds rush to Canada's 'Fort McMurray'

By Doug Struck
The Washington Post

FORT McMURRAY, Alberta

The plane from Calgary touched down as a cold dawn cracked the sky and Rob Smalton, a compact man wearing a baseball cap, sighed, "Ah, back in paradise." He was joking.

Smalton was feeling blue. As he does every 16th day, he had just left his wife and two young children in Olds, Alberta, 400 miles to the south. He would work for the next 13 days straight before going home to see them for another three days. Then he would leave again.

"It's hard. You're like a stranger to the kids," he admitted. "I really need to get home now."

Smalton, 43, a heavy-equipment operator, was one of an army of workers drawn to this oil boomtown by fat paychecks and abundant jobs. So many have come to Fort McMurray in recent years that towns in the rest of Canada have voiced alarm.

"Everybody's going out there for the money. We're losing some of our best, brightest and most experienced people," said Beaver Paul, an economic development expert nearly 3,000 miles away in New Brunswick, one of the Atlantic provinces hit hard by the exodus to Alberta's giant oil sands fields.

Alberta's oil sands reserves are the world's second-largest, behind Saudi Arabia, and have helped make Canada the biggest oil supplier to the United States. That export has reaped billions of dollars for the oil companies and filled government coffers with tax money. With revenue from oil craked out of tarry black sand, once-poor Alberta has paid off its debt, embarked on a spending spree and still had enough left over last year to send each of its residents a \$400 check.

But building and running the giant machines that carve the earth and extract the oil requires a huge workforce. Nearly 100,000 new workers have streamed into Alberta each of the past two years, and plans for new oil sands projects are likely to keep them coming.

Many arrive in this town, a work-weary place crawling with muddy pickup trucks and plastered with "help wanted" signs. Those who have committed to stay, moving their families into tight new suburbs cut out of the pine forests, warily regard the waves of single workers who come for a few months or a few years, living in camps or jammed into shared rooms. But all are here for the same reason: big money.

"We're just chasing the bucks," said Richard McNabb, 50, who lives in a 1962 Edmonton city bus in a trailer park outside the town. The master electrician had paneled the interior of the bus and set up a computer room, a bedroom, kitchen and lounge. It is comfortable.

"I'm looking for a goal of putting 250,000 (Canadian) dollars in the bank," he said, about \$215,000 in U.S. money. "I'm almost there." McNabb makes \$65 an hour and pockets most of an extra \$3,000 a month living allowance.

So many people have come from the hard-scrabble Maritime Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and

Prince Edward Island that the oil companies now run regular charter flights from there directly to Fort McMurray. The provinces are feeling the loss.

"Tradespeople are hard to find here," grouched Barry Butler, 53, who runs a roofing company in Fredericton, New Brunswick. "You train them, give them some experience, and they pick up and go west."

Worried by the exodus, provinces have sponsored job fairs in Fort McMurray and taken out advertisements in a bid to convince former residents that life is better back east. "Buy a home or two," Nova Scotia's billboards here advise, needling Alberta's run-away housing costs.

But the lure of "Fort McMurray" hangs over workers' conversations throughout Canada, dividing even families.

"If I was 20 years younger, I'd go," Hoyd White, 62, who runs a construction company, said over a lunch at the Red Lantern Inn, a workingman's bar in Fredericton. "That's where the money is."

"You couldn't pay me enough to leave," countered



Sunrise over Fort McMurray, Alberta, shows houses thrown up to accommodate an influx of oil sands workers. Fort McMurray is experiencing dramatic growth as workers flock to high-paying jobs in the province's oil sand fields.

his son, Trevor White, 38, who works in the company with his father. "Money isn't everything. You work seven days a week. What kind of life is that?"

It can be a profitable one. "One of the smartest decisions we ever made was to move here," said Cliff Needell, 29. He and Betsy Hooper, 31, were roasting hot dogs New Year's Day on a wood fire in the snow outside their Fort McMurray home, a mobile

trailer with insulation taped onto the outside walls.

The couple moved from New Brunswick more than a year ago, when the salmon-processing plant where they worked was sold and their wages were slashed. Needell's pay for driving a truck was cut to \$11.50 an hour. Two days after he arrived in Fort McMurray, he was working as a driver at \$16 an hour. Now he is a crane operator making up to \$132,000.

"We'll be able to sit back and retire in five or six years," he said. "We still have a house in New Brunswick." Or maybe, the couple mused, they will move to Mexico.

Without counting the 10,000 to 20,000 men in nine camps on any given day, Fort McMurray has doubled in size in a decade to 65,000 official residents, with uncounted others in basement apartments and illegally rented rooms. Housing prices have soared. New homes are snapped up for \$500,000 each; modular homes can fetch up to \$300,000. The new owners rent out rooms for up to \$950 a month to help pay the mortgages.

"Housing clearly is at the apex" of the city's needs, said Melissa Blake, 37, the mayor of Wood Buffalo Municipality, which encompasses Fort McMurray. She has a long list of strained resources: Fort McMurray needs new water and wastewater treatment plants and a new landfill. Roads are rough and heavily used. New bridges are needed over the Athabasca River, and

the hospital is sorely short of staff.

But city officials wince at the boomtown image, which one sums up as "too many single men, too much time, too much money, too much trouble." They want to focus on the growing permanent population and perks like the huge new recreation facility being built on the edge of town.

"People get their fill of money in short order, and then they start to see families as more important," said Blake, the mother of a 3-year-old.

"We are trying to build a community to allow people to think of those other things."

To many, Fort McMurray isn't there yet.

"It's too hard here," said Booth Omet, 35, a scaffolder who stopped on a cross-country drive from Toronto two years ago and never left. He shares an apartment with two other workers. "I'm making money here, but I've got no life. There's no good place to go. There's nothing to do. And everywhere there's a line — it takes 40 minutes to get a cup of coffee."

Idaho's dairy farmers are pleased to recognize

SUSAN LEE

on her induction to the IDAHO DAIRY HALL OF FAME.



Susan Lee, with husband Marty, on her selection to the Idaho Dairy Hall of Fame at the 2006 United Dairymen of Idaho Annual Meeting in Boise.

Lee's many activities and achievements on behalf of the dairy industry are a testament to her selection as the newest Idaho Dairy Hall of Fame member.

She has been a member of local, state and national breed associations since 1980, including the Magir Valley Holstein Club, the Idaho State Milking Shorthorn Society, the Idaho Holstein Association, the American Milking Shorthorn Society, and the Holstein Association of America. Lee has received many Milking Shorthorn awards including Highest Producing Milking Shorthorn Heifer in the United States. She bred and developed two all time breed production leaders and bred and developed the highest lifetime production Milking Shorthorn cow.

Lee has served in many capacities for the American Milking Shorthorn Society, including six years as a director. She has been chairman of both the Breed Outlook Committee and the Milk Production Committee and currently is chairman of the Type Classification Committee for the society.

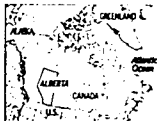
Lee has been active in the National Conference of Interstate Milk Shippers and served on the organizing committee for the 1999 National Holstein Convention held in Idaho. She was also a delegate to the National Holstein meeting. Lee also was named the first Idaho Holstein Dairy Woman of the Year in 1990.

She has served as local Dairy Herd Improvement Association President as well as DHIA interim manager. She earned the distinction as the first woman to serve as a national DHIA board member and president.

Long active in the United Dairymen of Idaho organization, Lee has been on the board of directors since 1986, was chairman of the Idaho Dairy Products Commission from 1989 to 2002 and served on numerous other committees.

Lee lives in Jerome with husband Marty. They have a daughter Laurie and a son Marty John.

CONGRATULATIONS, SUSAN!



Avalanche

Continued from page A1

Michael Murphy and his friends were heading up to the backcountry and to Winter Park ski resort Saturday when their path was blocked by the avalanche, which he estimated came down minutes before they got to the scene. One friend's father was about 10 minutes ahead of them, caught on the other side of the avalanche.

"Initially we couldn't get in cell phone contact with him so we were pretty nervous," said Murphy, 20, of Boulder. Murphy's party and other motorists used avalanche probes and shovels to search for any cars that might have been trapped but didn't find anyone. He said the two cars that were swept off the road were pushed down about 150 to 200 feet into trees off the highway.

Mike Cikara, who was headed to Winter Park to ski, told KMGH-TV in Denver that he joined others furiously digging out victims. "I along with 30 other people grabbed shovels and started digging to get people out. I had a shovel but people were using their hands, skis, ski poles, whatever, to dig

out," until rescue teams arrived, he said.

The timing meant most traffic headed to the ski area had already passed through.

"Good thing it didn't happen a couple of hours earlier," said Dorey Morse, a Winter Park spokeswoman. On an average January weekend day, the resort draws more than 10,000 skiers and snowboarders, with lifts opening at 8:30 or 9 a.m.

Wynn said the pass was closed and would not reopen until Sunday at the earliest. Colorado has been digging out for the past three weeks after back-to-back blizzards and more snow falling Friday.

The Denver area was blanketed with up to 8 inches of snow Friday, while nearly a foot fell in the foothills west of the city before the storm moved into New Mexico.

Crews in Colorado have worked around the clock to clear roads so residents could get to stores for food and medicine. Agriculture officials also were trying to determine how to deal with the carcasses of thousands of livestock that were killed in last week's blizzard or starved afterward.

Amid doubts and criticism, White House weighs new policy for Iraq

By Michael Abramowitz, Robin Wright and Ann Scott Tyson
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Bush is putting the final touches on his new Iraq policy amid growing skepticism inside and outside the administration that the emerging package of extra troops, economic assistance and political benchmarks for the Baghdad government will make any more than a marginal difference in stabilizing the country.

Washington's debate over Iraq will intensify this week as Bush lays out his plans, likely on Wednesday or Thursday, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other administration officials face tough questions from Democrats in congressional hearings.

Although officials said the president has yet to settle on an exact figure of new troops, senior military leaders and commentators are deeply worried that a "sting" of as many as five brigades, or 20,000 troops, in Iraq and Kuwait would tax U.S. ground forces already stretched to the breaking point — and may still prove inadequate to quell sectarian violence and the Sunni insurgency. Some senior U.S. officials think it could even backfire.

"There is a lot of concern that this won't work," said one military official not authorized to speak publicly about the debate at the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, the political and economic ideas under consideration all appear to be variations on initiatives that U.S. and Iraqi authorities have proved unable to implement successfully since the 2003 invasion or have tried and found wanting, according to former U.S. officials and experts on reconstructing war-torn countries. Many war-torn countries at the State and Defense departments also doubt that the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is capable of making the necessary reforms, given a track record of promising but not delivering since taking power last May and despite Maliki's assurances in a speech Saturday that he would hold Iraqis accountable for implementing a new Baghdad security plan.

A sense that the White House is preparing more of the same is generating deep skepticism among Democrats in Congress, many of whom have signaled strongly in recent days that they would resist sending additional troops to Iraq. And although Republicans say they are open to what Bush proposes this week, they are also asking much more pointed questions than they have before about the premises of the White House Iraq policy.

Administration officials are pushing lawmakers and the public to withhold judgment until they see all the elements of the new Iraq policy. Bush counselors and advisers Saturday and White House speechwriters were working on this week's address. There are signs that there could be some surprises as the administration's debate moves from the

THE WEEK IN IRAQ Millicians killed in sweep of Baghdad

The Iraqi army reported it killed 20 militiamen in a Sunni insurgent stronghold during a new operation to tame the violence in the capital on Saturday. The battle occurred just north of the heavily fortified Green Zone.

Sun. — The U.S. military announced the death of two soldiers, pushing the number of Americans who have died in the Iraq war to at least 3,000.

Mon. — Six Iraqis were killed in a U.S.-led raid on the Baghdad offices of a top Sunni politician. The U.S. military and Iraq police said they suspected the offices were being used as an al-Qaida safe house.

Tue. — The Iraqi government ordered an investigation into Saddam Hussein's execution to determine who looked after the event.

Wed. — Two guards and an official were arrested in the investigation of released footage of Hussein's hanging.

Thu. — Twin car



Sat. — Iraqi forces backed by U.S. troops to begin an assault on militants in Baghdad over the weekend to quell the ongoing violence there.

Sat. — In Mosul, Baghdad and south of the capital, 80 assassinated victims were found.

Sun. — The Iraqi government ordered an investigation into Saddam Hussein's execution to determine who looked after the event.

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Thu. — Twin car

man that all the Iraqis will coalesce around." Iraqis are too divided among sectarian, ethnic and tribal loyalties, he said, and their loyalties are regional, not national.

Leon Panetta, a member of the Iraq Study Group, which recently delivered a wide-ranging set of recommendations about the way forward in Iraq, said in an interview that the test for him of the seriousness of the president's proposal will be whether Bush, in fact, conditions continued U.S. involvement on tangible progress from the Iraqi government.

"There has got to be some prospect that we are not just going to continue an open-ended commitment," said Panetta, who served in the Clinton White House as chief of staff.

As of Saturday, the president had not settled on a precise plan for adding to the 132,000 U.S. troops already in Iraq, officials said. Senior military and administration officials privately admit their deep concerns that the troop increase will backfire — and leave the United States with no options left in six to eight months.

They note that since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the U.S. military has repeatedly carried out temporary troop surges of more than 20,000, but violence has continued to rise. The main difference under the new plan is that additional troops would be concentrated in the Baghdad vicinity, where there are currently seven U.S. brigades, and the increase could last longer, from six to 12 months, Pentagon officials said.

Meanwhile, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are worried about overstretching the Army and Marines. The active-duty Army and Marine Corps lack a significant pool of ready and available forces to send to Iraq. The Army has one fully ready brigade of 3,500 to 4,000 troops on alert to deploy at any time.

AROUND THE WORLD

SOMALIA Protesters rage in capital, won't disarm

MOGADISHU — Hundreds of furious protesters crowded the streets Saturday, burning tires and smashing car windows while denouncing the presence of Ethiopian forces and shouting defiance at the interim Somali government's call for disarming Mogadishu.

At least two people died in the violence, which exposed discontent in a city seeing its first legitimate governing force in years. Soldiers loyal to the U.N.-backed government and Ethiopia's military drove out a radical Islamic group last week that had been in control six months.

"We are protesting against the disarmament and the Ethiopian presence in the country. We cannot accept disarmament under occupation," Haeyele Abdulle Hussein, 23, told The Associated Press. "We will wage a holy war instead."

It was not immediately clear what prompted the bloodshed or who was responsible. A 13-year-old boy was killed by gunfire and at least 17 people suffered bullet wounds, said Dr. Dahir Muhammad, a physician at Medina Hospital.

An Ethiopian soldier died when his hand grenade accidentally exploded, according to a nurse at the hospital who did not want her name published for fear of reprisals.

GAZA STRIP Hamas won't let Abbas disband paramilitary

GAZA CITY — Hamas defied President Mahmoud Abbas' decree Saturday that its paramilitary unit is illegal, saying it will fight any attempt to disband the force in an increasingly bloody faceoff between the Islamic militant group and Abbas' Fatah party.

porters were killed in the factional fighting that is threatening to plunge the Palestinian territories into civil war.

The two groups have been wrangling over power since Hamas deflected Fatah parliamentary elections a year ago and gained control over most Palestinian government functions. However, Fatah continued to dominate security forces and last spring, Hamas formed a new security unit known as the Executive Force, recruiting many former members of its military wing.

Tensions between the rival security forces erupted into large-scale fighting last month. Since then, more than two dozen people have been killed.

Abbas outlawed the Executive Force on Saturday, two days after Hamas gunmen stormed the home of a top pro-Fatah security commander and killed him and seven bodyguards. It was the deadliest battle yet during the recent wave of fighting.

CHILE American sailor says all is well following rescue

PUNTA ARENAS — An American sailor attempting a non-stop, round-the-world voyage headed toward land Saturday after 37 days adrift, saying "everything is going well" following his rescue by a fishing vessel a day earlier.

Ken Barnes, 47, said by radio that he had "a very accommodating welcome" on the Pesca Polar 1 trawler, which "helps tremendously to recover."

A driving storm off the tip of South America rolled Barnes' 44-foot yacht, *Prizefighter*, and snapped the mast. He was picked up Friday some 500 miles from the western entry to the Strait of Magellan.

— The Associated Press

staff level to the final deliberations of the president and his closest advisers.

Responding to skepticism about Maliki within some parts of the administration, the White House may make a deeper involvement in Iraq contingent on Maliki cracking down on militias and death squads while also undertaking bold political initiatives and developing a wider economic plan, U.S. officials said. The addition of new U.S. troops, for example, may be phased in over several months and conditioned on Iraq following through on promised political reforms, the officials said.

One senior White House official said Saturday that the president considers the skepticism of lawmakers and the public "warranted" and that Bush will not "commit resources to a strategy that is not working." But the official said Bush was heartened by recent promises and plans from Maliki, citing the speech in Baghdad yesterday in which the prime minister pledged a crackdown on sectarian militias, with U.S. assistance.


The official said U.S. and Iraqi leaders have been refining a new Iraq security plan, first discussed when Bush and Maliki met in Jordan in November, in which Iraqi forces would take the lead with Americans in support. "It is not just rhetoric," the official said. "He is actually putting forward specific plans and making different commitments than he has in the past."

Speaking on the condition of anonymity because the president has not settled on a final plan, the official said Bush expects "a different result" from previous security plans.

Others have doubts. "I don't know that the Iraqi government has ever demonstrated ability to lead the country, and we shouldn't be surprised that retired Army Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, who was the first U.S. official in charge of postwar Baghdad, 'You'll never find — in my lifetime — one

I've heard that an open MRI costs more than a "traditional" tube type of MRI?

Each insurance company has a pre-determined fee schedule (the amount they will reimburse a medical office) for MRI scans, open or "traditional." An open MRI costs no more than a "traditional" tube type of MRI. To be confident in what your insurance company will pay, consult them in advance of your scan for their reimbursement rate. Then the choice becomes your individual preference as the patient, open or closed MRI.



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Times-News will be publishing a special section on Babies born in 2006. It will be published on March 17, 2007. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends can purchase a photo announcement. Simply fill out the order form below, send it with a clear photo of your baby.

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Baby's full name: _____

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____ Will Pick-up photo _____ include a SSAE if you wish photo mailed to you.

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Entry Deadline: February 6 @ 5 pm. All mailed entries must be postmarked by Wed. Feb. 6th 2007. Price \$20. These fees will be donated to the NIE Program.

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Mail or bring photos to: Babies 2006 Times-News 132 Fairfield Ave. W., PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 Publication Date: March 17, 2007

News Daily.com

"My life unraveled. The publicity changed my life. I didn't want it. I had my 15 minutes of fame and I was yesterday's news. I didn't care, but it took me four or five years to get my life back."

— Daniel Santos, who saved a suicidal woman in 1996

When their 15 minutes of fame are past, some heroes struggle with changes it brings

By Verena Dobnik
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Daniel Santos became an instant hero in 1996 when he jumped 130 feet off a bridge into the Hudson River to rescue a young woman trying to commit suicide.

Then came the national TV interviews, the fan mail from strangers, the offers to do commercials, the free trip to Disney World.

Then came the nightmares, resulting from his near-death plunge. He returned to work after the Disney World trip only to get harassed about his absence, and quit. He lost his health insurance, the money ran out, and he started drinking heavily.

"My life unraveled. The publicity changed my life. I didn't want it to," said Santos, who still occasionally bears the words "the bridge jumper" from strangers on the street. "I had my 15 minutes of fame and I was yesterday's news. I didn't care, but it took me four or five years to get my life back."

Santos recalled his experience Friday as New York crossed a new hero — the man who dove in front of a Manhattan subway train Tuesday to save a teenager, one of the city's most amazing acts of bravery in recent memory.

Since then, Lane has accompanied subway rescuer Wesley Autrey everywhere he has gone.

The 50-year-old construction worker won accolades such as "the hero of Harlem" and "Subway Superman," appeared on David Letterman and accepted money and other gifts — including a trip to Disney World. Mayor Michael Bloomberg bestowed him with the city's highest civic award, the Bronze Medalist, past recipients include Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

As Santos can attest, though, there are dangers in becoming a celebrity hero in a media-saturated society.

"They go one of two ways: They either recognize that their act was a moment in time they can enjoy temporarily, and the rest of their life is a consequence of everyday routine — or they get stuck in their deed or action, feel entitled and lose perspective. That's the danger," said Alan Hiller, chief psychologist at Brooklyn's Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Joseph Dunwald was only 17 when he did about the same thing as Autrey. He leaped off a Manhattan subway platform to rescue a man who had fainted and fallen onto the tracks.

"Been there, done that," Dunwald, now 31, said while watching Autrey on TV.

Dunwald, a retired New York firefighter who lives in Lake Mary, Fla., said the moment and the public attention "changed my persona. It was a new level of responsibility, a prep course for what was about to happen — ducking



Wesley Autrey stands with his two daughters Sybba, 4, left, and Shouqi, 5, at the Broadway and 145th Street subway stop in New York shortly after he saved the life of a teenager who fell onto tracks in front of an oncoming train Tuesday. At first, he tried to pull the young man up, but he was afraid he wouldn't make it in time and they would both be killed. "So I just chose to dive on top of him and pin him down," he said.

German submarines in World War II.

It was, he said, "a great preparation for life" — a happy, healthy life far from the spotlight.

For his efforts, Dunwald also got a gold Bulwica watch as a reward, and "baby, did I ever get lots of dates."

Another overnight hero who succeeded amid the glow was Felix Vasquez, a New York City housing employee who caught an infant thrown from a burning apartment in December 2005.

"I just went back to work like nothing happened. But people kept calling," said Vasquez, who also received the Bronze Medalist from the mayor.

At the time, he was in the middle of a divorce and under stress, "and I became a better person. People started noticing me and saying 'I appreciate me,'" said the 40-year-old father of three, speaking from the stairwell of a Bronx housing development where he supervises janitors.

Autrey has seemed to take his instant celebrity in stride, calling his act the only decent thing to have done.

"How are you going to walk by someone who's ill and just look — 'Oh, well, I'm busy, I've got to go to work?'" Autrey said.

Rewind a decade.

"When you see somebody in the water like that, hopeless, and you're afraid they're going to drown, you're going to do something to help them so that's what I did," Santos, then a volunteer firefighter, was in the days after his plunge from the Lippman Zee Bridge.

Santos' troubles piled up quickly, however. On top of losing his job, a TV network threatened to sue him, accusing him of not sticking to his "exclusive" interview contract. Everyone wanted him on the air.

"My personality changed," he recalled.

Santos, now 31, still lives near the bridge, north of New York City. He works as a plumber and is engaged.

One afternoon when a job fell through, he visited the old firefighter friends he credits with helping him get back to normal. "They're the guys who were there for me when I went from being a superstar to being nobody and they're still there for me now," he said, speaking by phone from the firehouse.

To this day, he is "petrified of heights." Still, he climbs the 110-foot ladder of a fire truck, "even if I'm nervous." The woman he rescued still occasionally calls him from Connecticut, where she lives. He had some advice for

Autrey: "It's going to take time, but try not to change, try to continue doing the same thing as before."

HADITHA PROBE

Investigators found no evidence to support Marines' claim that Iraqis were fleeing bomb scene

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. criminal investigators found no evidence to support the claim of Marines charged in the deaths of unarmed Iraqi civilians that five were shot after trying to flee the scene of a roadside bombing that killed one Marine, a senior defense official said Saturday.

Investigators determined that all five Iraqis were shot within arm's length of each other and no more than 18 feet from the white taxi they were ordered to exit by members of a Marine squad in the western Iraqi town of Haditha, said the official, who is familiar with reports produced by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the killings on Nov. 19, 2005.

Two Marines are charged with murder in the five deaths. They are Staff Sgt. Frank D. Wuterich and Sgt. Sanick P. Dela Cruz.

Two other Marines — Lance Cpl. Justin L. Sharratt and Lance Cpl. Stephen B. Tatum — face murder charges in connection with the deaths of other Iraqi civilians shot shortly after the killings by the taxi. Through "his lawyers, Wuterich has claimed he acted appropriately and within military rules governing the use of deadly force in combat. Tatum's attorney, Jack Zimmerman, said he got the report the day after Christmas and has not even begun to crack it." He called disclosure of details from the report a "serious, serious violation" and said he may ask the military to investigate the source of the leak.

Attempts on Saturday to reach lawyers for Wuterich, Dela Cruz and Sharratt were unsuccessful.

Delta Cruz told investigators he fired bullets into the five as they lay on the ground and that he later urinated on one, the defense official said.

These details about the deaths were first reported in Saturday's Washington Post, which said it obtained a copy of a lengthy government investigative report. The Post published photos from the investigative file that had not previously been made public; one shows the five Iraqis sprawled near the taxi.

One of the five may have been kneeling at the time he was shot, the defense official told The Associated Press.

In addition to the four Marines facing murder charges, four other Marines who were not at the scene were charged with dereliction of duty for failing to report or properly investigate the killings. In all, the case involves the deaths of 24 Iraqi civilians.

The Haditha investigation is the biggest U.S. criminal case involving civilian deaths so far in the Iraq war.

Members of an explosive ordnance disposal team that was summoned to the scene scoured the taxi and found no weapons or evidence of bomb-making materials, the defense official said. At least two, and possibly four, of the five Iraqis were students; the other was the taxi driver, who was taking the students to school.

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Water Debate Has Stirred Inaccurate Myths... You Deserve the Truth

MYTHS

The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) model that projects how surface and ground water are related can be used to administer water rights in Idaho.

FACT

The model currently used by the Idaho Department of Water Resources is the most sophisticated representation of the ESPA to date. The model can be used to evaluate aquifer responses and effects on river reaches from changes in aquifer recharge across large areas. The model is sufficient for use in developing an aquifer management plan. The model is not yet suitable for use in water right administration because:

- The model cannot adequately model spring and river flows during critical summer time periods;
- The model has not been updated to current conditions;
- The model does not include conditions prior to 1980;
- The model cannot predict flows in specific springs below Milner Dam; and,

• The model documentation does not adequately address data uncertainty.

Once sufficient funding can be garnered to address these issues, ESPA model improvements can be rapidly made. Clear Springs Foods, Inc. supports efforts to improve the model so it can be reliably used for all of its intended purposes.



www.clearsprings.com

An Idaho employee-owned company and the world's largest producer of commercial rainbow trout.

Source: Idaho Department of Water Resources

Tattoo competition

Parlors are plentiful, but is there enough business to go around?

By Candace Baltz-Smylie
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — In the last two years the Twin Falls tattoo industry area has experienced an infestation.

"We've got four stores in Twin Falls and one in Elko," said Fat Ratt tattoo owner Allen Nagel.

Nagel said there were only three tattoo shops in Twin Falls when he opened his first one two years ago in December.

Things have changed since then.

"Now there are nine tattoo stores in Twin Falls, and we're flooded with them," Nagel said. "I think we've filled the Magic Valley as full of tattoo shops as it can hold."

Customer volume is seasonal and depends on location, said Manager Shane Pilant, who operates the Fat Ratt Tattoo parlor on the corner of Washington Street and South Park Avenue. It's a purple building and hard to miss.

"In the winter, I tattoo for a couple hours a day on average, but in the summer, after people get their tax rebates, it gets busy," Pilant said. "I usually come in around 10 a.m. and leave at 10 p.m., but I've worked until 6 a.m. before."

Pilant's store isn't the



Shane Pilant, manager of Fat Ratt Tattoo and Body Piercing located on Ramage Street in Twin Falls, stands next to a collection of some of the art customers can choose from. Fat Ratt owns four of the nine tattoo parlors in Twin Falls.

busiest location, though. Most tattoo stores rely on walk-in business. The Fat Ratt on Blue Lakes Boulevard has the highest number of walk-ins each day.

"Probably 50 or better," said Stephanie Nagel, Allen's wife. "At this shop we have four artists and one piercer and a counter person. Most of them come in the late afternoon to early evening."

According to Pilant, this is

a great time to be a tattoo artist because stereotypes about the profession are fading and tattoos are appealing to a wider group of people which offers a larger customer base.

"It's an expanding business," Pilant said. "You look up tattoo on the Internet and 11 billion things come up. It's not just bikers and sailors anymore. It's acceptable these days — businessmen, college

students, preppy girls — people that socially before would have been looked down on for it. Grandmas in the 80s are even coming in because when they were younger, they wouldn't have been able to do it, but now it's OK."

Rod Kinney, owner and manager of Warm Art in Twin Falls, agreed.

"It's the popularity of the whole thing," Kinney said. "With the shows like Miami

link, it has become more mainstream."

Still, there's a lot of competition for business.

"In business, every once in a while, the pie gets a little thin whenever somebody opens a new shop," Kinney said.

At the end of 2006, one tattoo store closed in Twin Falls. Nagel said he expects a few more to shut down before the end of 2007.

"Tattoo shops aren't like

McDonald's," Nagel said. "When you lose an employee, there aren't 20 others just waiting to take their place. There is a limited amount of talent in the Magic Valley. I've kissed a lot of frogs to get the princes I've got."

Nagel said a fair portion of his business is actually handling unhappy customers from other shops.

"There are some other good shops in town," Nagel said. "Warm Art is good. Slave Dragon is very well-known and does a good job, but there are a lot of bad ones. There are too many shops in town now, absolutely, because everyone thinks they can make a fortune at it. They'll run themselves out of business."

Nagel said the most important thing someone considering a tattoo can do is look at an artist's portfolio carefully.

"Sometimes from a distance, it will appear fine, but when you really look at it the color fades might not be what they should be or the lines might look patchy," Nagel said. "And if someone has only got two or three pictures, I wouldn't let them touch me."

Nagel said it is also important to look just as carefully at the store.

"Look and see how clean and sterile it is," he said. "Make sure they are using brand new needles and open it up in front of you."

And, Nagel said, a tattoo artist should change gloves every time they change customers.

Times-News correspondent Candace Baltz-Smylie can be reached at CandaceBaltz@gmail.com.

Getting good insurance is elusive even for healthy

By Lisa Grön
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Scott Svonkin joined the Los Angeles County Commission on Insurance 10 years ago because he was concerned about an emerging problem: people losing health coverage. Since then, the ranks of uninsured Americans have swelled to more than 46 million.

Svonkin almost became one of them. It happened after he left a comfortable government job as a legislative chief of staff to start his own marketing and public affairs consulting business. Late last year he started shopping around for health insurance for himself, his expectant wife and his young daughter.

"He knew he'd pay more without an employer picking up most of the tab. And he knew he'd have to fill out a medical questionnaire because, unlike job-based coverage, individual insurance in California is contingent on an applicant's health. But that didn't concern him because, he said, "I'm healthy as a horse, never smoked and have had no major surgery."

As it turned out, Svonkin was rejected by not just one but three of California's biggest health insurers, which cited his history of asthma, among other things.

"I couldn't buy it at any price," said Svonkin, 40. "I remember thinking, 'This can't be happening to me.'"

Svonkin is part of what experts say is a largely hidden aspect of the U.S. health insurance crisis: the uninsured, people whose insurance companies won't touch, even though they can afford to pay high premiums. Some, such as Svonkin, pay steep rates for lean coverage from the state's high-risk insurance pool. Others simply go without.



ical underwriting, as the selection process is known, is key to keeping premiums under control.

"Our goal is to extend affordable coverage to as many people as we can," said Cheryl Randolph, a spokeswoman for Pacificare Health Systems Inc., a subsidiary of Minneapolis-based UnitedHealth Group Inc. "But because of the medical underwriting, we do not accept everybody."

'Cherry-picking' legal discrimination

Consumer advocates see the practice as cherry-picking — a legal form of discrimination that is no longer tolerated in schools, public accommodations or workplaces — and a way to guarantee profits.

"The idea is to avoid all risk," said Bryan Liang, director of the Institute of Health Law Studies at California Western School of Law in San Diego. Jerry Flanagan, an advocate with the Foundation for Consumer and Taxpayer Rights, said it would cut the private insurance market. "A minor asthma condition or a surgery 10 years ago that requires no further medical care is enough to get you health insurance," he said.

As a result, some people forego treatment so as not to tarnish their health records. Others withhold information from doctors or ask them to leave details out of their records. For those who are uninsured, health care often is the chief reason they stay in or take a certain job.

Uninsurable individuals pose a significant challenge for the state, which expects to spend more than \$10 billion this year on people who lack adequate coverage.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzen-



'I'm healthy as a horse,' says Scott Svonkin, 40, chairman of the Los Angeles County Commission on Insurance, who was rejected for private health coverage late last year. Insurers cited a history of asthma among the reasons for his rejection. Here, he plays tennis in Burbank, Calif.

egger, preparing to announce a proposal for expanding coverage in his State of the State address, has said he favors a mandate on individuals to buy health insurance — just as drivers must carry auto insurance.

Democrats, who control the Legislature, have favored expansion of employment-based insurance and have signaled their opposition to a mandate on individuals.

Consumer advocates say such a mandate is unworkable unless insurers are required to sell coverage to all comers, as they are in several states, including New York and Massachusetts.

Rejection raises with age

No one knows how many

Californians are uninsurable. Blue Cross of California, which dominates the market, declined to disclose its rejection rate, as did its chief competitors. A 2004 industry survey found that health plans said they turned away about 12 percent of all applicants. But the rejection rate rose with age to 30 percent for people 59 and older.

A consumer survey this year found that 1 in 5 people who applied for individual coverage was turned away or charged a higher premium because of pre-existing conditions. Experts say it is hard to know how many of California's more than 6 million uninsured residents are uninsurable because many people with medical problems don't even bother applying in the belief that they

These ills may be too risky

By Lisa Grön
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Health insurers in California have been allowed to keep secret their underwriting guidelines that determine who receives individual coverage and at what premium.

But a law that took effect Sept. 1 required them to report their underwriting guidelines to the Department of Insurance and the Department of Managed Health Care. It also required regulators to post the guidelines on the Internet, but without identifying which rules are used by which company.

Health plans also reveal a portion of their underwriting guidelines in letters notifying applicants why they were rejected, as well as in communications with brokers who sell their coverage.

According to regulators' postings, rejection letters and interviews with brokers, conditions that can lead to outright rejection or a higher premium include:

AIDS, allergies, arthritis, asthma, attention deficit disorder, autism, bed-wetting, breast implants, cancer, cerebral palsy, chronic bronchitis, chronic fatigue syndrome, chronic sinusitis, cirrhosis, cystitis, diabetes, ear infections, epilepsy, gender reassignment, heart disease and hemochromatosis (a common genetic disorder that causes the body to absorb too much iron).

Other conditions are hepatitis, herpes, high blood pressure, impotence, infertility, irritable bowel syndrome, joint sprain, kidney infections, lupus, mild depression, muscular dystrophy, migraines, miscarriage, pregnancy, "expectant fatherhood," planned adoption, porphyria, recurrent tonsillitis, renal failure, ringworm, severe mental disorders, sleep apnea, stroke, ulcers and varicose veins.

There will be a review of public records, as well as rejection letters sent to individuals, shows that California carriers turn people away or charge them higher premiums for conditions that range from the catastrophic to the common. Cancer, epilepsy and AIDS make the list, along with breast implants, ear infections, varicose veins and sleep apnea.

Jeffrey Miles, a vice president of the California Association of Health Underwriters, a trade group for independent insurance agents, said one of his clients — a 27-year-old woman — "in perfect health with absolutely nothing wrong" — was rejected because she had seen a psychologist for three months

that led to rejection of higher premiums. She had a history of depression, which she had been treated for with medication. "I was rejected because she had seen a psychologist for three months that led to rejection of higher premiums."

Please see HEALTHY, Page A12

YOUR BUSINESS

MILESTONES

Local campground recognized for outstanding customer service

Oscar and Kimberly Garza of the Twin Falls/Jerome KOA were recently awarded the President's Award by Campgrounds of America Inc. for their outstanding customer service and campground facility. The award recognizes campgrounds that receive exceptional scores on their quality assurance facilities review and for being a positive part of the KOA system. They will receive special signs, flags and name tags for their campground and staff to denote their status as a KOA President Award winner.

Recycler to add new warehouse, equipment

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls branch of Pacific Steel and Recycling announced the addition of a new steel warehouse as part of its plan to continue

providing optimal customer service. New equipment will be housed in the new structure, including a high-production saw, larger shears, a press break and other future processing equipment. The building will be expandable in anticipation of future growth.

The new warehouse will have room for the additional inventory Pacific's customers are requesting to meet their ever-changing needs. It means a wider selection of items available with an improved will-call and delivery system.

"The addition of the new warehouse and equipment will help improve the efficiency of our services not only for our customers, but also for our employees," said branch manager Russ Taylor. "Our new equipment will help us remain competitive in our industry and reduce our costs."

LONG SERVICE AWARDED



Mel Krieger was recently recognized for his 40 years of service with Skaggs Furniture in Burley. Skaggs Furniture awarded Mel with a travel voucher from International Travel. From left are Florence Skaggs, Mel Krieger, Chuck Skaggs Jr. and Delta Skaggs.

\$1,000 PRIZE WINNER



Barbara Austin was the winner of the Burley Area Merchants Association Holiday Blackout promotion with the South Idaho Press. She won \$1,000 in prizes from BAMA merchants by taking her BAMA card from a Tuesday edition of South Idaho Press in December and getting it validated at every merchant on the card. Austin is shown here with BAMA President Mike Searle.

CONTRIBUTIONS

MEALS ON WHEELS



Golden Heritage Senior Center Director Sharon Harry-Mills tells Mr. Gas owner Jim Lynch, second from left, what his donation of \$200 a month for a year in gas will mean to the center's Meals on Wheels program, as Burley City Administrator Mark Milton, left, and Burley Mayor Jon Anderson, right, look on.

Burley businessman helps seniors program

BURLEY — A local businessman stepped up to the pump to help fund the Golden Heritage Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program for another year.

Mr. Gas owner Jim Lynch donated \$200 a month in gas for the next year to help keep the struggling program afloat.

"This is fantastic. We are so

excited," said Sharon Harry-Mills, director of the senior center in Burley.

Burley Mayor Jon Anderson, who is also president of the senior center's board, said the center has been struggling to keep the program afloat.

"We have been dipping into the reserve funds for a year," Anderson said.

The reserve fund was put into place to cover final closing costs if there was the need to shut down, he said.

EXIT REALTY OPENS



Exit Realty Concepts held a ribbon cutting along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's ambassadors at 378 Falls Ave., Twin Falls. They are a new member of the chamber as well as a new realty company in the community. They can help customers with their real estate needs. For more information, call 933-4444. Pictured from left are owners Earl Gray and Eileen Gray, and Gerry Turner, Kim Esparza, Cindy Pittigrew, Lisa Henry, Beth Brierley and David Rice.

LIFE FLIGHT AWARDED



Saint Alphonsus Life Flight received an award by the Bureau of Land Management stemming from an incident that occurred June 21. Saint Alphonsus Life Flight crew members James Pennington, Shelly Robinson and Fred Mize were on a scheduled landing zone safety class at the Big Smokey Guard Station when the Bureau of Land Management got word that one of their biologists had fallen in a remote location and hurt his ankle. Life Flight was able to get to the patient in a few minutes. As a result, the patient did not have to be brought out of the remote area, which could have taken several hours. BLM presented the award to the Life Flight crew and Saint Alphonsus. Pictured from left are Adam Humba, Life Flight Marketing Coordinator Paul Buzzini, and Jennifer Huhm, James Pennington, Devin Huhm, Shelly Robinson, Fred Mize, Mike Dettori and Ted Ryan.

BANNER BANK MOVES



Banner Bank Commercial Banking Center held a ribbon cutting with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's ambassadors at their new location at 746 N. College Road, Suite E, Twin Falls. Visit them and let them assist you with your commercial banking needs or call them at 735-8057. Pictured from left are Ruth Beebe, senior loan specialist; Randy Andrus, commercial loan officer; service president; Jed Rosser, commercial loan officer; vice president; Shane Jenkins, commercial loan officer; vice president; and Verna Prince, senior credit analyst.

INTER-WEST'S NEW STORE



Inter-West Equipment Sales Inc. held a ribbon cutting with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's ambassadors at their new location at 21318 Highway 30, Flater. They can assist you with your trucking equipment. For more information, call 733-3003. Pictured from left are Char Walker, office manager; Lynn Robinson, sales representative; Dean Tuley, president; Linda Tuley, secretary; and Danae Tuley.

EMPLOYEES GET LICENSES



Water Department employees were recently recognized for successfully completing the requirements for Idaho Department of Water Resource Licenses. Ryan Baumann received his Class IV license and Jerry Wheeler received his Class I license. The requirements for a Class I license include one year of acceptable experience at a Class I or higher water system and passing of the Class I exam. The requirements for a Class IV license include four years of post high school education in the environmental control field, engineering or related science and four years of acceptable operating experience at a Class III or higher water system, including two years of experience in daily on-site charge, supervision of personnel or management of a major segment of a system. Pictured from left are Ryan Baumann; Mike Schroeder, water department superintendent, and Jerry Wheeler.

NEW STATE FARM OFFICE



State Farm Insurance opened a new office at 2271 Overland Ave., Ste. 9, in Burley. The business, owned and operated by Adams Hayes, pictured at center with scissors at a recent ribbon cutting, offers insurance and financial services and products, including home and auto insurance, vehicle loans and mutual funds. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Evenings and Saturdays are available by appointment. For more information, call 678-8700.

NEW RE/MAX LOCATION



Re/Max American Dream Realty held a ribbon cutting at their new location at 155 Second Ave. N., Twin Falls. The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's ambassadors assisted with the ribbon cutting. Visit them for your real estate needs or call them at 733-5008. Pictured from left are bookkeeper Donna McKenzie and agents Chris Welch, Missy Schlesinger, Sara Weber, Laura Fitzgerald, Amy Minge, Jamie Woose, Tamal Shirley, Nicole Yessendahl, Jason Hutchison, Lisa Olson Rodriguez, Mary Reed and Cymmi Emerson. Agents not pictured include Clyde O'Barry, Ron Bean, Tiffany Cantrell, Rich Beard, Chuck Taylor, Dorey Taylor; Melissa Stein, Cary Grossman, Annie Halstead, Patricia Hawkins, Dave Schlesinger, Kip Thompson and Harold Morgan.

Vail Resorts still shopping for properties, CEO says

The Associated Press

BROOMFIELD, Colo. — Vail Resorts Inc. continues to shop for new properties amid an industry consolidation, although the timing of any purchase is critical, the chief executive of the nation's largest ski area operator said Thursday.

Vail Resorts is in a good position to expand as the number of skiers and snow riders continues to grow, if slowly, Robert Katz said.

Acquisitions remain "very much a priority," he said, noting that some companies participating in a merger or acquisition process can spoil it by getting "too tighty" to finish.

Katz spoke after the company wrapped up a brief annual meeting, approving a slate of directors and amendments to a 2002 incentive plan. The gathering, which was postponed by last month's blizzard, drew one shareholder.

In recent years, the ski industry has consolidated as large travel and resort-oriented companies have snapped up key properties with real estate development opportunities.

Nolan Rosal, president of Boulder-based consulting firm RUC Associates, said he believes resort companies are evolving again by pushing to build year-round businesses with skiing, golfing and beach properties.

"I think you'll see increasing diversification with the consolidating companies starting to look at higher-end leisure time destinations," he said.

Intrawest Corp. of Vancouver, British Columbia, last month agreed to buy Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. from American Sking Co. for \$265 million in cash. The acquisition, if approved by regulators, would increase Intrawest's Colorado holdings to three and overall resorts to 11.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data with columns for Name, Best, and CAGR. Includes categories like Bond Funds, Equity Funds, and Money Market Funds.

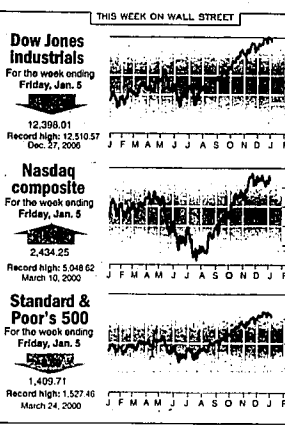


Table of mutual fund performance data with columns for Name, Best, and CAGR. Includes categories like Bond Funds, Equity Funds, and Money Market Funds.

Large table of mutual fund performance data with columns for Name, Best, and CAGR. Includes categories like Bond Funds, Equity Funds, and Money Market Funds.

Gates foundation embraces cross purposes

By Charles Piller, Edmund Sanders and Robyn Dixon Los Angeles Times
EBOCHA, Nigeria — Justice Eba 14 months old, held out his tiny thumb.
An ink spot certified that he had been immunized against polio and measles, thanks to a vaccination drive supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

But authorities expect the flares to burn for years beyond the deadline.
The Gates Foundation has poured \$218 million into polio and measles immunization and research worldwide, including in the Niger Delta. At the same time that the foundation is funding inoculations to protect health, the Times found, it has invested \$42.3 million in Eni, Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and Total of France — the companies responsible for most of the flares blanketing the delta region.
Indeed, local leaders blame oil development for fostering some of the very afflictions that the foundation combats.

The investments
EBOCHA, Nigeria — A sampling of the Gates Foundation's largest investments:
ABOVE \$1.5 BILLION
• Berkshire Hathaway Inc.
• Canadian government
BETWEEN \$1 BILLION AND \$1.5 BILLION
• Fannie Mae
• German government
BETWEEN \$100 MILLION AND \$1 BILLION
• Abbott Laboratories
• Archer Daniels Midland Co.
• British Petroleum
• Canadian National Railway
• Exxon Mobil Corp.
• Freddie Mac
• French government
• Japanese government
• Merck and Co.
• Scoring Plough Corp.
• Tyco International Ltd.
• Waste Management Inc.
MIGHT INCLUDE STOCKS, BONDS AND OTHER SECURITIES
Warren Buffett committed his first installment of Berkshire Hathaway stock in June 2006.
— Los Angeles Times
Sources: Gates Inc. and Securities and Exchange Commission filings

continued funding of foundation programs and grant making. Bill and Melinda Gates require the managers to keep a highly diversified portfolio, but make no specific directives.
By comparing these investments with information from for-profit services that analyze corporate behavior for mutual funds, pension managers, government agencies and other foundations, the Times found that the Gates Foundation has holdings in many companies that have failed tests of social responsibility because of environmental lapses, employment discrimination, disregard for worker rights, or unethical practices.
One of these investment rating services, Calvert Group Inc., for example, oversees 52 of the largest 100 U.S. companies based on market capitalization, but flags the other 48 for transgressions against social responsibility. Microsoft Corp., which Bill Gates leads as board chairman and which is among the companies endorsed by Calvert, is rated highly for its overall business practices, despite its history of antitrust problems.

At the Gates Foundation, blind-eye investing has been enforced by a firewall it has erected between its grant-making side and its investing side. The goals of the former are not allowed to interfere with the investments of the latter.
With the exception of tobacco companies, asset managers do not avoid investments in enterprises whose activities conflict with the foundation's mission to do good.
"Because we want to maintain a focus on the programmatic work," Harrington said in a written response to Times questions, "we have made it a policy to not comment on individual investment holdings."
Finally, the foundation does not allow to interfere with the investments of the foundation's mission to do good.

According to recent surveys, many foundations, including some of the nation's largest, have adopted at least basic policies to invest in ways that support their missions.
Major foundations that manage assets for corporate, governmental and environmental stewardship give considerations in their investment strategies include the Ford Foundation, worth \$11.6 billion, the nation's second-largest private philanthropy; the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; the Rockefeller Foundation; and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.
Moreover, nearly one-third of foundations participate directly in shareholder initiatives, voting their proxies to influence corporate behavior. A few have become shareholder activists. In recent years, for instance, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, with an endowment of \$481 million, has sponsored proxies to force corporations to address environmental sustainability and political transparency.
Harrington said the Gates Foundation's investment managers vote proxies, but declined to give any specifics. The foundation would not make its chief investment manager, Michael Larson, available for an interview. In May, Harrington told the Chronicle of Philanthropy that the Gates Foundation did not get involved in proxy issues.
Bauer said that the Gates Foundation's resources give it the unique power to move the debate. If Gates adopted mission-related investing, he said in an interview, the shift in the world of philanthropy would be seismic.
The foundation did not respond to written questions about whether it might change its investment policies.

MONEY

Social, religious funds could fit with some New Year's resolutions

By Tim Paradi
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Wall Street presumably isn't a place where those hoping to mend their ways in the new year might turn for inspiration. But some investors looking to better align their social or religious convictions with their investments have found sizable returns.

Mutual funds that incorporate such principles range from those that invest with an eye toward helping the environment to those that avoid companies that extend health benefits to unwed couples. And while some investors are predisposed to invest with such agendas, match their own, even investors who don't necessarily share a fund's beliefs can still find value.

Consider the Amana Funds, which invest according to Islamic principles. The funds avoid companies that sell or promote liquor, pornography, gambling and pork products. In adhering to Islamic law, the funds also exclude companies such as brokerage firms that make a business of charging or receiving interest or companies that carry excessive debt.

While the restrictions could appear limiting, the funds show flourishes. The Amana Free Income fund, a large-

capitalization value fund, saw a return of about 19.3 percent in 2006. The fund, which has assets of about \$11 million, carries a five-star rating from Morningstar Inc., which evaluates funds.

Nicholas Kaiser runs the Amana funds, which like many other funds that incorporate social or religious principles, seek outside advice on what types of investments aren't permissible. The funds follow broad recommendations by a group of experts that interprets Islamic law in North America.

While Kaiser notes, for example, that the prohibition on investments within the financial sector could make it harder on the Amana Funds in years when Wall Street favors such stocks, the discipline imposed by the fund has also proven fortuitous.

The funds had invested in Enron Corp. "When the debt numbers got to be such (as they were), we sold it," Kaiser said, noting the sale allowed the fund to sidestep losses from the energy company's implosion.

Another group of funds that apply religion to investing are the Ave Maria Mutual Funds, which follow Catholic principles and prohibit investments in companies that draw profits from pornography, abor-

tion or those that donate to Planned Parenthood. The parameter that trips up most companies, however, is one requiring that they don't offer benefits to unmarried couples.

George Schwartz, who oversees the funds, said an ample number of companies manage to merit consideration under the fund's principles.

"I'm not a theologian. I'm a portfolio manager," said Schwartz, adding the restrictions still allow him to assemble a robust portfolio. "We've got to have the investment performance."

The Ave Maria Catholic Values Fund, with assets of about \$258 million and a four-star Morningstar rating, posted a return of about 14.2 percent last year.

While investors ordinarily rely on the cold calculus of a fund's returns when evaluating where to put their money, others supportive of a fund's social bent are likely to be more patient should returns lag, observers say.

"There's a thirst among some Catholics that truly have found a home among these funds. It's almost like they don't even care about our investment performance," Schwartz said. He said the approach isn't swayed too heavily by dogma, however.

Immigrants a driving force behind start-ups

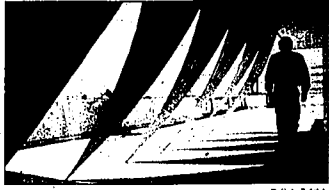
By Krisak Williams
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — About 25 percent of the technology and engineering companies launched in the past decade had at least one foreign-born founder, according to a study released Wednesday that throws new information into the debate over foreign workers who arrive in the United States on specialty visas.

The report, based on telephone surveys with 2,054 companies and projections by researchers at the University of California at Berkeley and at Duke University, found that immigrants — mostly from India and China — helped start hundreds of companies with estimated sales of nearly \$50 billion.

Technology-industry lobbyists have already cited the study in a push to persuade Congress to increase the annual allotment of H-1B visas, which allow U.S. companies to sponsor temporary workers in specialty occupations, such as computer programming and systems analysis. The companies say they cannot find enough Americans to fill jobs, other proponents contend that globalization requires U.S. companies to import talented workers.

"This research shows that immigrants have become a significant driving force in the creation of new businesses and intellectual property in the U.S. — and that their contributions have increased over the past decade," wrote



Information Management Consultants, of Reston, Va., also has offices in Pune, India (shown), with 125 employees. Sathakar Shenoy, an Indian immigrant, founded IMC in the early 1980s.

Congress and supporting political action committees. McNeely noted that immigrants Vinod Kosta of India and Andy Bechtelshaim of Germany co-founded Sun. The company "created tens of thousands of jobs that have generated billions of dollars in exports and has created thousands of patents and intellectual-property positions," McNeely said.

"Why would you have any arbitrary number on smart people?" Last year, the industry raised the issue in the national debate over immigration reform, but Congress ended its session without acting on the Securing Knowledge, Innovation and Leadership Act. The bill would increase the annual quota on the H-1B visas to 115,000 from 85,000, eliminate green-card caps for some advanced-degree holders and streamline the processing of employment-based green cards. Tech lobbyists want to

revive it.

Healthy

Continued from page A9

after breaking up with a boyfriend.

"I call it hangnail undervriting," Miles said. "If a person has taken virtually any medication, they are going to be turned down. If people have had any psychological counseling at any time in recent history, they are going to get turned down."

Consumer advocates say out-of-date, ambiguous and even erroneous medical information can render people uninsurable. Sometimes the reasons can seem absurd. In a recent letter to an otherwise healthy college graduate, for instance, Blue Cross listed among the reasons it denied coverage a past bout of jock itch. "Successfully treated with cream."

A last resort for people turned away by the private market is the state's high-risk pool, in which the state assumes the financial risk but pays private insurers to administer coverage. Enrollees spend as much as one third of their income on monthly premiums that range as high as \$796. Yet annual benefits are capped at \$75,000.

High-risk enrollees include people like Swonkin, who makes time for at least one tennis match each week. On a park court after more than an hour of play one recent evening he scrambled for a ball so far out of reach most people wouldn't have bothered. After the game, Swonkin's fair skin was ruddy and sweat dripped from his forehead, but he was not out of breath.

After suffering from debilitating bouts of asthma as a child, he clearly relishes the ability he now has to exercise. He credits medications that weren't around when he was growing up. But the very drugs that have allowed him to breathe freely for years may

also have cost him his health coverage.

Blue Shield declined to discuss Swonkin's case, citing patient privacy laws, as did the other insurers that subsequently rejected him. Blue Cross of Idaho, however, pointed to various problems — "expectant fatherhood" and swelling from a spider bite — all three blamed his history of asthma, a condition that affects more than 4.5 million Californians.

Swonkin was able to enroll his wife, daughter and baby son in a private plan. But with nowhere else to turn, he reluctantly enrolled himself in the state's high-risk pool. In an ironic twist, the pool assigned him to a plan administered by Blue Shield. His premiums are \$479 a month — far more than he figures he has cost the plan. The only medical expenses he has submitted in his first year

on the plan have been his prescriptions for retail for about \$100 a month.

Blue Shield "wouldn't take me at their risk, but they took me at the state's risk," he said. "The reasons they won't sell me insurance are ludicrous because they can still make a profit providing me with health care."

The ordeal has been an object lesson for Swonkin, who is now chairman of the county commission on insurance, an advisory panel to the Board of Supervisors. He uses his post to focus on the problems of the uninsured as well as the uninsurable. The county does not regulate insurers, but its clinics, hospitals and emergency rooms are overflowing with uninsured residents who have nowhere else to turn.

"Insurance companies are offloading sick people onto the county system," Swonkin said.

"Real Estate Corner"
CHOOSE HOW TO PAY

by *Laura Fitzgerald*
RE/MAX American Dream Realty

So you've found the home that's perfect for you. Now you need to find the perfect loan so you can buy the house.

There are lots of variables in selecting your method of financing. Interest charges can vary from one lender to another. Do you want the same interest rate for the life of the loan or would you be

better off with a variable rate? Will the loan be guaranteed by the VA or FHA? The size of a down payment and the closing costs also affect how much you pay.

Don't let all the variables overwhelm you. Your real estate broker knows how to tailor the terms to your needs.

RE/MAX
American Dream Realty

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South Lincoln, Jerome (208) 324-0202

"QuickBooks Cafe"

Understanding The Mysteries Of Payroll



Do you want to run and hide when you have to prepare payroll?
Does the thought of W-2's have you stressed out?

<p>PAYROLL</p> <p>Understanding Payroll Items Time Tracking Processing Payroll Editing, Deleting, and Wording Paychecks Payroll Liabilities Payroll Reports Understanding and Preparing Payroll Taxes Preparing W-2s Cost: \$125.00</p>	<p>Each Session includes:</p> <p>Lunch One 15 Minute Telephone Support Call With Nola or Jill 4 Hours of CPE Credit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Call (208) 734-8662 to Reserve your spot!</p> <p>Credit Cards welcome</p>	<p>Come See Us</p> <p>Thurs. Jan. 25, 2007 at the Best Western Kentwood Lodge in Ketchum and Fri. Jan. 26, 2007 at the Shilo Inn in Twin Falls Both Sessions 9:00am-1:00pm</p>
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Instructors:

Jill Trowell & Nola Tolk
Certified QuickBooks Pro Advisors

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"I like to maintain a friendly comfortable environment, where those present feel comfortable making comments and asking questions."

Jill Trowell
Certified QuickBooks Pro Advisor

Nola Tolk

Magic Valley HomeSeller TOP AGENTS

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Click the Magic Valley HomeSeller button on our homepage magicvalley.com.
For more information about online advertising opportunities on magicvalley.com call Jason Woodside at the Times-News, 208-735-3207 or email woodside@magicvalley.com.

After years of growth, foreign adoptions by Americans drop fast

By David Gray
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — After tripling over the past 15 years, the number of foreign children adopted by Americans dropped sharply in 2006. The result of multiple factors which have jolted adoption advocates and prompted many would-be adoptive parents to reconsider their options.

The consequences could be profound for the ever-growing numbers of Americans interested in adopting abroad. Already, some have had their hopes quashed by tightened eligibility rules in China; adoptions from Africa, where millions of children have been orphaned by AIDS and wars, could increase if those from China and Eastern Europe continue to decrease.

Declines were recorded last year in nearly all countries that recently have been the top sources of adopted children — China, Russia, South Korea and Ukraine among them. Increases from less familiar alternatives — Ethiopia, Liberia, Haiti and Vietnam — partly offset the drop, but some experts believe the era of constantly surging foreign adoption has ended.

"The huge growth rates you saw in the '90s — I think that's over," said Thomas D'Elipio, president of the Joint Council on International Children's Services.

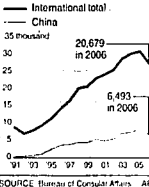
He urged Americans considering international adoption to "reassess any preconceived notions they have ... and get educated on the myriad options that are available."

Overall, according to new State Department figures, international adoptions by Americans dropped to 20,679 in the 2006 fiscal year from

Foreign adoptions

The number of foreign children adopted by Americans dropped sharply in 2006. Adoptions from China, the number one source of children since 2000, fell 18 percent last year.

Visas issued to orphans coming to the U.S.



SOURCE: Bureau of Consular Affairs, AP

22,728 in 2005 — the first significant decline since 1995.

Adoptions from China, the No. 1 source of children since 2000, fell 18 percent, from 7,906 to 6,493, while adoptions from Russia, the No. 2 source for the previous six years, dropped about 20 percent to 10-year low of 3,766. Both are among many nations trying to reform their child welfare systems and increase domestic adoptions.

In some cases, reform campaigns are coupled with skepticism toward foreign adoption, including concern about occasional cases of abuse. Romania has banned adoptions by foreigners, except for relatives; Ukraine and Kazakhstan insist that foreign parents submit regular reports on their adopted children.

Thomas Atwood, president of the National Council for Adoption, said the drop in foreign adoptions is both understandable and worrisome. "There's always been an

issue of national pride, where the country of origin wants to take care of their children themselves," he said. "But there are so many orphans that an increase in domestic adoptions shouldn't result in a decrease of international adoptions. We urge these countries to be enthusiastic toward both."

Atwood sees potential for increased U.S. adoptions from Brazil, Mexico and India. He also says more African governments should be urged to overcome their traditional wariness of international adoption.

For many would-be adoptive parents in the United States, however, China is by far the country of choice. Its government-run adoption system is considered honest and efficient, and its orphanage population — mostly abandoned baby girls — is considered healthier on average than those in many other countries.

Now there is widespread concern over last year's drop in adoptions and China's recent announcement of new rules, to take effect May 1, regarding 10-year low of 3,766. Both are among many nations trying to reform their child welfare systems and increase domestic adoptions.

Among those dismayed by the rules is Ann Freeman, 42, a travel agent from West Valley City, Utah, whose longtime dream of adopting a Chinese child has been dashed by the new curb on single parents. "I'm heartbroken," she said. "This child would have been the world to me."

Her preparations included learning Chinese and studying child psychology. She eventually may consider adopting from elsewhere in the Far East, but worries that other coun-



Anna Spitz plays at the computer with her adopted Chinese daughters Sarah, center, and Rachel, at their home in Tucson, Ariz., last month.

tries' programs aren't as reliable as China's.

The same new rule against single parents would have prevented Anna Spitz, a University of Arizona research coordinator, from adopting her two thriving Chinese daughters — Rachel, 14, and Sarah, 9.

Spitz credited Chinese authorities with seeking the best homes possible for orphaned children, but finds the new rule "a little insulting." "I recognize it's nice to have two-parent families," she said. "But it makes me sad that a lot of single parents would create great families who'd be able to adopt now."

Chinese officials say the new rules will shorten the waiting time — now around 15 months — for well-qualified couples. China also wants more children with disabilities to be adopted overseas; criteria for people willing to adopt special-needs children is slightly more lax than for other adoptions.

The number of orphans and abandoned babies in China remains substantial, though authorities say it is dwindling. About 51,000 were adopted in 2005, according to the government — 13,000 by foreign families, the rest in China.

Randal Wraalstad, DPM
Twin Falls Orthopedics, P.L.L.C.
Complete Foot & Ankle Care
562 Shoup Avenue West • Twin Falls, Idaho
734-3455

HAMMER TOES

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Toys 'R' Us under fire over New Year baby prize

NEW YORK (AP) — Toys "R" Us Inc. has come under fire for denying a Chinese-American infant a \$25,000 savings bond prize in a contest for the New Year's first baby because the company said the girl's mother is not a legal U.S. resident.

The company's decision — which came less than a month after it opened its first mainland China store, in Shanghai — has infuriated some Chinese-American advocates.

Yuki Lin was born at the stroke of midnight at New York Downtown Hospital, according to hospital officials. She won a random drawing held to break a tie with two other

babies entered in the contest. Toys "R" Us spokeswoman Kathleen Waugh said.

The Wayne, N.J.-based company had said the prize would go to the first American baby born in 2007. Although promotional material called for "all expectant New Year's mothers" to apply for the contest, Waugh said eligibility rules required babies' mothers to be legal residents. Many sweepstakes have such requirements, Waugh said.

Although Yuki was born an American citizen, Waugh said the contest administrator was told that Yuki's mother "was not a legal resident of the

United States."

Attempts to reach Yuki's parents, Yan Zhu Liu and Han Lin, 22, for comment were unsuccessful early Saturday. Their immigration status was not clear.

The prize went instead to runner-up Jayden Swain, born 19 seconds after midnight at Nemours Children's Medical Center in Gainesville, Ga.

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110-AA



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

EDITORIAL

Haste serves no purpose for critical water ruling

It was in the final moments of last month's water lawsuit hearing before the Idaho Supreme Court that the justices offered a key revelation.

Speaking to case attorneys as they were wrapping up, Justice Wayne Kidwell asked what would happen if the court took longer than usual — say, a full year — to issue a ruling on conjunctive management of water rights.

Some observers reacted like they'd just heard someone sit on a whoopee cushion. But Kidwell's suggestion rings as loud as a proclamation from Solomon's throne.

Our view: The Supreme Court has no obligation to make a quick water rights decision for the benefit of legislators. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Idaho legislators begin a new session Monday starting with newly elected Gov. Butch Otter's first State of the State address. Otter has appointed new state agency leaders, including a new director of Water Resources, and his abilities to work with the Legislature are still an unknown quantity.

The Legislature also has a large contingent of freshman lawmakers and a new House Speaker in Midvale Republican Lawrence Denney. New lawmakers in their first session usually need time to make allies.

Their allegiance to voters can sometimes overwhelm the rallying cry for consensus. Given the testy start that began with House Democrats and Denney weeks ago, more contention may be in store to build over.

And yet, many lawmakers say this should be a short session that ends by mid-March. They also expect the justices to make quick work on the water case, so they can put their own stamp of approval on it and send it off to the state for enforcement.

If legislators expect a tidy job and a quick return home, they're fooling themselves. Kidwell's remarks indicate the court is thinking the same thing. Legislative turnover in recent years has eroded some institutional memory of water issues, while the Supreme Court has grown richer and deeper in that expertise.

Justice Roger Burdick has his handprints all over the Snake River Basin Adjudication. Justice Jim Jones was attorney general and a critical force during the critical Swan Falls disputes, which led to the creation of the SRBA. Chief Justice Gerald Schroeder, Justice Linda Copple Trout and Kidwell (also a former attorney general) were all involved with the contentious 1999 ruling that gave the federal government "reserved" water rights in three wilderness areas. An angry outcry on that ruling led to a reversal one year later.

The Legislature isn't in the dark on water issues, especially with figures such as Reps. Bert Stevenson, R-Rupert, Dell Haybould, R-Redmond and Sen. Chuck Coimer, R-Twin Falls. But if you stack up the collective water wisdom of the Legislature with that of the courts, the pendulum has swung to the justices.

By taking their time, the justices can avoid many political implications with this ruling. Perhaps Kidwell's question serves as a warning in that regard. Why should they be buffaloes into an early decision, when their work could be broken apart by hungry water lobbyists and irrigation interests.

Idaho's Supreme Court doesn't like to tell legislators how to do their job. Yet legislative efforts haven't always upheld senior water doctrine through the years. The court's challenge is to provide leadership — both legally and politically — in clarifying the law. That can't be done if legislators demand quick work from the courts.

Our advice — take as long as needed to give the state clear direction on the management of surface water and ground-pumping water rights. With high snowpack and a good water forecast for Idaho, there's no urgent need to cut corners. If the ruling comes after the session — so be it.

Let the last word from the Idaho courts on this issue be the message we need to hear.

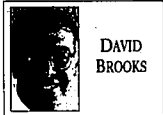
TimesNews

Brad Hurd... Publisher Chrs Stenbach... Editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, Chris Stenbach, Steve Crump, Tracy Biles, Bill Bitzenburg and David Cooper.

Where is the polite wealthy class?

I have a dream, my friends. I have a dream that we are approaching the day when a ranch-owning millionaire Republican like George Bush will make peace with a vineyard-owning millionaire Democrat like Nancy Pelosi.



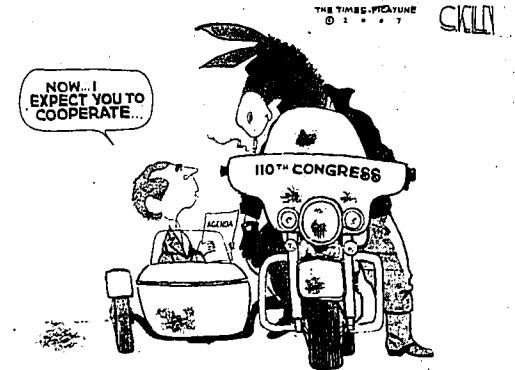
DAVID BROOKS

I have a dream that Pelosi, who was chauffeured to school as a child and who, with her investor husband, owns minority shares in the Auberge du Soleil resort hotel and the Cortevilla Golf Club, will look over her famous strand of South Sea Tahitian pearls and forge bonds of understanding with the zillionaire corporate barons in the opposing party.

Furthermore, I dream of a great harmonic convergence among the obscenely rich — between Randian hedge fund managers on the right and helipad environmentalists on the left. I dream that the big-money people who seem to dominate our politics will put aside their partisan fury and discover the class solidarity that Karl Marx always said they shared, and their newfound civility will trickle down to the rest of us. I dream that Berkeley will make peace with Buckhead, Streisand with DeVos, Huffington with O'Reilly.

I have my dreams, but of course, I am realistic, too, for I am aware that at present there is no peace among the secluded island villas. I look out over the second homes of America and its surrounding tropical regions and I see polarization among the Kate Spade devotees and bitterness among the Rolexians. And I know that both Bush and Pelosi are part of an upper-income whirlwind of strife.

Some people believe that Pelosi is an airhead, but that is



wrong. Some people believe she is a radical San Francisco liberal, but that, too, is wrong. The main fact to know about Pelosi is that she is a creature of the modern fundraising system. Some politicians rise because they run political machines. Some rise because they are great communicators. Pelosi has risen because she is a master of the thousand-dollar-a-plate fundraising circuit.

Living amid a web of investors, venture capitalists and West Coast technology tycoons, she raised heroic amounts of money for the Democratic Party before she ever thought of running for anything herself. In 1984, she was the state party chairwoman. In 1986, she was the national fundraising chairwoman for the Senate Democrats.

Since coming to the House, she has discovered what many a savvy pol has discovered — that the fastest way to ascend in Congress is to raise a lot of money and give it to your peers.

She paid her dues selecting party favors, arranging seating charts (after that, legislation is easy), and laying thick dollops

of obsequiousness on cranky old moguls and their helmeted hair spa-spouses. She has done what all political fundraisers do: tell rich people things they already believe, demoralize the other side, motivate the giving with Manichaean tales of good versus evil.

It is no wonder *The Los Angeles Times* calls her a "rabid Democrat" or that *Time* magazine calls her "hyperpartisan." It is not a surprise, as *The Washington Post* reported this week, she raised campaign promises about changing the tone in Washington. Pelosi has decided to exclude Republicans from the first burst of legislation — to forbid them to offer amendments or alternatives.

She is part of the clash of the rival elites, with the dollars from Brookline battling dollars from Dallas, causing upper-class strife that even diminutive dogs, vibrant net-velvets and petite saloons can't fully soothe.

It pains me to see plutocrats fight, because it sets such a poor example for those of us in the lower orders who fly commercial. It pains me even

more because politicians from the rival blueblood clans go to embarrassing lengths to try to prove they are most authentically connected with working Americans.

I think of John Kerry visiting a Wendy's or Bill Frist impersonating a Bible thumper. This week, witness Pelosi going on her all-about-me inauguration tour, which is designed to rebound her as a regular Catholic grandma from Baltimore. Members of the middle classes never have to mount campaign swings to prove how regular they are, but these upper-bracket types can't help themselves, and they always lay it on too thick.

So I harbor my dreams of reconciliation, but in the meantime, why oh why can't we have a decent overclass in this country — a group of highly attractive dimwits who spread bland but worthy stability over our political scene. Why oh why do we have to have this endless canine war — the people of the vineyard against the people of the ranch.

David Brooks's e-mail is dabrooks@nytimes.com.

So far, so good in Somalia after regime change

A radical Islamic regime bites the dust: In Somalia, "regime change" works smoothly, without much cost to America. There are some lessons there.

Last summer, the Union of Islamic Courts took over the Somali capital, Mogadishu, as well as much of the rest of the country. It displaced what had passed for the formal government of that country, which had been wracked by civil war for the past 15 years.

The UIC was the real Taliban-like deal, forcing women into veils, banning movies — in even outlandish watching World Cup soccer games on television. In addition, the UIC was accused of establishing links to al-Qaida terrorists.

So America was confronted with a situation far worse than that of 1992, when President George H.W. Bush sent U.S. troops for "humanitarian relief." As every one remembers, under President Clinton that mission soon "crept" into a more warlike endeavor, which in turn led to the "Black Hawk Down" Mogadishu debacle in 1993 that ended in the deaths of 18 American soldiers.

During that time,



JAMES P. PINKERTON

Americans were reminded that the combat presence of our forces is, in and of itself, inflammatory to many in the Third World. As the Duke of Wellington once observed about Britain: "For a great power, there is no such thing as a small war." And so today, conflicts always grow big and controversial if Uncle Sam puts his boots on the ground.

America has had to learn the lesson periodically. The nation went in with a light footprint in Afghanistan in 2001 but heaved up its presence in the years since. The result was predictable: a significant guerrilla war. And, of course, America went in even heavier in Iraq, and the results speak for themselves.

Happily, the latest Somalia experience demonstrates that the United States has learned a valuable lesson about dealing with Muslim radicals. Specifically, using surrogates, as opposed to U.S. troops, to

do the fighting works better. Not only is the cost to America lower, but prospects of success are better — because, as we have seen, the American flag is a red flag in many parts of the world.

Predictably, the Somali UIC found itself in border skirmishes with its mostly Christian neighbor, Ethiopia. On Dec. 20 the Ethiopians mobilized their air and armored power against the Muslims and in just nine days drove all the way to Mogadishu.

How did Ethiopia get to be such a powerhouse? Let's put it this way: Americans and Israelis — who have their own reasons for seeking to check the power of Islamic radicals — had a lot to do with beefing up the Christians of Africa. And, as the fighting raged, Americans provided diplomatic help, too: Washington insisted that Ethiopia was fighting merely in "self-defense." In addition, Americans and Ethiopians did something else that was smart: They put a Somali force on the operation. As noted, the Somali government had been defeated and expelled, but it had not entirely disappeared. So when the Ethiopians took Mogadishu,

they were sure to put Somalis out front.

And these "good" Somalis have been good to us in return. The restored prime minister, Ali Mohamed Gedi, has pledged to eliminate the UIC and turn over to the United States any al-Qaida types he catches — including those linked to the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya that killed 257. Sweet. Meanwhile, other African countries and the European Union are stepping forward to provide peacekeepers and reconstruction aid.

There's no guarantee that the Somali mission will be a success in the long run, but so far, so good. More fighting is certain, although "world opinion" is not likely to waver much, so long as the 82nd Airborne is not involved. Nor is there much chance that Somalia will emerge as a democracy.

But, for the time being, America has succeeded in eliminating a hostile Muslim regime while suffering zero casualties. Of course, some CIA types no doubt suffered sunburn.

James Pinkerton is a columnist for Newsday.

LETTER

Insisting column warranted a full response

On Dec. 1, the Times-News published a 750-word column by Katharine Drechsel ("Why liberals lose, Democrats win," seen at madisonville.com/articles/2006/11/28/news/opinion/editorial02.txt) attacking a sizeable class of people in dehumanizing terms. And why? Simply because of my affiliation with the human-

dignity movement called liberalism. The column was a cheap attempt to gain political advantage by stirring up divisive passions.

In reply, I submitted a gentle call for understanding (sanctooth.homestead.com) rather than rancor between people who disagree politically. The editor rejected the submission as a column, stating that, as a response to a published piece, my reply has to be limited to a 300-word letter. When I coop-

Write to us

Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words, include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office; mailed to E.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83403; faxed to (208) 734-6538; or emailed to letters@mcgwire.com.

erated, rewriting the piece to

600 words, making it eligible for "Reader Comment" status, you rejected it again.

You said my call for a more humane dialogue "added nothing worthwhile to the discussion." But then tell me, sir, what was "added to the discussion" by the baseless insults you entrusted me to publish.

Sir, you have an editorial page at your disposal. You can have the last word, but nothing you say can change

the facts. You gave column-level prominence to mean-spirited attacks but refused it for a call for unity and understanding. What, then, is the Magic Valley to be known for: your commitment to the public dialogue to which you are entrusted?

Some of us told you personally how denigrating we had found that column. The regret you expressed privately is appreciated but easy. Are you willing to use your last word

privilege to express your regret publicly?

The many local people who felt demeaned by the column you published would like to know.

DOUG RICE Twin Falls (Editor's note: For purposes related to news space, the Times-News' policy for local responses is to syndicated columnists to 300-word letters to the editor rather than 600-word Reader Comments.)

Taking bets for the '07 office pool

Optimistic predictions took a beating in 2006 except for the stock market, but today — in my 33rd annual office pool in this space — is my chance to recoup. In these multiple choices, pick one all or none.

1. The "O'Connor" will decide:

- (a) without reversing Roe v. Wade to uphold laws restricting late-term abortion
- (b) that public schools in Seattle and Louisville, in their zeal to prevent re-segregation, have gone too far in using race in selection of students
- (c) to reject Massachusetts' case to force the Environmental Protection Agency to raise auto emissions standards, holding that "global warming" gives the state no standing to sue without new law

2. Dow Jones industrials will:

- (a) reflect a percent economic growth to rise in 2007 to close above 14,000
- (b) fall out of brek to 10,000 in what the Republicans will claim is the Democratic recession

3. Bipartisan achievement of 11th Congress and Bush White House will be:

- (a) blue-ribbon Social Security panel providing cover to raise retirement age to 70 for those now under 50
- (b) passage of Leahy-Dence shield law permitting whistleblowers to expose corruption to reporters without fear of being ratted out by runaway

WILLIAM SAFIRE

prosecutors:

- (c) immigration reform allowing earned citizenship of current illegals and installing 1,700-mile fence named after the naïveté Billiard Fillmore
- (d) substantial minimum-wage increase with reduction but not elimination of "death tax"

4. Congress will override:

- (a) federal support of stem-cell research
- (b) federal negotiation of drug prices
- (c) the word most often heard in 11th Congress will be:

- (a) sellout
- (b) compromise
- (c) subpoena
- (d) civility
- (e) payback

5. The Oscar for best picture in a year of great pictures will go to:

- (a) Martin Scorsese's "Departed"
- (b) Paul Greengrass' "United 93"
- (c) Clint Eastwood's "Letters From Iwo Jima"
- (d) Stephen Frears' "The Queen"
- (e) Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris' "Little Miss Sunshine"

6. The level of American troops in Iraq at year's end will be:

- (a) over 100,000, down from surged 160,000
- (b) under 100,000, down from today's unsurged 140,000
- (c) under 80,000 with announced timetable for downsizing in 2008 to 40,000 in secure Iraqi Kurdistan

7. Iraq will be:

- (a) in full-scale civil war

(b) on the road to shaky democracy with insurgency weakening

- (c) split three ways with Kirkuk as capital of Kurdistan
- (d) Iran at year's end will be:
- (e) more intemperate than ever and on the way to matching North Korea's nuclear weapon
- (f) more reasonable after plunge in oil income, anti-terrorism boycott, labor-student unrest and global sanctions

8. Red-faced at double cross from Arab Iraqi Shiites

- (a) Clinton
- (b) Obama
- (c) Edwards
- (d) Gore
- (e) Richardson-Baldoni

9. Publishing sleeper-seller will be:

- (a) "Sister Games" by Vikram Chandra, a gangster novel like an Indian "Godfather"
- (b) Jim Lehrer's novel "The Phony Marine" and in non-fiction
- (c) "Spy Wars: Moles, Mysteries and Deadly Games," by a retired spook, Tennesse Bagley, which refutes CIA groupthink about the molehunter James Angleton being paranoid
- (d) "Father's Day," by Buzz Bissinger, about his twin sons, one exceptional and the other damaged

10. Internal party struggle will be:

- (a) John Edwards' labor-appealing protectionism versus Hillary Clinton's championing of NAFTA-style free trade
- (b) John McCain as pro-life versus Rudy Giuliani as pro-choice
- (c) cognitive dissonance of anti-bias liberals at bias toward a conservative Mormon candidate

11. Scientific news:

- (a) will be:
- (b) deep brain stimulation

in treating depression

- (c) sequencing the genome of higher apes in studying evolution
- (d) vaccine approaches to treatment of Alzheimer's as well as eradication of malaria
- (e) gene duplication to detect mental illness
- (f) commercial hype about cranial calisthenics

13. Year-end polls of likely primary voters will have in the lead among Democrats:

- (a) Clinton
- (b) Obama
- (c) Edwards
- (d) Gore
- (e) Richardson-Baldoni

14. Time and chance will happeneth to all predictions if:

- (a) McCain scampily blows his stack
- (b) Clinton freezes over
- (c) Romney is brainwashed
- (d) Obama loses his cool over press interest in "Tekeogak"

15. Key factor in swing-voter choice of next president will be:

- (a) experience
- (b) freshness
- (c) character
- (d) name recognition
- (e) seizure of health-care issue
- (f) Internet organization

- My picks are: 1 (all); 2 (c); 3 (b); 4 (both); 5 (c); 6 (d); 7 (a); 8 (b); 9 (b); 10 (c); 11 (all); 12 (all); 13 (a); 14 (all); 15 (c).

William Safire, a former New York Times columnist, is the chairman of the Dana Foundation.

Clicking on death

There's no stopping the footage anymore, whether it's the sex life of a celebrity or the death of a tyrant.

The voyeurism that passeth all understanding may have climaxed Saturday with the execution of Saddam Hussein at the end of a hangman's rope. Within hours of his death, video of Saddam's last moments and the death-chamber celebration that followed was posted on the Web and viewed by untold thousands, if not millions.

Thursday it was the No. 1 item on Technorati, the Internet search engine that indexes more than 55 million blogs.

Just as pornography has become a click away for one's secret pleasures, death is now at our disposal.

To click or not to click, that is the question.

Who hasn't been tempted? It's right there for any to see: the platform, the masked executioners, the noise, the trap door. That much we've all seen on TV without going to the full clip, which was captured on a cell phone by one of the witnesses.

There's something vaguely familiar about those grainy images. Where have we seen it before? The footage has the same earthy feel of "The Blair Witch Project," the horror film that was made scariest somehow by its pseudo-documentary style. But that's not it.

Where we've seen it before was in the horror movies. Islamists terrorists staged when they butchered hostages such as Nick Berg and Daniel Pearl, knowing that the world would watch.

The differences are obvious, of course. Berg and Pearl were innocents, and Saddam was a lawless monster indicted, tried and convicted under a civilized code of jurisprudence. If anyone deserved ultimate justice for crimes against humanity, Saddam did. In death, he joins that foul fraternity of other torturers and murderers for whom death was tardy.

Nevertheless, watching



KATHLEEN PARKER

someone die — especially at the hands of the state — takes us several steps backward into a darker time when people gathered in the public square to watch a man swing at the end of a rope.

The history of human barbarity is long — and not at all long ago. For reasons that bear examination, human beings have not needed much encouragement to swarm to the gallows. Or, as now, to click.

We seem drawn to death by the same morbid fascination that makes us slow our cars to view an accident. What do we hope to see? Is the sight of a severed limb the best or worst case? Who hasn't felt vaguely disappointed when a traffic-clogging accident is only a fender bender?

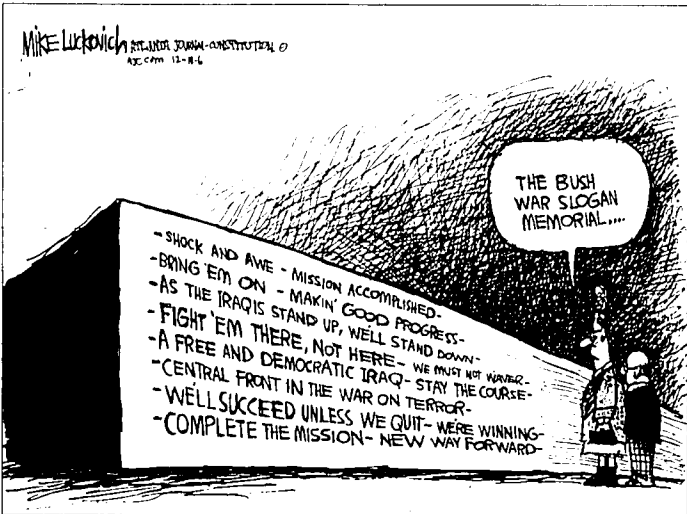
Perhaps we're curious to witness death because we know it awaits us all. We're curious about hanging because we've never seen or heard it before — the sounds of a trap door dropping or a human neck snapping. Who, I know the knot would be so big? It wasn't like that on "Gunsanuck."

With someone like Saddam, we feel justified in our prurience because he was a murderer and deserved to be punished. Justice and closure grant us immunity from the guilt we might otherwise feel from such a forbidden satisfaction. If not precisely pleasure.

But then what? We're stood by and watched a man die. Not in the heat of battle or the throes of passion, but passively, dispassionately. That is to say, with the cool detachment of an executioner.

We are all executioners now.

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



Historic Downtown officials deserve due credit

Mr. Goodman, do you not have anything better to do with your time? I have a suggestion for you. How's about if you spend some of your "spare" time, volunteering on one of the Historic Downtown committees rather than sitting and complaining and causing trouble?

It seems that all of those who spend so much time criticizing Ms. Williams would be much more effective if you actually gave some of your time and actually helped. If when Ms. Williams has been deeply concentrating on Historic Downtown Twin Falls matters and it has been quiet, you still complain.

The truth is, no matter who held the position of executive director or how they operated, someone would complain. Isn't it about time that Ms. Williams gets some recognition for what she has accomplished and a bit of support?

I have spent some time in the downtown office and have seen the daily operations. Ms. Williams doesn't have an easy job. She has accomplished more than any other execu-

LETTER

utive director in past years. So, Mr. Goodman, maybe it is time you get off of your high horse and give credit

where credit is due. Would you want the job? I think not. **PAM WRIGHT** Walnut Creek, Calif.

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Court was once cloistered; now its chief does 'Nightline'

By Robert Barnes
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The "rare public address" by a member of the U.S. Supreme Court isn't so rare anymore.

Just in the past few months, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has invited television interrogator Mike Wallace into her chambers for a well-mannered chat. Justice Antonin Scalia has turned out at a so-called hotbed meeting of the Northern Virginia Technology Council and mixed it up with the American Civil Liberties Union, and he has publicly debated the Constitution with fellow justice — but not kindred spirit — Stephen G. Breyer. Breyer has promoted his book "Active Liberty" on "Fox News Sunday" with the other television interrogator named Wallace, Chris.

And this week, the court's longest-serving justice joined the crowd, as John Paul Stevens said in what was grandly billed as his first network television interview that he considered himself the same "moderate conservative" that President Gerald R. Ford appointed 31 years ago, even though he is now considered one of the court's reliable liberals.

"I don't really think I've changed," he told ABC's Jan Crawford Greenburg. "I think there have been a lot of changes in the court."

Stevens presumably was referring to the growing conservatism of Republican appointees to the court. But there has also been a change in the way justices, now led by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., see their role both in explaining what they do and in fostering a public conversation about the judiciary, according to those who most carefully monitor the court.

Even five years ago, it would have been astonishing to see justices interviewed on Sunday-morning news talk shows, said Thomas C. Goldstein, a Supreme Court practitioner who started the popular "ScotusBlog" entry. The dam has broken on the justices' desire to stay behind the red curtain.

Goldstein says the change has been building since the court's controversial 5-4 Bush vs. Gore decision, when justices "realized they had to do a better job explaining themselves."

Others say that Roberts, now in the middle of his second term, has become a more visible symbol of the court, especially because his predecessor, William H. Rehnquist, was in poor health for his final years on the court.

"There's a new chief justice and a new court for the first time in a long time," said Orin S. Kerr, a George Washington University law professor and former Supreme Court clerk who frequently comments about the court.

Roberts is "making himself open and present in the legal world," Kerr said. "It may be that he has an effect on the other justices."

Roberts seems comfortable with reporters. In the wide-ranging "Nightline" interview with Greenburg before University of Miami students in November, he covered his childhood in Indiana and his philosophy on the court. The more narrowly tailored the decision, the better. If it can be unanimous, even better.

He was properly self-deprecating about his education. He told of racing to his house in Maryland from Dulles Airport because he had been told to expect a call from President Bush at a certain time. "The White House was a very efficient operation, and I'm sure if I had been there, I would just go down the list and take whoever was next."

Just this term, Roberts has undertaken a series of beyond-the-Beltway speeches, in New York, Vermont, South Carolina and Florida. He has two more scheduled this month, in Chicago and Dallas.

It is difficult to prove conclusively that the justices are talking more, just as it is difficult to know much they talked in the past. Partly out of court tradition, their offices do not routinely issue their schedules or publicize their remarks. (The last speech submitted to the court's Web site is an August address by Ginsburg in Turkey.) Justices have long given speeches to law classes and legal conferences and at overseas symposiums, sometimes

noticed and sometimes not. But those who follow the court closely say they have no doubt there has been a change.

"This court is more open and accessible in terms of interviews and public conversations than the court has ever been in its history," said University of Chicago law professor Dennis J. Hutchinson.

Hutchinson and others think the change they see is born of individuals: Justice Anthony M. Kennedy promotes citizen involvement in democracy; Scalia's and Breyer

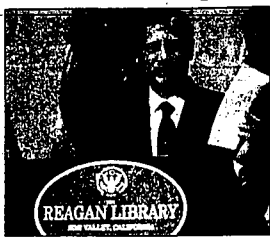
are willing to debate their views of constitutional interpretation; and even the quiet Stevens has a new tendency to make news. Stevens said in December that he respected the court's decision that found flag-burning to be protected free speech, even though he was on the losing side of that case more than a decade ago.

And, Hutchinson said, "Justice Roberts, in my view, is trying to put a human face on the court."

Part of the perception that justices are speaking out more

can be attributed to the vitality of blogs and other publications by lawyers, professors and others that take note of almost any utterance from a justice and provide instant analysis.

Some things don't change. Justice David H. Souter limits his remarks almost exclusively to the chambers, and Justice Clarence Thomas is averse to media interviews. Scalia has always spoken frequently outside the court, but the change is that now is open to media coverage of the events.



Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts speaks at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., on March 6.

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INSIDE: Boise producing a surprising amount of hip-hop artists, B4



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INSIDE: Obituaries, B2 | Community, B3 | Idaho, B4 | Mini-Cassia, B6 | Nation, B8

Triple-A guy will pretend you never met

I had a flat tire the other day, and I almost succumbed to temptation. I almost called AAA. My wife bought me an American Automobile Association membership a couple of years ago because I traipse a lot between Twin Falls and Boise, and it's brought real peace of mind. No matter how Godforsaken the stretch of highway upon which you find yourself or how wretched the weather, some guy with "Arnie" stitched above his shirt pocket will come out and rescue you from the side of the road.



DON'T ASK ME
Steve Crump

He'll even change your tire, but what would that do to one's rugged sense of manliness?

Tire-changing is — if you'll forgive the bad metaphor — the rubber-meets-the-road test of testosterone. The very notion of rescue conjures up images of men with no-pistol mustaches, or worse, driving Blazers.

As a man, it's your place — and your responsibility — to damage your sacrollium by trying to leverage a 1 3/4-ton wheel off two square feet of pavement, whether or not the lug nuts are stripped.

But in the interests of safety (and you know how obsessed we guys are with safety) I'm proposing a couple of tire-changing corollaries — you know, rules about when it's acceptable to call AAA.

1. **Gravel.** The shoulder of interstate highways nowadays are covered, in many places, with jagged-edged pebbles. Since it's virtually impossible to change a tire without at some point putting either your knees or your butt in the gravel, I suggest letting the Triple-A dude do it.

2. **Tractor-trailers.** They create their own weather as they roar past you at 87 mph at a distance of about 18 inches. Call me a coward, because I am.

3. **Rain.** Dangerous, tire-changing conditions, what with the risk of slippage and all.

4. **Snow.** See above.

5. **Sleet.** See above.

6. **Overcast sky.** See risk of the above.

7. **Equipment malfunction.** I was changing a tire in the Times-News parking lot a few years ago when the jack — it came with the car, and it was an old car — simply collapsed after I took the flat tire off.

Please see **CRUMP**, Page B3

Cabin fever cures



Amber Smith helps her 2-year-old son Draven skate Saturday at Skateland during Cabin Fever Day in Twin Falls.

Twin Falls Parks & Recreation hosts 7th Annual Cabin Fever Day

By **Jani Whitford**

Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — The cold winter weather didn't stop people of all ages from gathering Saturday across Twin Falls to participate in the Seventh Annual Cabin Fever Day.

About 22 businesses and groups gave the public a free taste of different things to do in Twin Falls. The activities included antique appraisals, dancing, martial arts, sewing, music, archery, crafts, fitness and much more.

At the YMCA/City Pool, people lined up early to try scuba diving and kayaking. Stacey Ward, director of the outdoor program at the College of Southern Idaho, headed up the kayaking. While some came to play around or get a feel for the paddles, she said, others wanted to get more comfortable in their own skills such as the hip-snap, a technique of pushing a kayak up from its side and using techniques.

On the other side of the pool, children 10 and older were learning the basics of scuba diving. Mike Branchflower of Dive Magic said all the instructors at the event were volunteering their time to give participants a chance to try it out.

"Most kids don't have preconceived notions about claustrophobia or fear of water," he said. "This is just an introduction to scuba diving to give them a taste of whether they really want to breathe underwater or not."

Tami Spaziano of Twin Falls brought her 10-year-old son Jordan Latin to the class, a long-awaited adventure for the boy.

"It's been waiting about four years until he was 10 to do this," Spaziano said. "It's a fish. He's just been really excited to dive so who knew where I'll take him."

This year's events also included several fitness activities. One of the more unique classes was held at Body IQ where Kaylan Valpando gave an introduction to belly dancing.

One of the things she likes about her class is that it doesn't feel like exercise. "It's fun to be able to let people know that there are alternatives to spinning and other things," Valpando said.

In a friendly, non-competitive atmosphere, she said, belly dancing is a very feminine class where people are not trying to do better than someone else — they're just doing it for themselves.

Jani Keegan of Twin Falls, a member, says that belly dancing uses all of the muscles.

"It's a good exercise and a different form of exercise," she said.

Regarding Cabin Fever Day, organized by the Twin Falls Parks & Recreation Department, Keegan said the whole aspect is a good idea to bring people into things they want to try.

Down the street at the Twin Falls City Park, several people came to the Wilderness Institute of Leadership Development Education to participate in a geocaching race. Using global-positioning system units, people were able to test their skills using latitude and longitude coordinates.

Leroy Dunford of Twin Falls brought his son Beau and his friend Cabon, both 11, to the event to teach them some skills to complement their Scouting endeavors.

"The more you can teach these young ones the better off they'll be when they're older," Dunford said.

He added that there had been a few times having a GPS unit would have been nice to help him out of scary situations on foggy days or when losing his bearings.

Organizer Jake Cowden gave people their first coordinates and sent them on their way to that location where another set of coordinates

told them where to go next until they reached the ninth location where a prize of a snow-shoeing trip for two was waiting. He was happy to participate in this year's activities and helping people get up and go out.

"Anything that gets people interested in being outdoors is great," he said.

One indoor activity that remains popular was held at Skateland where for the third year in a row, a free skate session was held.

"We've seen a lot of new people who hadn't been here before," said Anita Parrott, manager. "People that move here may not know this is here and we want them to know where we are and everything."

Scott Parrott, Anita's son, is a manager and part owner of Skateland and said that a lot of adults had come to skate with their kids, or as he put it, the next generation of skaters.

"It's great to see that," he said. "We try to promote a family atmosphere."

Said Ward: "This is a great community thing. We just want to get people more aware of getting out and active."

Times-News correspondent Jani Whitford can be reached at jwhitford@cablone.net.

Higher water rates on Wendell's horizon

Utility cost expected to rise as city prepares for wastewater project

By **Blair Koch**

Times-News correspondent

WENDELL — It's been just six months since Wendell raised its water and wastewater user fees.

To up the chances of the city getting low-interest loans and possible grants to pay for the construction of a new \$12.5 million wastewater treatment facility, city leaders are looking at again raising the rates.

Residents pay \$9 per month, plus \$1 for every 1,000 gallons of water and \$20 for their wastewater. "We don't yet know how high the rates need to go to pay back the bond," City Treasurer Mickey Walker said. "We are still trying to get all the information together."

Pat Munyon, Wendell's public works director, explained during Thursday's council meeting that policies could be implemented that would give the city a better chance of securing special funding through the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

"We have a lot of competition out there," Munyon said. "They would like to see that we are building a reserve fund. Over the next three years we need to get the rates up to meet those needs."

The DEQ would also like to see Wendell put a limitation on the number of wastewater hookups until the new system is complete, Munyon said.

He said the city can get even more preference points by getting a handle on the amount of chlorine making its way into the current treatment ponds.

Munyon said that samples taken from a business' wastewater registered 25 parts per million of chlorine.

"The level was still 3 ppm in the sewer," Munyon said. "I would like to see levels below 1 ppm."

Besides the element

Please see **RATES**, Page B3

Blaine County revises road policy, adds five miles to snowplowing list

By **Kelly Jackson**
For the Times-News

"I've been resistant to this."

— Blaine County Commissioner Tom Bowman

EAST MAGIC ROAD — When Nate Norris and fellow residents of East Magic Road asked for county snowplowing service on their rural route, they were persistent, claiming their tax dollars went to support county services they were not receiving and that although East Magic is deemed a recreational road, many residents live there year-round.

They also voiced the opinion that the area provided some affordable housing in a county struggling to provide even more.

Their determination proved essential in the creation of Blaine County's first resolution of 2007, adopting a road and bridge funding and maintenance policy. The issue was explored in three key meetings, beginning in November and culminating at a meeting held Jan. 2.

"I've been resistant to this," Commissioner Tom Bowman said. "I'm changing my mind on this. I'll support Priority 3. I just want you to be responsive to

the public."

According to Dale Shappee, county road and bridge supervisor, the resolution adds approximately five miles to the current list of Priority 3 roads, including 3.6 miles for East Magic.

"There's probably 25 miles of Priority 3 roads that we currently do," he said. Priority 3 roads receive second-day plowing after Priority 1 and 2 roads are plowed and sanded, according to the resolution.

Nate and his father, Rick, have plowed East Magic Road for four years and will continue to plow the last mile and a half.

He also agreed to pay \$200 to install a sign at the end of the 3.6-mile stretch the county has agreed to plow. The sign will inform motorists that the road is dangerous, steep hill with no winter maintenance beyond that point and chains are required in winter. Norris said.

Walls of Burley bank show past in paintings

By **Trena Logan**
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Want to take a walk through yesteryear? Just go to the South Overland Branch of First Federal in Burley.

Twin Falls artist Judie Reeder painted the nostalgic photos that adorn the walls of the business depicting the city of Burley and surrounding areas. Hours of research went into each of the six paintings, which include downtown Burley, Scotty's Service Station, Nelson's, Pomerle, the Snake River and the City of Rocks. Each painting is done on fabricated metal.

"I try to make the paintings interesting and alive," Reeder says. "Each one tells a story." The entry mural is painted on fabricated sheet metal and is a recreation of downtown Burley in the mid 1950s. The painting is a collaboration of old photos and memo-

ries of Burley residents. Some of the businesses such as Hudson's Shoes and Cassia County Abstract Co. are still there, but most have changed hands several times since the timeframe of the painting. Many older residents would probably remember buying furniture at Rambo's Firestone, enjoying an ice cream soda at Retail Drug, Thriftway Drug, Idaho Department Store and Roper's are also fond memories of a town and time gone by. Scholar's Jewelry was painted from an original picture Reeder located for sale on eBay. The business became Jensen Jewelers in 1966.

Another painting features Nelson's Café and Pilot Lounge, complete with a page from a 1950s menu from the business.

"I love Nelson's Café," Reeder said. "It's nostalgic. This is the American Retro that people all over the

Please see **BANK**, Page B3

Snowpack Levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% Reason*
Salmon	96%	43%
Big Wood	95%	42%
Big Lost	85%	36%
Little Lost	85%	38%
Upper Snake/Fallon	85%	38%
Osley	115%	49%
Salmon Falls	95%	41%

* A comparison of basin snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average.

* An indicator of basin snowpack for the same date during years when peaks in spring.



OBITUARIES

Leona M. Porter Black

HEYBURN — Leona M. Porter Black, 66, of Heyburn, passed away Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, at Minidoka Memorial Hospital. Leona was born Oct. 1, 1938, in Pittsburgh, Kan., to Alvin and Faye Porter. She attended school in Pittsburgh and later received her GED. She married Jessie L. Black on March 1, 1959, while he was serving in the Air Force. They lived in Nebraska, Spain, Texas, Michigan, Alaska and North Dakota, finally settling in Heyburn, Idaho, in 1977. Leona worked at the Burley Processing Plant and owned her own answering service ad then worked as a dog groomer at Top Dog and also at home. Leona was a member of the Burley Foursquare Church. While married to Jessie, she had four children, Jessie LeRoy (Lori) Black, James Dean (Trish) Black, and a daughter, "Suzy" Leona Faye Black. She also has five granddaughters and four grandsons. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and her daughter, "Suzy" Leona Faye Black. A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the Burley Foursquare Church, 1819 Albion Ave. in Burley, Idaho, with Pastor Jason Van Buskirk officiating. Services are under the direction of Hansen Mortuary-Rupert Chapel.



Josiah Jenner Beers

GOODING — Josiah Jenner Beers, infant child of Bert and Melanie Beers, was born on Jan. 3, 2007. He then went from his mommy and daddy's arms into Jesus' arms on Jan. 4, 2007. Even though God only gave him to us for a short while, he still touched our hearts and all those around him with love. He will be forever remembered and missed as our son and brother. Surviving are his parents, Bert and Melanie Beers; of Gooding; brother, Caleb; of Gooding; grandparents, Ted (Dana) Murphy of Twin Falls, Sharon (Mike) Sullivan of Twin Falls, Bill and Ruthanne Beers of Gooding; great-grandpar-



ents, Betty Helms of Twin Falls, Josephine Murphy of Burley, John and Betty Brown of Gooding, Charles and Emma Beers of Lakeside, Calif., along with numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. The funeral will be Tuesday, Jan. 9, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, Idaho. Funeral services will follow at 2 p.m. The family would like to thank the church family and many friends for all the prayers and support during this difficult time. It is our prayer that God is glorified in every way and that Josiah's short life has made an eternal difference. Behold, children are a gift from the Lord... Psalm 127:3. The family wishes memorials be made in Josiah's name to Compassion International or St. Luke's Children's Hospital.

Ralph R. Eaton

TWIN FALLS — Ralph R. Eaton, 87, of passed away Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Woodstone Retirement Center. Ralph was born June 25, 1919, in Rock Creek, Idaho, the son of Roy and Alice H. Eaton. Ralph served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was stationed in Pearl Harbor during the attack. He received two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He was stationed on the USS Henley, which was sunk at sea in 1943. After the war, he married Flora Hamby in Gooding. She preceded him in death, in the early '70s.



Alton C. 'Al' Enoch

JEROME — Alton C. "Al" Enoch, 59, of Jerome, passed away Jan. 3, 2007, in Twin Falls, Idaho. He was born April 11, 1947, in Hurley, Idaho, the son of Leonard C. Enoch and B. Pauline Stephens Enoch. He was raised in the Magic Valley area and attended schools there. He married Linda Clem on Feb. 3, 1967, in Burley, Idaho. They made their home in Jerome in 1979, then moved to Boise, and settled in Jerome in 2003. Al spent most of his working life driving truck and working construction. He enjoyed bowling and camping. Mostly, he loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. His four granddaughters always brought a sparkle to his life. Al is survived by his wife of 39 years, Linda Enoch; two daughters, Cindy (Bundy) McKellip of Boise and Candy (Benjamin) Gossman of Jerome.



he married Mary Hays. They later divorced but remained very good friends. Ralph worked as a barber in Burley and later drove a Star Route for the U.S. Postal Service. He loved hunting, fishing, gardening, traveling with Mary, and spending time with his family. Ralph is survived by his sons, Randy of Boise, Roger and Lynn (Lynn), both of Twin Falls; one stepson, Sam Hays of Elko, Nev.; seven grandchildren; and one sister, Wanda McClain of Eden, Idaho. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, one brother and his first wife, Flora. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at Heritage Alliance Church, 401 West Ave. in Twin Falls. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. A viewing will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park."

Agnes Elizabeth Messmer Wills Short

DUHET — Agnes Elizabeth Messmer Wills Short died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Sunbridge Care Center in Meridian, Idaho, following a lengthy illness. Agnes was born Feb. 16, 1922, in Odense, N.D., to Frances Weitzstein and Christ Messmer. She was the eldest daughter in a family of eight children. After graduating from St. Joseph's parochial school in Mandan, N.D., she attended the local high school. She participated in the war effort by working at Doornbecker's Furniture Factory in Portland, Ore. She gave birth to her first daughter, Lorraine, in March of 1942. She married Charles Wallace "Wally" Wills in South Carolina in the early 1940s. They had one daughter, Shaaron Wills. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. A viewing will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park."

Wally's death in March of 1955. Agnes moved with her daughters to Emmet, Idaho, to be near her father-in-law, James H. Wills. She married Alvin Short in October of 1955 in Nevada. They lived in several western states while Alvin was employed by the Bureau of Land Management. They retired in Rupert, Idaho, in 1976. Alvin died in 1985. Agnes was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, three sisters, both husbands and parents-in-law. She is survived by one sister, Josie of Columbia Heights, Minn.; daughter, Shaaron Wills of Portland, Ore.; daughter, Lorraine (Bill) McIntosh of Meridian, Idaho; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and members of the Short family.

Advertisement for Serenity Funeral Chapel, offering services for funerals and cremations, with contact information for Twin Falls, Idaho.

Advertisement for Farnsworth Mortuary & Crematory, located in Jerome, Idaho, providing funeral services and cremation.

Advertisement for Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home & Crematory, featuring a photo of a funeral home building and contact details for Twin Falls, Idaho.

Advertisement for Edward Jones, highlighting corporate bond rates from 5.11% to 5.98% and offering financial investment services.

Kristy LeAnn Hood French

AIRBORN VALLEY — Kristy LeAnn Hood French left this life Jan. 5, 2007, of natural causes. She was born in Burley, Idaho, on Dec. 11, 1969, to Alan and Dena Fisher Hood. Kristy married Matthew Anthony French on Aug. 10, 1994. She was a loving wife and mother who adored her two boys, Joshua, 10, and Brandon, 8. She worked for Albertsons and TSI in Burley, ID. She worked as a cashier in Arroyo, Colo. But most of all, she enjoyed staying-home with her sons. She was a former cross-country and track runner who played in several state events. She enjoyed skiing, horseback riding, reading and heading, primarily for baby mooncakes. She also enjoyed going to Powwows and would run in competitions over the summer. She really enjoyed and had fun with her sons, nieces and nephews. She was a member at Lagoos in Utah. Her childhood years were spent going to church. She was an active member of the Pentecostal Church. Kristy is survived by her husband, Matthew Anthony French, formerly of Ipswich, England, now Arbon Valley, two sons, Joshua Alexander



Leon French and Brandon Matthew French, also of Arbon Valley; her father and mother, Alan and Dena Fisher Hood of Heyburn; two brothers, Travis D. Hood of Heyburn and Alan Brian (Melissa) Hood of Fort Hall; sister, Elaine M. (Rudy) Hood-Gloria of Kuna, Idaho; and uncles, Filbert W. (Diana) Fisher of Arbon Valley and Leo L. Fisher of Fort Hall. She is also survived by many uncles and aunts in Idaho, Montana and North Dakota; and she was also adored and loved by her nieces and nephews. Kristy was preceded in death by her grandfathers and grandmothers, Fisher (Gerard) and Doris T. Fisher; Dan and Mae L. Hood; and uncles, Franklin E. Fisher, Alfred (Sonny) Fisher, LaVern Fisher, Leo D. Hood and Jimmie S. Hood. Her funeral services will be conducted exclusively with her Native American heritage starting with a viewing at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, at her residence on Arbon Valley Road, Bannock Creek District (Arbon Valley Exit 52 from I-84, proceed south approximately 6.5 miles, green home on the right). The viewing will continue until Tuesday, Jan. 9, when her burial will be completed at 1 p.m. at Bannock Creek Crematory. The funeral arrangements are under the care of Colonial Funeral Home, 2065 S. Fourth Ave. in Pocatello.

LEWIS — Arthur D. Haycock, 82-year-old Burley resident, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls. He was born Jan. 4, 1925, in Burley, the son of George Harry and Teresa Lottie Grover Haycock. He attended Central High School in Burley. He married Alice Lila Peterson on June 14, 1944, in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. They had three children. Shortly after their marriage, Art joined the U.S. Army, where he served for one month prior to being severely wounded and spent one year in the hospital recovering. Art and Alice then operated the Unity Service for 14 years. Art later began working full-time for the J.B. Simplot Co. and in his spare time he operated a mechanic shop and ran the family farm and dairy. Art and Alice owned and operated the Dairy Queen in Burley from 1970 to 1986, when they retired. Following their retirement, they enjoyed traveling to St. George, Utah, for the winter. In 1999, Alice passed away. Art married Luella Peterson Morgan on March 26, 2001, in Burley.

Arthur D. Haycock



Throughout his life, he loved to train and race horses. He also enjoyed spending time with his grandkids and all little children. He was a member of the LDS Church and served as the scoutmaster for many years. Survivors include his wife, Luella of Burley; two sons, Drew (Doreen) and Steven (Lorette) and two daughters, Lorette and Cindy (Haycock) Haycock of Burley; a daughter, Colleen Jones of Kimberly; a brother, Harry Haycock of Centerville, Utah; three sisters, Mrs. Jay (Dorothy) Kidd of Pocatello, Mrs. John (Margaret) Kyle of (Shirley) Johnson of Arizona; 11 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. In addition to his wife, Alice, he was preceded in death by his parents; two sons, Gary and Jimmy; two brothers, Ross and George; and two sisters, Beth and Ruth. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the Unity LDS Ward Chapel, 475 S. 250 E. of Burley, with Bishop Boyd Baggett officiating. Burial will be in the Gem Memorial Gardens with military rites by the local veterans. Friends may call at the Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley, on Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. and at the church from 10 to 10:45 a.m. prior to the funeral on Tuesday.

Gary Dale Tongish

HELEN — Gary Dale Tongish, age 68, died Dec. 27, 2006. He was born Aug. 1, 1938, in Loveland, Colo., the son of Clarence C. and Sadie Tongish. He received his education in home and filed graduating from Flie High School following graduation. He enlisted in the United States Marines. Upon his honorable discharge, he worked various jobs related to the lumber business. He is survived by his sister.

Janice (Don) Springer of Paul; two sons, Dan (Stacy) Tongish of Sandy, Utah, and Andy Tongish of West Jordan, Utah; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents. Cremation has been completed and a private family service will be held in the spring with urn placement at the Filmer Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of the Gillissen Funeral Home of Burley.

Thomas J. Upton

TWIN FALLS — Thomas J. Upton, 58, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

Raymond F. Davis

WEWELD — Raymond "Ray" F. Davis, 74, of Weweld, died Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at his home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demaray Funeral Service in Gooding at a later date.

Beale Ann McFarlin of Twin Falls, funeral at 2 p.m. Monday at Farmer Funeral Chapel, 130 Ninth Ave. N. in Burley; visitation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday at the chapel.

Harold LeRoy Gibson of Twin Falls, viewing from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Monday at White

SERVICES

Mortuary: graveside service will follow immediately at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls. Faye Albin Rude, of Twin Falls and formerly of Eiler, funeral at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Dorothy Ellen Machacek of Burley, celebration of life from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday in the fellowship hall at the Bush First Christian Church (Farmer Funeral Chapel in Burley).

DEATH NOTICES

Advertisement for Edward Jones, featuring a grid of photos of financial advisors and contact information for various locations.

STRIKE UP THE BAND

CORVETTE CLUB HELPS CRISIS CENTER



Photo by STEVE SCHMIDT/STAFF PHOTO

The Burley High School Marching Band received a third-place award in the 4A division at a competition at Valley View High School in Caldwell. This competition boasted the highest attendance from Idaho schools and categorizes schools in the same manner as the sports divisions. The Burley band also took first place in its division at a competition held in Ontario, Ore.



Courtesy photo

On behalf of the Snake River Corvette Club, President-elect Chuck Breault presented the staff and board of directors of the Crisis Center of Magic Valley with a \$1,000 check to aid the center in providing support to victims of domestic violence. From left are Chuck Breault; Cindy Lohmann, vice president of the Crisis Center of Magic Valley board of directors; and Andrea Woody, administrative assistant for Crisis Center of Magic Valley.

SERVICE NEWS

T.F. soldier graduates combat training

TWIN FALLS — Army Pvt. Justin M. Hoffman has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction in drill and ceremonies, rifle marksmanship, weapons, map reading, tactics, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, Army history, core values and traditions, and special training in human relations.

He is the son of Tomi K. Hoffman of Twin Falls.

Local Airman is deployed to Southwest Asia

TWIN FALLS — Air Force Army 1st Class Cody A. Goodnight has been deployed to Southwest Asia in the Persian Gulf region to support the mission of Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. The service member is normally assigned to the 72nd Security Forces Squadron, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Wing members provide support for the U.S. Central Command's Air Forces mission, assisting in the full spectrum of fueling and aerial refueling operations to U.S. and coalition aircraft. Goodnight, a security forces member with one year of military service is the son of Danny and Kay Goodnight of Twin Falls and a 2004 graduate of Twin Falls High School.

Buhl grad finishes up Army combat training

BUIHL — Army Reserve Pvt.

Shawn D. Carter has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics and more.

Carter is the son of Richard Carter of Buhl and a 2006 graduate of Buhl High School.

Two die in explosion at Salt Lake City gas station

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Two people died when the sport-utility vehicle they were in exploded at a gas station Saturday. Witnesses told fire investigators that a fire appeared to start near the back of the Ford Explorer around 3 p.m. and spread toward the front of the vehicle, which was engulfed in flames after a

loud explosion. When firefighters got the blaze under control, they found two bodies in the front of the SUV. Salt Lake Fire Department officials said the SUV was parked behind the store and not near the gasoline pumps. No other details were immediately available.

Rates

Continued from page B1

killing off needed bacteria for treatment its corrosive nature could bring about unwanted repairs to the system. The business was given a notice of noncompliance and Munyon said that something needed to be done to keep the chlorine out of the system, perhaps pretreating the waste.

Councilman Don Bunn called on the business to fix the problem. "That's not our problem anyway," Bunn said. "Replacing the lift stations is something that we can't afford."

Over the next week Munyon will finalize the structure of the rate increase so it can be approved during a special meeting to be held at 6 p.m., Wednesday in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

The changes can then be presented to the DEQ by the Feb. 5 deadline.

Crump

Continued from page B1

and the axle landed on top of the spare tire, pinning it securely to the pavement. So I had no jack and no spare and it was 11 o'clock on a Sunday night. In January in Twin Falls.

What do you think were my odds of finding a cab?

8. Incompetence. When I was 16, I had a flat on Interstate 15 between Pocatello and Blackfoot. There was no lug wrench in the trunk, but an Idaho State Police officer happened by and I had a spider-wrench — it has four prongs, with a different socket size on each end — out of the back of his patrol car. Just then he got a call about an accident down the road, and said, "Go ahead and use the wrench. I'll come back and retrieve it when I'm clear."

I struggled for half an hour to get the lug nuts off the flat tire, but the wrench kept slipping. When the state cop returned, I struggled and explained, "I couldn't get it to work."

The officer took the cross-shaped wrench in both hands, turned it over and handed it back to me. "Try the size that fits."

Can I have that Triple-A number again?

Times-News columnist Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223 or



Photo: Stephanie Miller/Staff Photo

Artist Julie Reeder, center, explains some of the detail in one of her paintings on display in First Federal Bank on South Overland Avenue in Burley. Left is branch manager Kevin Welch and Twin Falls bank representative Brenda Holmes.

Bank

Continued from page B1

country want to find to remember 'back then.'"

Reeder spent countless hours researching on the Internet, at the Cassia County Historical Society Museum, in old high school yearbooks and visiting with local people. She also took numerous photos of her own, sometimes taking to find a unique view of a given subject.

"The best part of the project was coming and talking to people," Reeder said. "Painting is not Reeder's only talent. She did all of the décor at the bank. She created the large metal sun sculpture, six metal scenes with unique florals and a large wreath, in addition to designing the color combinations of the walls and flooring."

"The best part of the project was coming and talking to people."

— Twin Falls artist Julie Reeder

"Kevin Welch was probably a little, shall we say, concerned when we wrapped him in a pumpkin-colored room," Reeder said. "But the color sets him apart from the other offices."

Reeder says she has found her "true voice" in painting. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Utah State University. She worked at the Times-News for a time as an artist and has taught art classes for children and adults. Her designs were sold through the "Made in Idaho" chain and her limited-edition Santas were sold through 20 boutique stores

in Southern California in the 1980s. She designed the Twin Falls flag logo, designed the cover for the holiday book "The Christmas Angel," and has designed metal sculpture for Twin Falls and Sun Valley properties. She was selected as Idaho Artist for the Portland-based Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association in 1991.

In Grateful Appreciation

for the kindness and sympathy shown us during our recent bereavement, the family of the late Ralph K. Gardner wishes to publicly thank all those who sent messages, cards, flowers, and offers of assistance helped to lighten our sorrow.

Special thanks to the staff of St. Luke's Magic Valley Hospital 2nd North and Dr. Fuller, Dr. K. Smith, and Dr. Workman.

Fern Gardner, Larry (Anna) Gardner, Debbie (Ron) Young, Karla (Wayne) Mathis, Dee (Pee Wee) Silver, Kathy (Mike) Bailey, Nancy (Sean) Harwager

www.magicvalley.com

Thank you for the kindness shown to us at the passing of our mother **Thelda Gransbury**. The cards, food, kindness and prayers were very much appreciated. A very special thank you to Country Side Care for their love and taking such good care of our mother. **The Gransbury Family**

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Ranchers brave the elements to attend National Western Stock Show in Denver

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU.

By Judith Kohler
Associated Press writer

DENVER — Ranchers from across the country braved roads left icy and snowy from a recent series of storms to make it in time for opening day Saturday at the 101st edition of the National Western Stock Show, one of the country's premier livestock showcases.

As cattle producers from Oregon to Tennessee were scooping snow out of pens in the stockyards at the north-Denver stock show complex, ranchers in southeast Colorado, northern New Mexico and western Kansas were still digging out from under several feet of snow.

Despite back-to-back blizzards that crippled parts of the plains, the number of animals registered for exhibits and contests at the National Western was running near last year's record-high of more than 15,000.

"It's a still a day-to-day thing," National Western spokeswoman Kati Anderson said. "We've had some calls, cancellations."

"But in the overall scheme of things, the barns are still going to be full, the stalls are going to be full," Anderson said.

Participation in the quarter horse show that started at the end of December dropped about 50 percent because of the bad weather. Anderson said while overall attendance likely won't reach last year's record 726,972, ticket sales were fairly close to last year's level at this time.

Pat Grant, National Western president and chief executive, said maintenance crews and private contractors have been working since the first of two big storms to hit the Denver area a few days before Christmas.

"Today we're back on track. We're open for business. We're doing well," Grant said.

That doesn't lessen the con-



Rancher Steve Douthitt, of St. Francis, Kan., retells his travels through difficult weather to reach the stockyards with his horned Herefords for the first day of the 101st annual National Western Stock Show and Rodeo in Denver on Saturday.

cern for the farmers and ranchers still trying to locate cattle stranded by deep snow and drifts, Grant said.

About 3,500 cattle are believed to have died on the open range in southeast Colorado. Feedlot owners were still calculating their losses.

Grant said the National Western supports an emergency relief fund set up for the ranchers by the National Cattlemen's Foundation, which is accepting cash donations and offers of hay, equipment and other help. He said the stock show is trying to publicize the fund, which will give 100 percent of the donations to ranchers.

"What, not come to the stock show?" Steve Douthitt of St. Francis, Kan., responded when asked if the weather had made him reconsider this year's trip. Douthitt said this is the 64th year that his family, which raises Herefords in far northwest Kansas, has attended the National Western. He said unlike the mild weather of the past few years, this year is a return to the cold and snow

that produced the phrase "stock show weather."

"If I got to freezing, that was warm," Douthitt said of earlier shows.

For Douthitt and other attendees, the National Western is an important showcase for animals, a place to impress potential buyers and make contacts.

The National Western, the first major stock show of the year, is also a forum for industry issues. For the first time, it

will host the International Livestock Congress, which will bring together agriculture representatives and college students from at least seven countries.

The congress, sponsored by the International Stockman's Educational Foundation, previously was held at the Houston Livestock Show. Julie Bryant, the foundation's executive director, said the Houston event has become more focused on the rodeo and the move to the National Western made sense because of its focus on the beef industry.

Bryant said another plus of the move is that the Denver stock show draws a more national audience. The congress Tuesday will feature a panel of the country's top meatpackers, who will talk about market trends, and a second panel that will respond to the packers.

Another first for the National Western will be the six-horse hitch world championship starting Jan. 18. The competition features six draft horses hitched to one wagon.

The National Western rodeo, one of the top five professional rodeos in terms of prize money, has about 700 competitors seeking a share of the \$500,000 reward.

Food items/cleaning supplies — Hospice Visions is in need of nonperishable food items, paper products or cleaning items to be used at Visions of Home hospice home, east of Jerome.

The group provides hospice care for anyone in the community regardless of ability to pay. To donate items, bring them to the office at 209 Shoup Ave. W. in Twin Falls or call Flo Slatter at 735-0121 to arrange a pickup time.

Beds/clothing/household items — The College of Southern Idaho Refugee Center is in need of twin-size beds, clothing for men and women, and household items. To donate items, drop them off from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 1526 Highland Ave. E.; the office is closed from noon to 1 p.m. Call Teresa at 736-2166.

Volunteers — Idaho Home Health and Hospice is in need of volunteers who can help in the home by visiting with patients, relieving the caregivers or running errands. Office assistance is also welcome. For information about the volunteer program, call Susan or Grace at

Want to help?
This public service column is designed to assist people in the communities of the Magic Valley with volunteer help. If you need a volunteer, call the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at 735-2122 ext. 320, before 3:43:30 p.m. Wednesday for Sunday publication. RSVP is a United Way-sponsored agency at the College of Southern Idaho. Call weekly to retain your request.

734-4064 or stop by the office at 826 Eastland Drive in Twin Falls.

Lift chair — An elderly lady is in need of a large-size lift chair. Call Roberta at 544-7720.

Drivers — The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at the Office on Aging is looking for volunteers, age 55 and older, who are willing to drive clients to doctor appointments and go grocery shopping. Volunteers are needed in the Burley, Rupert area. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and covered by excess insurance. Call Kitty at 677-4872, ext. 2.

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Rupert woman offered compassion and goodwill to all

Siblings remember sister that helped raise them, understood their needs as children

Trena Tegan
For the Times-News

RUPERT — Ora Banner Whittaker exemplified charity in everything she did and always offered goodwill and compassion to all who knew her.

She died Oct. 24 at the age of 81.

Ora was born Feb. 25, 1925, the second of nine children born to Leo and Chloey Silecock Banner. This was during the Depression and the family lived in a three-room house consisting of a kitchen, family room and one bedroom.

"She had running water from the time she was born till the time she was married," said her brother Melvin. "Meaning you took the bucket, ran to the pump to fill it and ran back in."

When she was 9 years old, her family moved to a house in the View area, which was near a canal. Her 2-year-old brother Melvin ventured into the canal for a swim one day and it was Ora who noticed him missing and pulled him out. She was a natural caregiver and always helped to care for her younger siblings, especially when her mother became ill.

"Ora understood the emotional needs of those younger than her and did her best to help them," said her brother Sam.

Her parents were farmers and she learned early the meaning of hard work. She would help on the farm and could "out pick" her brothers when they were picking potatoes in the fields. The younger ones would lament that they hoped to grow up to be as strong as her one day.

Sam said, "Whatever we did together as kids helped bond us for life. Those experiences and interactions became the basis for how we viewed life and the people in it. It shaped how we related to our spouses and our children. It taught us that we can work through almost anything if we work together."

"Ora understood the emotional needs of those younger than her and did her best to help them."

— Whittaker's brother Sam Banner

Minico honors Renaissance students

RUPERT — Minico High School honored Renaissance students of the month and teachers of the month. The staff member of the trimester is Michelle Gleichert.

Freshmen
Zach Harman, Garth Crane, Cody Lopez and Brecka Fetzer).

Sophomores
Jillie King, Jake Hruza, Andrew Wheeler and Cristina Silva.

Juniors
Brady Cooper, Barrett Dayton, Nicole Rogers and Samantha Halbert.

Seniors
Ashley Robinson, JD Cameron, Sarah Branaum and Erasmo Castro.

Teachers
Gary Middlesteadt, Terril Katrunk, Tamra Gregory and Karen Konrad.




Ora Banner Whittaker and her family posed for a family group photo in 1973. From left in the back row: Seth, Melvin, Sam, Curtis and Golden; and front row: Ora, parents Chloey and Leo, and Reva.

remembered

Ora Banner Whittaker

Born: Feb. 25, 1925
Died: Oct. 24, 2006

Survivors: Her children Dought (Kay) Whittaker of Armon; Sandy (John) Sabala of Gooding; Susan (Jim) Christensen of Mesa, Ariz.; Donna Whittaker of Scottsdale, Ariz.; and Steven Whittaker and Lany Tanner, both of Salt Lake City; 22 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, four brothers, Sam (Jeni) Banner of Brigham City, Utah; Curtis (Mary Lou) Banner of Roseville, Calif.; Melvin (Charlene) Banner of Bountiful, Utah; and Seth (Pat) Banner of Taylorville, Utah; and one sister, Reva (Howard) Mitchell of Burley.



The children played together as well as worked together. They couldn't afford to buy skis, so her father fashioned skis from the staves of 55-gallon wooden barrels, whittling the ends to shape them like skis. Ora met Hugh M. Whittaker one of the dances at the Y-Dell ballroom.

They were married on July 26, 1943, in Twin Falls. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. They had five children: Dwight, Sandy, Susan, Donna and Steven.

They continued to dance after their marriage, learning to square dance together. They were members of three square dance clubs and traveled to Twin Falls, Jerome and Hazelton to dance. Their favorite song was "Could I Have This Dance" by Anne Murray.

Ora was very optimistic, and always saw the best in everything. "She saw a silver lining on almost any cloud," Melvin said.

One of her favorite things was spending time with her grandchildren. She was always interested in what they were doing and how things were going for them in school. She would also relate stories to them about her childhood and about their parents growing up.

She gave that feeling that

the world can be a pretty great place and that you can have great adventures in it," said Christina Caldwell, one of her

22 grandchildren. She was tenderhearted, but she also had very strong ways. "She was the type of person who told you what she thought, even if you were reluctant to hear it," Sam said.

Ora was an expert homemaker and excelled at cooking, canning, quilting and gardening. It seemed the only thing she enjoyed more than these activities was sharing the fruits of her labors with her family and friends.

Melvin said, "When I think of her in the full context, the word that always comes to my heart is charity. She had a pure heart of charity."

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ERAGON 7:30 - 9:30 (PG)	THE HOLIDAY 7:30 ONLY (PG)
BURLEY THEATRE 7:30 - 9:30 (PG)	THE PRESTIGE 7:30 - 9:45 (PG-13)

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Montana agency considers allowing the capture of falcons

By Susan Gallagher
Associated Press writer

HELENA, Mont. — Offspring of a swift, crow-sized raptor removed from the federal endangered-species list in 1999 could be captured in limited numbers for the sport of falconry under a proposal the Montana wildlife agency is considering.

The state Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is taking public comment until Jan. 15 on the proposal to let falconers take fledgling peregrine falcons from nests — perhaps removing about half a dozen birds a year. In falconry, trained birds circle above the falconers, like "high-speed dives at flushed prey such as grouse, then try to capture the prey.

The Montana Falconers Association wants this state to join six others in the West that allow removal of peregrines from the wild, within a federal framework. If the proposal advances, Fish, Wildlife and Parks will prepare an environmental assessment.

The peregrine population has recovered and estimates of active nests now exceed recovery goals, the agency said. "Numbers are growing, distribution is increasing," said Jeff Herbert, a wildlife administrator for the department. It is overseen by a five-member board that ultimately would decide whether to allow removal of wild peregrines, decision making that would include a new call for public comment.

The Montana Peregrine Institute finds the bird's recovery margins relatively narrow and the capture proposal pre-emptive.

"For an animal that just eight years ago was on the endangered-species list, we'd like to see a little more forethought," said Byron Crow, field projects coordinator for the institute.

"We're taking baby steps," said Tom Mutchler, president of the Montana Falconers Association.

The federal framework limits removal of young peregrines to no more than 5 percent of the number observed. Based on a 2006 Montana survey that documented about 65 active Peregrine nests and 147

On the Net:
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks: www.fwp.mt.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov

fledged young, the maximum that could be removed would be seven birds. If the observed number rose in later years, so could removals.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks said Montana may well have had more than 147 fledged young last year. Peregrines typically nest on cliffs and the count likely missed some remote sites.

The state agency said the 2006 productivity rate was 2.3 young peregrines per nest. In 1994-2001, the rate was 1.7.

Some falconers have practiced their sport with birds from breeding programs, as regulations kept wild peregrines off limits. Falconers have been instrumental in the country's peregrine recovery, chiefly in two ways, said Tom Cade, founder of The Peregrine Fund in Boise, Idaho.

"First of all and most critical was the fact that many of them donated or loaned birds, that they held in captivity, to breeding projects such as the one we

operated at Cornell University," Cade said.

He also said many of the techniques that falconers developed for handling and training peregrines were applied in bird releases that became part of the recovery.

Making wild birds available to Montana falconers would "close a circle," said falconer Ralph Rogers of Winifred.

Montana Audubon has not taken a position on the proposal. If falcons are to be removed from the wild, "we want to make sure they (state officials) develop a program that won't impact the population and that is enforceable," spokeswoman Janet Ellis said. Peregrines in the United

States were harmed by indiscriminate shooting before World War II, and afterward, by the insecticide DDT, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said. Now banned, DDT accumulated in raptors via the food chain, thinned eggshells

and reduced reproduction, according to the service.

Other Western states that allow captures for falconry are Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Washington, the Montana wildlife agency said.



A peregrine falcon is shown with peregrine falcon chicks in this undated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service photo.

Dr. Craig Holman

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BOISE
Gore speech moving to bigger venue

After about 1,500 tickets were snapped up in 10 minutes for former Vice President Al Gore's speech later this month, Boise State University has moved the speech to a larger venue and is offering more tickets.

Gore is now scheduled to appear at Taco Bell Arena to give the keynote speech of a conference sponsored by BSU's Frank Church Institute. The speech is set for 7 p.m. Jan. 22 and is titled "Global Warming: Beyond the Inconvenient Truth."

Taco Bell Arena is typically used for sporting events. How many tickets will be made available for Gore's speech has not been decided.

"They're keeping it flexible because they want to get as many people in there as they can," said BSU spokeswoman Kathleen Craven. "There are several ways they can set it up."

The tickets at Taco Bell Arena will cost \$5. The university is setting aside 1,000 tickets for BSU students.

COEUR D'ALENE
County has a new mobile command center

Kootenai County has unveiled a new "mobile command center" to replace a 1981 converted school bus law enforcement officials have been using.

The 40-foot trailer has high-tech communications that include radio, phones, Internet and television. The \$350,000 needed to buy the trailer came from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Kootenai County, and private donations.

"The bus served its purpose," said Sandy Von Behren,

director of the county's Office of Emergency Management. "But it was way past overdue to be replaced. We would be called out and sometimes we'd make it and sometimes we wouldn't."

The trailer includes a conference area, kitchen and bathroom.

Kootenai County Sheriff's Capt. Ben Wolfinger said the trailer is equipped with a satellite phone that will make it easier for him to send out faxes and e-mail from remote locations.

Money to buy the truck to haul the trailer came from the Sheriff's Department and the county's Office and Emergency Management.

POCATELLO
ISU suspends professor facing federal charges

Idaho State University has suspended with pay Thomas Hale, a history professor and director of the Oral History Project at the school, who was charged in federal court last month with falsely claiming that he mailed out a dangerous substance.

Hale, 61, was arrested in Salt Lake City and faces three felony charges for mailing a substance he claimed was hantavirus to a trustee overseeing his bankruptcy case. He has pleaded not guilty.

Hantavirus, which is carried by rodents and can cause acute respiratory problems or death, has sickened at least 317 Americans and killed at least 93 since 1996.

Hale is also an attorney, and he filed a motion Friday asking U.S. Judge William T. Thurman to recuse himself from Hale's bankruptcy case.

In that motion Hale included three memos, one of them concerning his suspension from the school.

"Pending resolution of these charges, I believe it is in the best interests of the university

to relieve you of your teaching responsibilities for the spring semester and until further notice," wrote John Kijinski, Hale's superior and dean of ISU's College of Arts and Sciences.

— The Associated Press



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BUHL	Tuesday	Grand Stands Sports Grill, 1003 Main Street 11:30 a.m.
RUPERT	Monday	Rupert Elks Lodge, 85 W. 200 S. 11:30 a.m.
	Thursday	Rupert Elks Lodge, 85 W. 200 S. 11:30 a.m.
TWIN FALLS	Thursday	Jade Restaurant, 611 Blue Lakes Blvd. North 11:30 a.m.

Army regrets urging dead and wounded officers to return to service

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army on Saturday blamed a computer mix-up for recruitment letters mistakenly sent out over the holidays to the families of 275 officers killed or wounded in action in Iraq.

sick that this happened," said Gen. Richard Cody, the Army's vice chief of staff. "This is an inexcusable mistake. Five years into this war, the Army can do better than this — and we will."

Senior Army leaders were frustrated and disappointed by their blunder, Cody said. The Army used the wrong database, he said, when it generated a mass mailing of letters between Christmas and New Year's Day to more than 5,100 Army officers who recently had left the service.

Included were letters to 75 officers killed in action — more than one-third of all Army officers who have died in Iraq since the war began — and 200 more wounded in action.

Cody said the Army immediately began contacting each family to offer a personal apology. "I can't imagine how these soldiers and family members felt upon receiving those letters," he said. "Army senior

leaders also plan on personally contacting them in writing to apologize and let them know that the Army is still a family made strong by caring leadership and strong Army families."

The reason for the mistake has been corrected, Cody said.

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This week at Swensen's Markets, we are making it easy for you to create a delicious and hearty breakfast. Stop by and take a look at the Mirro 12" glass covered Jumbo Cooker that we are offering at the great price of \$14.99. And then put your new cooker to

good use on four FREE food items, including 1) free dozen large eggs, 2) hash brown potatoes, 3) 12 oz packaged bacon, and 4) 16 oz loaf of bread. Sometimes being "over the top" is a good thing.

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SPORTS

TIMES-NEWS • SPORTS EDITOR MIKE CHRISTENSEN: 735-3239

INSIDE: The Idaho Vandals were no match for No. 25 Nevada in WAC basketball action, C4



C

SUNDAY

JANUARY 7, 2007

INSIDE: Local roundup, C2 | NBA & College hoops, C4 | College football, C6 | YourSports, C7 | Weather, C8

Minico cruises to title at Buhl Invitational

Four Spartans earn individual titles

By Diane Phillips
Times-News writer

BUHL — Led by four wrestlers that took home individual championships, the Minico Spartans took the top spot in the 33rd annual Buhl Invitational that finished on Saturday afternoon at Buhl High School.

Minico trailed the Shelley Russes by a single point as Day 2 began Saturday morning.

By the time the championship and consolation finals were about to begin, Minico had long since passed Shelley and held a 32-point margin over the Russes.

With the competition complete and all points totaled, the Spartans

garnered 191.50 points. Shelley finished second with 150.50 points and Challis was third with 140.50 points.

Minico Junior Nate Crane, the state's top-ranked wrestler in the 112-pound division, was the first individual winner for the Spartans. Crane picked up a hard-fought decision over Harold Bishop of North Fremont, 7-5.

With five seconds remaining in the match and the score tied at 5-5, Crane picked up two points on a reverse to win.

"He (Bishop) was good and showed no quit," said Crane. "He had a forearm to my throat and I was able to reverse it and take him down."

David Burgara (125 pounds), Josh Clapier (145) and Josh Ramirez (275)

2007 33rd Annual Buhl Invitational results

Saturday's results
Tweezer scores: 4. Heavy 15, Light 15, Heavy 250.50, 3. Crane 140.50, 4. Spring Creek 137, 5. North Fremont 136.5, 6. Shasta 136.50, 7. Perry 135, 8. Valley View 132.5, 9. Johnson 131, 10. Twin Falls 130.5, 11. Gooding 129, 12. Minico 128.5, 13. Jerome 127, 14. South Fremont 126, 15. West 125, 16. The 21, 17. Wendell 124, 18. Independence 123, 19. Gooding 122, 20. The 21, 21. Obo 2.

Championship finals
112 pounds — Cameron Hooper, Shasta Mountain, dec. Brock Barta, South Fremont, 11-2. Heavy Crane, Minico, dec. Harold Bishop, North Fremont, 13-5. Mid-Weight, Spring Creek, placed fourth (145), Shasta, 12-3. David Burgara, Minico, dec. Tyler Briggs, Gooding, 13-5. Josh Clapier, Spring Creek, dec. Nathan Collins, Shasta, 14-1. Josh Clapier, Minico, dec. Jake Park, Gooding, 12-3. Josh Clapier, Minico, dec. Jake Park, Gooding, 12-3. Josh Clapier, Minico, dec. Jake Park, Gooding, 12-3.

were the other Minico champions. Andrew Uhl (103) finished third and Colby Andersen (152) and Brady Cooper (189) had fourth-place finishes for the Spartans.

Blair Gerratt took second for Gooding in the 130-pound division

as he lost to Justin Baker of Challis, 7-4. In the championship match, The Senators finished in 11th place.

"It was a good wrestle and in good shape. I had beat him at the Bear-Cat in Jerome and I think he wanted to get even," said Gerratt.

Corbin Bowers of Burley defeated Ryan Henry from Valley in the 189-pound championship match to help the Boreans finish seventh.

The key to his win: "I thought I fought off his throws very well and the big key was my takedown," said Bowers.

Twin Falls picked up a second-place finish by senior Chris Marquez at 275 pounds. The Bruins finished in 10th.

"It just came down to him giving up less points. I pinned him last year so he wanted to get me back," said Marquez, who is 12-3 for the season.

"This is a good tournament because you get a variety of out-of-state schools and the competition is good in preparation for state."

James Swensen of Jerome was another area winner in the 215-pound division.

SEAHAWKS 21, COWBOYS 20



COLTS 23, CHIEFS 8

Romo's blunder saves Seattle

Botched field-goal try gives Seahawks 21-20 playoff win

By Jaime Arco
Associated Press writer

SEATTLE — All Tony Romo had to do was put the ball down and let Martin Gramatica make a short kick. It couldn't do it — and the Seattle Seahawks are still alive in the NFL playoffs.

Romo's botched hold on a 19-yard field goal try with 1:19 left forced the Pro Bowl quarterback to scramble left, but he was tackled at the 2 and the Seahawks escaped with a 21-20 victory in the wildest of wild-card games Saturday night.

"It looked like it was a pretty good snap. He was the holder all year," Cowboys coach Bill Parcells said. "We were in position to win if we could just execute the extra point."

Seattle trailed 20-13 after getting stopped on fourth-and-goal with about 6:40 to go, but rallied thanks to a Dallas fumble-turned-safety on the next snap and a 37-yard touchdown pass from Matt Hasselbeck to Jerrymy Stevens on the ensuing drive.

Romo moved the Cowboys from their 28 to the Seattle 2, where a pass to Jason Witten was initially ruled a first down before a replay showed the Cowboys were short. Dallas still had its offense on the field after being told it was fourth down, then sent in Gramatica — who already had made kicks of 50 and 29 yards — to win it.

At least, that was the plan. Romo was stopped on a shoestring tackle by Jordan Babineaux. The Seahawks still had to get away from the shadow of their goal line to protect the victory, but did so right away with Shaun Alexander running through the middle for 20 yards.

Seattle milked the clock to 8 seconds before a punt that gave Dallas one last chance from the 50.



Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo, left, bobbles the snap as kicker Martin Gramatica steps in for the kick with 1:19 left in the game against Seattle Seahawks in an NFL wild card playoff football in Seattle Saturday. The Seahawks won 21-20.

Romo scrambled, waving right then left, and heaved it into the end zone. The ball bounced away, with Jerrrell Owens among the Cowboys who failed to grab it.

"Some unusual things happened. That's the playoffs, for you," Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said.

Seattle's rabid fans snatched together the Shrek-colored gloves they'd been

given for their loudest cheer of the night, already dreaming of another long playoff run like the one that lasted all the way to the Super Bowl last season.

Romo, meanwhile, walked off by himself, head down. His storybook rise from unknown backup to starlet-dating Pro

Please see SEAHAWKS, Page C5

CSI men rally to blowout win

Victory never in doubt for Golden Eagles women

Times-News

RANGELY, Colo. — Once again, it was only a matter of time.

The No. 9 College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team overcame one of its

landmark rallies to run the past the Colorado Northwestern Community College Spartans 131-91 Saturday night in Rangely, Colo.

The Golden Eagles improved to 13-4 on the season and 3-1 in Scenic West Athletic Conference play with the win.

The Golden Eagles looked like they were in for a struggle as the Spartans took a 28-26 lead midway through the first half. The tide suddenly turned though, as CSI forced the game into its favor, rattling off an amazing 49-12 run to end the half up 66-40. Starting shooting guard Brad Garrett was a major cog in that run. He pumped in 21 first-half points to lead CSI into the break.

"How to play on some of their weaknesses and I think we did," CSI head coach Barret Peery told 1270 AM KTHL. "We played on their depth a little bit, even though we were hurting a bit with eight or nine guys."

Garrett finished with a game-high 33 points, while Reggie Guyton added 14 for a balanced CSI scoring attack that saw every player that hit the floor score at least seven points. Houston Power led CNCC (6-7, 0-3 SWAC) with 21 points, followed by Itagan added 17.

While Derek Lutenzen returned to action to score 11 points after sitting out last night's game while under the weather, freshman point guard Adris DeLeon sat out of the game with flu-like symptoms.

"It's hard for me to complain about two 40-point wins, but there's still things we've got to work on, no doubt about it," Peery said. "We have to pick up our defensive intensity again

Salt Lake next week."

The CSI men are back at home Friday on Saturday night, hosting the rival Salt Lake Community College Bruins. Each night game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. start, following the completion of the women's game.

Bruins improved to 3-0 in SWAC play late Friday by defeating the College of Eastern Utah 87-83 in overtime.

Utah 87-83 in overtime, while Snow College topped North Idaho College 66-60 the same night. Saturday's other late SWAC scores were not available at press time.

Women

No. 20 CSI 99, Colo. Northwestern 46

Same old song-and-dance.

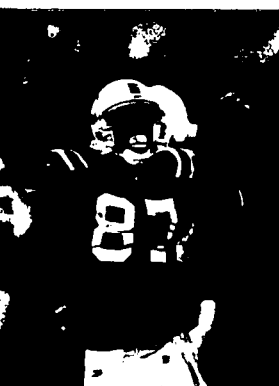
The No. 20 Golden Eagles got their early, extended their lead throughout the game and demolished the host Spartans 99-46 Saturday night in Rangely, Colo. The win puts CSI at 12-2 on the season and 3-1 in SWAC competition.

A 23-4 run to start the game put CSI up comfortably and that lead kept extending toward the halftime break as Brittany Moore's old-fashioned 3-point play with seconds left put CSI up 35 points at intermission, the score 52-17.

"Obviously, you hold a team to 17 at halftime and that's pretty good no matter how good they are," CSI head coach Randy Rogers told 1270 AM KTHL.

The Spartans played without the services of sophomore guard Anavia Johnson, who parted ways with the team after last night's loss to CSI. Complete individual statistics for the Golden Eagles weren't available after Saturday night's game. Brittney Whiteeman was the only CNCC player to score more than 10 points, finishing with 13 on the night. CNCC drops to 5-8 (0-4 SWAC) with

Please see CSI, Page B2



Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Reggie Wayne celebrates a touchdown against the Kansas City Chiefs in the fourth quarter of an AFC wild-card playoff game in Indianapolis, Saturday. The Colts defeated the Chiefs 23-8.

Colts eliminate Chiefs Beleaguered defense comes up stingy for Indianapolis

By Barry Winer
Associated Press writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning knows all about falling apart in the playoffs. Though he struggled early Saturday, the Indianapolis Colts' stunningly stingy defense came to the rescue.

Manning and the Colts beat the inept Kansas City Chiefs 23-8 Saturday, and while the star quarterback's numbers were good — 30-of-38 for 268 yards — his performance was mediocre. At least it was for the most prolific passer of his generation.

He threw three interceptions, didn't complete a deep pass and, ultimately, was bailioted by his

defense. "You have to keep playing," said Manning, who improved to 4-6 in the playoffs. "Every time you drop back to throw, your goal is to possess the ball on the next play. Three times, I was very poor on that. As soon as it gets you second-guessing, as soon as it gets you gun-shy, that's when you have problems."

The beleaguered Indianapolis defense was so good — or perhaps more accurately, Kansas City's offense was so bad — that Manning's miscues didn't stop the AFC South champions from advancing to the next round at Baltimore on Saturday.

Please see COLTS, Page C5



Mat men take stage at THS

Twin Falls junior varsity wrestler Zac Truip, left, tangles with Burley's Kade Swartz Saturday during their 171-pound match at the Twin Falls JV Invitational.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Schedule table with columns for Team, Opponent, Score, and Status.

WNBA Schedule table with columns for Team, Opponent, Score, and Status.

College Football Schedule table with columns for Team, Opponent, Score, and Status.

College Basketball Schedule table with columns for Team, Opponent, Score, and Status.

College Football Schedule table with columns for Team, Opponent, Score, and Status.

College Basketball Schedule table with columns for Team, Opponent, Score, and Status.

College Football Schedule table with columns for Team, Opponent, Score, and Status.

GAME PLAN

Carolina NFL FOOTBALL... CBS - AFC Wildcard game, New York Jets at New England Patriots.

Carolina COLLEGE FOOTBALL... ESPN - College Bowl, Ohio vs. Southern Miss. at Mobile, Ala.

Carolina WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL... FSN - Stanford at Virginia Tech.

Carolina AP NFL Coaches of the Year... AP NFL Coaches of the Year: Peyton Manning.

Carolina FOOTBALL NFL FOOTBALL... Philadelphia Eagles at Washington Redskins.

Carolina HOCCY NHL FOOTBALL... Philadelphia Flyers at Pittsburgh Penguins.

Carolina COLLEGE SOCCER... Virginia Tech at Wake Forest.

SKI REPORT

Ski Report table listing ski areas, lift status, and snow conditions.

ATP Tennis ATP Next Generation Adelaide International tournament results.

ATP Tennis ATP Chennai Open tournament results.

PGA TOUR PGA TOUR Mercedez-Benz Championship tournament results.

WTA TOUR WTA Tour World's Best tennis tournament results.

WATSONS WATSONS Water Wars Challenge tournament results.

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Johnson's agents still discussing contract extension with Cubs

NEW YORK (AP) — Randy Johnson's agents were still negotiating with the Diamondbacks on Saturday, trying to work out a contract extension...

MAGIC VALLEY Bruins boosters to meet Monday

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls High School Bruin Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the gymnasium.

Sports Shorts

National and Magic Valley briefs: Those wishing to organize a team that are unable to attend should call 736-2265.

Jerome boosters to meet Monday

JEROME — The Jerome High School Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in room 101 at Jerome High School.

Kimberly boosters to meet Monday

KIMBERLY — The Kimberly Booster Club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the media center at Kimberly High School.

Adult Indoor Soccer meeting planned

TWIN FALLS — An organizational meeting for the Twin Falls Adult Indoor Soccer League will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Office.

T.F. Youth baseball seeks umpires

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls County Youth Baseball is seeking umpires for the upcoming 2007 spring Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth baseball seasons.

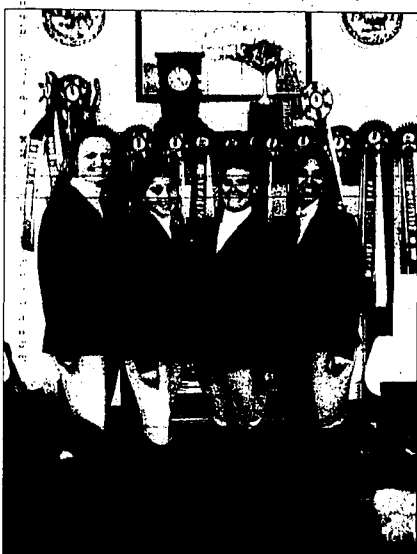
Soldier Mountain offers free ski day

FARFIELD — Soldier Mountain has announced a Customer Appreciation Day for Saturday, Jan. 20.

Blake's Hoop Shoot scheduled

RUPERT — The local Eric's Chapter will host its annual Hoop Shoot free-throw contest at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Civic Center in Rupert.

Twin Falls Hunter/Jumper team wins Idaho state championship



Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Years of hard work and dedication paid off this year for the Hunter/Jumper Equine state championship team from Twin Falls. The foursome of Margo Saunders, Aleece Christiansen, Jockey Taylor and Leslie Taylor not only took most of the individual age category championships at the Idaho Hunter/Jumper Association championships, but also snagged the top team score.

Leslie Taylor, who is the trainer for all of the team's horses and the owner of Spring Hollow Farms where the team trains, said success often comes down to "making sure the trainer, rider and horse are all having a good day on the same day at the same time."

That came together for this area quartet, Saunders, of Albion, was the champion in the 18 and older Long Stirrup Hunter competition and was grand champion in the same event. She also took home to Boise Saddle and Jump Club's Fossils Over Fences Perpetual Award, which honors outstanding performance by a rider over age 40. She rides a Chestnut thoroughbred named Artie.

Christiansen, a sophomore at Kimberly High School, won titles in the Modified Children's Amateur Horse category in Junior/Amateur Equine Over Fences and Hunt Seat

Equine 14-17. She was also the Junior/Amateur Hunters grand champion and won the Boise Saddle and Jump Club's Darlene Trout Memorial Award for outstanding performance by a rider ages 14-17. She rides a dark bay thoroughbred named Journeys End.

Jockey Taylor is in the sixth grade at Kimberly Middle School. She was a champion on the Pony Division for Hunt Seat Equine 13 and Under and was grand champion in the Pony Hunter Short Stirrup Hunter event. In addition, she took home the Boise Saddle and Jump Club's Tam Burdick Memorial Award for outstanding performance by rider under age 14. She rides a rare Norwegian Fjord horse named Tolle, which is owned by her grandmother Sami Nelson, who works with the team as a dressage trainer.

Leslie Taylor, who rides a bay thoroughbred named Bermuda, was the champion in Preliminary Jumping in the Training Jumper division. While this season has come to an end, the group is continuing to train with an eye toward future success. "What they accomplished has taken years of learning to ride, picking out the right horse (in conformation, size and temperament), training the horse to jump, putting the horse and rider together and teaching them to ride as a team," said Nelson.

Members of the Twin Falls Hunter/Jumper Equine team, from, left, are Aleece Christiansen, Jockey Taylor, Margo Saunders and Leslie Taylor. Below, Saunders jumps with her horse Artie. Bottom right, Jockey Taylor jumps on her horse Tolle.



Photo courtesy: DICKIE-ROPER Photography and LESLIE TAYLOR



Brandon Fjeld

TFHS grad named to national scholar list

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls High School graduate Brandon Fjeld was recently named a 2006 Daktronics-NAA All-American Scholar Athlete team.

Fjeld, who is listed a defensive back, receiver and running back, was one of three players on the Minot State University (N.D.) named to the list.

The 5-foot-10, 190-pound junior is majoring in radiology technology.

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BOWLING

SUNSET BOWL BUHL SENIORS
MEN'S SERIES: Ed Hana 542, Charlie Hill 541, Wehman Caldwell 538, Ed Davis 536.
MEN'S GAMES: Ed Hana 202, Wehman Caldwell 202, Tom Kunnert 195, Charlie Hill 188.
LADIES SERIES: Lena Hazby 461, Phyllis Callen 457, Mary Davis 420, Camille Zach 419.
LADIES GAMES: Phyllis Callen 186, Camille Zach 161, Lena Hazby 159, Mary Davis 158.
SPARE PAIRS
MEN'S SERIES: Curt Quantance 307, Dirk McCallister 678, Bob Fields 595, Bill Lemmons 586.
MEN'S GAMES: Curt Quantance 300, Dirk McCallister 254, Charlie Hill 244, Bob Fields 233.
LADIES SERIES: Kay Miller 524, Wendy Benkula 504, Mary Peterson 493, Linda Miller 482.
LADIES GAMES: Kay Miller 191, Debbie Franklin 182, Linda Miller 181, Jeanne Hicks 178.
STARLITE
MEN'S SERIES: Matt Olson 708, Mitch Olson 636, Dirk McCallister 603, Joe Pereira 577.
MEN'S GAMES: Mitch Olson 265, Matt Olson 259, Joe Pereira 248, Todd Dickenson 236.
LADIES SERIES: Lisa Dickenson 593, Teresa Boehm 570, Dana McCallister 555, Jeanne Hicks 540.
LADIES GAMES: Lisa Dickenson 244, Dana McCallister 198, Teresa Boehm 194, Jeanne Hicks 192.
MASON
SERIES: Verna Kodessh 441, Phyllis Callen 431, Lynnette Butler 424, Conie Bernier 415.

GAMES: Lynnette Butler 165, Phyllis Callen 163, Verna Kodessh 157, Conie Bernier 145.
PINBUSTERS
SERIES: Shan Bliok 711, Dirk McCallister 675, Bob Wagner 642, Nathan Cross 634.
GAMES: Shan Bliok 267, Bob Fields 258, Dirk McCallister 258, Karl Nejtchleba 251.
LUCKY STRIKERS
SERIES: Daria McCallister 550, Lena Hazby 529, Margo Olson 514, Lois Tomlinson 508.
GAMES: Kay Reynolds 201, Daria McCallister 198, Margo Olson 197, June Snerrell 193.
BOWLDROME TWIN FALLS MID MORN. MIXED
MEN'S SERIES: Jim Kruse 627, Jerry Seabolt 624, Con Moser 603, Eddie Chappell 585.
MEN'S GAMES: Dick DeRoche 277, Jerry Seabolt 258, Eddie Chappell 235, Con Moser 230.
LADIES SERIES: Bonnie Draper 528, Vicki Kessig 486, Elaine Kollerker 481, Linda Cline 478.
LADIES GAMES: Bonnie Draper 219, Elaine Kollerker 179, Dons Brown 179, Linda Cline 176.
CITY MIXED
MEN'S SERIES: Mike Wratford 541, Rod Sorenson 538, Mike Starr 496.
MEN'S GAMES: Mike Wratford 193, Rod Sorenson 192, Mike Starr 183, Jess Harell 171.
LADIES SERIES: Sue Sorenson 464, Carla Colfack 420, Julie Waters 403.
LADIES GAMES: Sue Sorenson 174, Carla Colfack 171, Julie Waters 170, Sindy Parker 149.
MEN'S CONSOLIDATED
SERIES: Rocky Bennett 633, Cobey Magee 595, Dale Black 550, Dennis Seckel 549.
GAMES: Rocky Bennett 257, Cobey Magee 234, Dale Black

224, Mark Brevse 216.
M.V. SENIORS
MEN'S SERIES: Ken Hodges 595, Myron Schroeder 579, Ron Marshall 550, Ed Detry 549.
MEN'S GAMES: Ken Hodges 258, Jim Sheppard 220, Gene Schulte 218, Ron Marshall 213.
LADIES SERIES: Jean McGuire 504, Belva Coval 503, Ann Brewer 484, Dee Hall 469.
LADIES GAMES: Ann Brewer 189, Jean McGuire 183, Judy Snelly 175, Belva Coval 174.
LADIES CLASSIC
SERIES: Kay Puschel 550, Michelle Baughman 545, Tiffany Hager 543, Crystal Snul 543.
GAMES: Crystal Snul 224, Michelle Baughman 211, Julie Water 199, Kay Puschel 194.
SUNSET
SERIES: Laura Brock 615, Kim Leazer 549, Carole Fredrickson 514, Sylvia Inman 506.
GAMES: Laura Brock 224, Kim Leazer 223, Tammi Ruz 205, Carole Fredrickson 200.
SOMETHING ELSE
MEN'S SERIES: Dave Gyorly 495, Bruce Thaele 450, Jay Johnson 442, Ross Deahl 421.
MEN'S GAMES: Dave Gyorly 184, Robb Steinhil 174, Cory Federick 166, Jay Johnson 164.
LADIES SERIES: Marni Parry 491, Kathy Deahl 489, Pam Ward 429, Mona Neill 429.
LADIES GAMES: Mona Neill 179, Kathy Deahl 178, Kim Ward 169, Penny Thaele 162.
P.L.A. SENIORS
MEN'S SERIES: Ed Detry 606, Bob Brown 551, Bill Poren 550, Gene Schulte 541.
MEN'S GAMES: Bill Poren 243, Ed Detry 235, Gene Schulte 208, Bob Brown 205.
LADIES SERIES: Carolyn Beaver 471, Joan Lels 445, Susan

McCann 440, Linda Cle 426.
LADIES GAMES: Gloria Rudolph 174, Dons Brown 171, Jackie Bressette 168, Barbara Fink 165.
MOOSE
SERIES: Cory Moore 687, Jerry Thompson 685, Todd Ficus 656, Bobby Crnstobal 652.
GAMES: Jerry Povalovski 247, Cory Moore 246, Dale Black 246, Bobby Crnstobal 245.
MOONSHOERS
SERIES: Danielle Homan 568, Laura Brock 510, Mechele Koepnick 507, Deanna Heil 506.
GAMES: Danielle Homan 13, Samara Arthur 11, Deanna Heil 11, Laura Brock 185.
SHAKE RIVER BOWL BURLEY TUESDAY MIXED
SERIES: Bob Bywater 715.
Jordan Pansh 688, Dale Ulrich 612, Pam Roach 521, Crns Rowley 510, Alicia Bywater 468.
MEN'S GAMES: Bob Bywater 258, Jordan Pansh 245, Gene Smith 226, Pam Roach 199, Crns Rowley 195, Kristie Johnston 170.
MAJOR
SERIES: Steve Pol 699, Bob Bywater 687, Rusty Holm 681, Devon Rucker 647.
GAMES: Justin Soder 25, Rusty Holm 258, Lyle Martindale 254, Bob Bywater 251.
THURS. MORN. DBLS.
SERIES: Deann Richins 480, Carol McAfee 464, Carla Carson 450, Barbara Carey 457.
GAMES: Deann Richins 186, Linda Stark 181, Carla Carson 179, Barbara Carey 167.
RAILROADERS
SERIES: Kris Rodriguez 541, Traci Smith 532, Sharon Hissung 526, Becly Martindale 500.
GAMES: Kris Rodriguez 211, Angie Castaneda 201, Vivian

Poulton 189, Debbie Pfeiler 187.
MA & PA
SERIES: Bob Despan 555, Randy Rose 543, Brent Olsen 540, Kris Rodriguez 497, Jayne Ruyton 484, Janie Garcia 468.
GAMES: Gary Barhorne 210, Randy Rose 200, Brent Olsen 196, Jayne Ruyton 202, Kris Rodriguez 180, Estner Rose 174.
EARLY BIRDS
SERIES: Shannon Carter 622, Jeff Corne 568, Dusty Perrod 542, Nita Mager 544, Cassi Millsappage 507, Brenda Frazer 498.
GAMES: Cecil Carter 227, Shannon Carter 218, Jeff Coner 216, Nita Mager 223, Angie Castaneda 200, Georgia Schultz 182.
WED. NIGHT MIXED
SERIES: Spencer Meyer 702, Tyson Hirsch 664, Jordan Pansh 639, Annette Hirsch 569, Georgia Schultz 532, Cheyann Bauer 412.
GAMES: Jordan Pansh 279, Spencer Meyer 256, Tyson Hirsch 247, Georgia Schultz 208, Annette Hirsch 189, Susan Fowler 158.
MINIHO
SERIES: Todd Renz 542, Budy Abertson 512, Jordan Parish 495, Dale Amen 477.
GAMES: Todd Renz 212, Steven Nonyuku 198, Dale Amen 177, Budy Abertson 173.
MAGIC BOWL TWIN FALLS MARCH 13
SERIES: Kathy Gray 571, Glenda Barnuta 520, Virginia Williams 482, Jean Stokessbery 473.
GAMES: Kathy Gray 212, Mane Bruce 202, Glenda Barnuta 202, Ruby Jacobs 171.
VALLEY
SERIES: Rich Birrell 615, Leon

Kimes 611, Jerry Marcantonio 609, Kent Stove 608.
GAMES: Rich Birrell 257, Jon Haveman 255, Kent Stove 234, Jerry Marcantonio 232.
THURS. MIXED
SERIES: Charles Lewis 569, Jim Lewis 556, JohnWalters 554, Jim Brawley 552.
MEN'S GAMES: Jim Lewis 223, Charles Lewis 213, Jim Brawley 201, JohnWalters 193.
LADIES SERIES: Joyce Parks 595, Gail Cederlund 581, Maunce Fuller 543, Kathy McClure 517.
LADIES GAMES: Gail Cederlund 246, Joyce Parks 245, Cheryl Kark 193, Kathy McClure 192.
EARLY FRID. MIXED
MEN'S SERIES: Blaine Ross 611, Tad Cupuro 603, Gerald Leis 602, Steve Hart 573.
MEN'S GAMES: Steve Hart 225, Tad Cupuro 222, Ted Wasiko 221, Blaine Ross 210.
LADIES SERIES: Bobbie Thompson 522, Paula Wakley 512, Julie Capuro 508, Megan Anthony 500.
LADIES GAMES: Paula Wakley 204, Missy Straub 203, Bobbie Thompson 201, Megan Anthony 186.
SAT. YABA
BOYS' SERIES: Patrick Correl 596, Zack Black 563, Trevor Wakley 535, Duane Reich 534.
BOYS' GAMES: Patrick Correl 220, Zack Black 211, Duane Reich 184, Trevor Wakley 183.
GIRLS' SERIES: Jessica Jenkins 476, Cecelia Milloy 456, Marissa Eggleston 431, Leah Wasiko 391.
GIRLS' GAMES: Jessica Jenkins 220, Cecelia Milloy 168, Leah Wasiko 162, Brooke Newton 119.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Showers depart with gradually decreasing clouds. Highs near 40.
 Tonight: Becoming partly cloudy with a stiff breeze expected. Lows low to mid 20s.
 Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and breezy at times. Highs low 40s.

BOISE VALLEY FORECAST

Today: Cool with clouds and showers moving away from the area. Highs upper 30s.
 Tonight: Becoming partly cloudy and windy. Lows low 20s.
 Tomorrow: Breezy and mostly dry with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs upper 30s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Yesterday's Weather
High 40 Low 23	High 33 Low 23	High 41 Low 22	High 39 Low 26	High 31 Low 25	High 29 Low 19	City: 36-18 Boise: 38-18 Coeur d'Alene: 34-18 Caldwell: 36-18 Lewiston: 38-23 Pocatello: 36-23 Twin Falls: 36-23 Mesa: 36-23 Rexburg: 37-18 Shoshone: 36-23 Sawley: 24-5

IDAHO'S WINTER CAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.

Snow will be a frequent sight across the north and central mountains today. Travel with care as roads are likely to become snowy and icy in spots. A break from the snow will be with us Monday and Tuesday.

Today Highs: 31 to 36 **Tonight Lows: 8 to 18**

BOISE

Showers will get pushed north today with clouds clearing slowly. Increasing temperatures, sunny periods and dry weather will be with us for the start of the week.

Today Highs/Lows: 38 to 43 / 23 to 29

NORTHERN UTAH

Flighting still will build over the region today through Tuesday. Moderating temperatures and dry weather is expected.

ALMANAC TWIN FALLS

Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric Pressure	Sunrise and Sunset
Yesterday's High: 36 Yesterday's Low: 18 Normal (1971-2000): 42-23 Record High: 63 (1968) Record Low: -25 (1977)	March to Date: 0.20" Year to Date: 4.68" Normal (1971-2000): 0.25" Temperature & Precipitation valid through 8 p.m. yesterday.	Yesterday's: 47% Normal (1971-2000): 47% Today's: 47%	Yesterday: 30.22 in. Normal (1971-2000): 30.12 in. Today: 30.12 in.	Today: 7:07 AM Sunset: 5:22 PM Yesterday: 6:07 AM Sunset: 5:24 PM

NATIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
Atlanta	60-65	60-65	Chicago	30-35	30-35
Boston	20-25	20-25	Dallas	60-65	60-65
Denver	30-35	30-35	Houston	60-65	60-65
Los Angeles	60-65	60-65	Phoenix	60-65	60-65
Minneapolis	20-25	20-25	Portland	40-45	40-45
New York	30-35	30-35	San Francisco	50-55	50-55
Philadelphia	30-35	30-35	Seattle	40-45	40-45
San Diego	60-65	60-65	Washington	30-35	30-35

GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My father used to say to me, 'Whenever you get into a dilemma you get into a crisis or an emergency, because the solution is in the room and you're the only one to figure your way out of it.'"

CANADIAN FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
Calgary	20-25	20-25	Montreal	20-25	20-25
Edmonton	10-15	10-15	Ottawa	20-25	20-25
Halifax	30-35	30-35	Regina	10-15	10-15
London	10-15	10-15	Saskatoon	10-15	10-15
Quebec	20-25	20-25	Victoria	10-15	10-15

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP

Broncos turn out to pay respects to slain teammate



Denver Broncos running back Tatum Bell passes while speaking at the funeral service for Denver Broncos cornerback Darrett Williams in Fort Worth, Texas, Saturday.

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Darrett Williams came home Saturday to the tough streets he embraced and escaped, where he first flashed his awesome athletic skills and infectious smile.

Thousands of friends, family members, teammates and fans attended the funeral for the charismatic Denver Broncos cornerback who was killed in a drive-by shooting on New Year's Day.

"I've never seen a little man with so much heart and so

much fire," Broncos linebacker Al Wilson said at the three-hour service at Great Commission Baptist Church. "He touched my heart and always will."

When Williams' longtime girlfriend, Tieria Leonard, walked past his open casket, Williams' 7-year-old son, Darius, dressed in a navy pin-stripe suit, cried uncontrollably just as he had at the memorial service Friday night, where he wore a T-shirt that read, "Love you Daddy."

Williams is also survived by a

4-year-old daughter, Jaelyn. Broncos running back Tatum Bell, who played with Williams at Oklahoma State, broke down as he spoke at the service.

"I'm just glad D was in my life," he said through sobs as Wilson comforted him by his side.

The Broncos flew in for the funeral on a chartered flight that did not include wide receiver Javon Walker, who was with Williams when he lost his life.

"Javon is struggling," coach

Mike Shanahan said after the service. "He's going through some very heavy grief right now and I talked to Champ (Bailey) about him. He's been with him for the last couple of days. He's going through a tough time. But I'm sure with everybody's support, he'll make it through it all right."

Williams was struck once in the neck and two other passengers were wounded when at least 14 shots were fired into the stretch Hummer that had just left a New Year's Eve party.

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INSIDE: Classifieds, D2-20

After week of jubilation, Democrats face reality of governing

By Deirdre Shegrea
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dick Durbin had a new bounce in his step last week as he navigated the Senate corridors, going from one Democratic swearing-in celebration to another.

Across the Capitol, Rep. William Lacy Clay Jr., greeted as he contemplated his newly found clout.

"I'm looking forward to swinging the gavel," Clay said, anticipating a subcommittee chairmanship that would give him that opportunity.

Both have played for this moment, when Democrats would wield a majority in Congress. But even as they were savoring their victory, Democrats began to face the reality of governing.

They made big promises before the November election, vowing to clean up Washington, restore civility, and chart a new course on everything from pocketbook issues to the war in Iraq. How much they can actually deliver remains to be seen.

As newly elected Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., put it: "The euphoria of winning will wear off quickly and the frustration of getting something done will be front and center."

House Democrats started out of the gate last week with a bang, passing an ethics reform bill that bars lawmakers from accepting meals and gifts from lobbyists, prohibits the use of corporate jets, and requires better disclosure of pet projects put into spending bills.

This week, they will turn to a full plate of meaty items, including a minimum wage bill, pending recommendations from the Sept. 11 commission, and expanding federal funding for stem cell research — all part of the House Democrats' promise for an initial 100-hour legislative blitz.

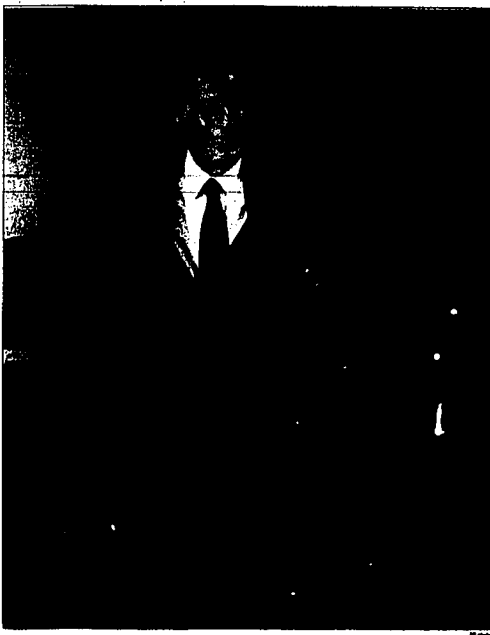
But it's unclear how many of those bills will actually become law.

"Expectations are high, and the reality of the politics is not so good," said Julian Zelizer, a historian at Boston University.

Rep. Todd Akin, R-Mo., noted that no matter how much lawmakers truly want to cooperate, they will inevitably be pulled in different directions by their own party constituencies.

"People in general want to work together and be cooperative," Akin said. "But the country as a whole is quite separated."

Then there are the more



Tony Bennett sings at a gathering celebrating House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's election as the first woman speaker of the House of Representatives Jan. 4 in Washington. The spotlight belonged to Nancy Pelosi on Thursday as she became the first woman in U.S. history to stand at the head of the House of Representatives, second in line to the presidency.

concrete obstacles of a system designed to provide checks-and-balances.

"Governing is very difficult. The Democrats are going to find that out," said Rep. John Shinkus, R-Ill., who has known only a Republican majority during his 10 years in the House.

Although the Democrats' sizable House majority and iron-clad rules will allow Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to produce a rapid-fire procession of bills, they're likely to get gummed up in the Senate, where the Democrats have a one-seat margin and one senator can put the brakes on a bill. At the end of the line is a veto pen wielded by President George W. Bush.

Thomas Mann, a congressional leader at the liberal Brookings Institution, said there's at least one initial positive development from the new Congress: Pledges for a five-day workweek.

Under Republican rule, especially in the House, the first votes were typically held after 6 p.m. on Tuesday and the last votes came Thursday afternoon.

"Members were spending less and less time in

Washington," Mann said at a panel discussion last week on the new Congress. There was little deliberation and instead GOP leaders were "deciding in advance what to do and then ramming it through."

Mann said he hopes the new Democratic leadership will at least lead to more thorough debate.

Boston University's Zelizer predicted there would be "selective bipartisanship" on a few nettlesome issues that

both parties want to take off the table before the next election.

On the minimum wage, for example, Democrats want an accomplishment — and Republicans won't want to obstruct one. The same goes for ethics reform, he said, which voters cited as a major concern when they went to the polls last November.

But even on ethics, there could be a tussle. Bush has called on lawmakers to cut

the number of earmarks in half, a proposal likely to be met with stiff resistance from members who relish their ability to steer federal dollars back home.

One is Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., who touted his success in using earmarks to win major spending projects for Missouri.

"I'm proud of what I do and what I've been able to get for Missouri. If they want to talk about things that save money, they ought to look at tax bills," he said.

Several other items may be destined for the legislative dustbin. For starters, Bush vetoed a bill expanding stem cell research last year and there's no indication he won't do it again. The repeal of oil and gas subsidies may easily be stymied by pressure on Republicans and Democrats alike from major financial supporters in those industries.

Some issues will be a minefield even if both parties want to achieve success, such as the Democrats' promise to reinstate budget rules that require tax cuts or increased spending to be paid for by other offset.

"That puts Democrats in a serious bind," said Alec Bylin, who served as budget director in the Clinton administration. "They are going to have to figure out how to pay for things" — at a time when domestic and war spending has spiraled.

Perhaps no issue will test the willingness of Congress to cooperate more than the U.S. Iraq war.

"That's the 300-pound gorilla in the room," said Bruce Bielefeld, a Brookings scholar who also spoke at last week's panel. "We can see a major clash coming between the president and Congress over the war, and then ramming it through."

The president is set to announce a new strategy for Iraq this week, and lawmakers are already getting for battle, particularly if Bush calls for a surge of U.S. troops.

Such a move "could prompt efforts across the board," said Mann.

Several Republicans are also unhappy with the prospect of sending more troops to Iraq.

"Many want to distance themselves from the war before the next election," Zelizer said, so there may be more possibility for compromise on Iraq — at least within Congress — than on other issues.

"They realize that if Iraq is where it is today in 2008, they're in trouble," he said. "It's much more of an incentive than the White House to do something dramatic," such as setting a timetable for withdrawal.

"You know, this was an unbelievable game. To have that feeling that you pulled it off, your guys believed in you all the way to the end, it's just unbelievable."

— Jared Zahransky, Boise State's QB, after a 43-42 overtime victory over Oklahoma to win the Fiesta Bowl.

"I'm not necessarily saying it's going to be nuclear. The Lord didn't say nuclear. But I do believe it will be something like that."

— Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson on his prediction that a terrorist attack on the United States would result in "mass killing" late in 2007.

"You can honor a fallen teammate in traditional ways with a moment of silence or a helmet sticker. But one way to remember him is to live life as he would have lived it, without a care in the world, not letting anybody or anything get you down or pull you down. We all should be so full of life like he was. That would be the best memorial of all."

— Broncos safety Nick Ferguson, about teammate Darrent Williams, who was killed in a drive-by shooting on New Year's Day.

"Democrats are back and that is cause for celebration, and we are back after 200 years with the first woman speaker. Thanks to you, working moms in this country know there's a mom in the speaker's office who understands their challenges."

— Rep. Nancy Pelosi after assuming her duties as the country's first female speaker of the house.

"Every American wants foolproof protection against terrorism. But history has shown it can and should be done within the confines of the Constitution. This last-minute, irregular and unauthorized reinterpretation of a duly passed law is the exact type of maneuver that voters so resoundingly rejected in November."

— Sen. Charles E. Schumer in criticizing President Bush's signing statement allowing the government to open mail without a warrant.

"There is nothing political about finding a policy to end the war in Iraq, raising the minimum wage, achieving energy independence or helping kids afford college. In fact, politics has prevented progress on these issues for too many years."

— Sen. Harry Reid, set to become the new Senate majority leader, in response to President Bush's challenge that Democrats not pass "bills that are simply political" statements.

— The Associated Press



Pelosi

Ethicists decry commercial embryo brokerage

The Washington Post

A Texas company has started producing batches of ready-made embryos that single women and infertile couples can order after reviewing detailed information about the race, education, appearance, personality and other characteristics of the egg and sperm donors.

The Abraham Center of Life LLC of San Antonio, the first commercial dealer making embryos in advance for unspecified recipients, was created to help make it easier and more affordable for clients to have babies that match their preferences, according to its founder.

"We're just trying to help people have babies," said Jennailee Ryan, who arranged

for an egg donor to start medical treatments to produce a second batch of embryos.

"For me, that's what this is all about: helping make babies."

But the embryo brokerage, which calls itself "the world's first human embryo bank," raises alarm among some fertility experts and bioethicists, who say the service marks another disturbing step toward commercialization of human reproduction and "designer babies."

"We're increasingly treating children like commodities," said Mark A. Rothstein, a bioethicist at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. "It's like you're ordering a computer from Dell: You give them the specs, and they put it in the mail. I don't think we should consider mail-order

computers and other products the same way we consider children."

Prospective parents have long been able to select egg or sperm donors based on ethnicity and other traits. Couples can also "adopt" embryos left over at fertility clinics, or have embryos created for them if they need both eggs and sperm. But the new service marks the first time anyone has started turning out embryos as off-the-shelf products.

Before contracting for the embryos, clients can evaluate the egg and sperm donors, and can even see pictures of them as babies, children and sometimes adults. A fertility specialist will then transfer the embryos into a client's womb or into a surrogate,

which Ryan can also arrange.

"We're unique," Ryan said. "We're the only one in the world doing this right now."

Some fertility doctors and ethicists are undisturbed by the service, but do not differ markedly from what already happens routinely at fertility clinics.

"I know some people say: 'This is shocking. Embryos made to order,'" said John A. Robertson of the University of Texas at Austin, who advises fertility specialists on ethical issues. "But if you step back a little bit, you realize that people are already choosing sperm and egg donors in separate transactions. Combining them doesn't pose any new major ethical problems."

But others condemned the process as the unsettling culmination of recent objectionable developments, including the payment of egg and sperm donors and the growing tendency to try to select embryos such as sex, intelligence and appearance.

"People have been warned we were moving toward a 'Brave New World,'" said Robert F. George of Princeton University, who serves on the President's Council on Bioethics. "This is just more evidence that we haven't been able to restrain this move towards treating human life like a commodity. This buying and selling of eggs and sperm and new embryos based on IQ points and Ph.D.s and other traits really moves us in the direction of eugenics."



Vice President Dick Cheney, right, administers the Senate oath to Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-Mt., as her husband, former President Bill Clinton, holds the Bible during a re-enactment swearing-in ceremony, Thursday in the Old Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill.

Lost and Found

FOUND A ring on Tues., Jan. 2, at 1st. Warehouse in Jerome. Call 324-5774 to identify.

FOUND Blue Heeler, male, full grown, black coat with Muddelst. 410-2181.

FOUND Cat, gray and white, male, in the area of Fillmore and Potlauer. Please call 944-0239 and leave message.

FOUND pneumatic nail gun in Rupert by the Miniolite Hospital. Call 208-670-5606 or 208-436-3731.

FOUND Siamese kitten, female, 6 months old. Floor & Washington. 208-731-7397.

FOUND something of value on Dec. 29, 2006 in John's mobile parking lot. Please call Shirley at 208-678-2938 to identify.

FOUND 1. Healer cross tan/white female, Hoop Street. 2. Healer male neutered, male Amersig. 3. Rot female adult, black & tan. Near Airport. 4. Cocker dark buff male adult. Carrago Lane. 5. Lab/Fleover cross black female fluffy pup, Elizabeth.

ADOPTIONS 1. Cocker X chocolate, neutered male adult. Amersig. 2. Lab/Wetia cross chocolate female, big pup. 3. Boxer/Pit X female white female adult. 4. German Shepherd/Rot X black & tan male adult. 5. Border Cattle X black & white male pup. 6. Border Cattle black & white spotted female adult. 7. Boxer X black & white female pup. 8. 2 Min Pin adults, 1 male & 1 female must go together. 9. Shaffordshire cross white & black female pup. 10. Lab X female pup. 11. Lab X ivory young adult female. 12. Lab cross chocolate & tan male adult. 13. Boveri cross tan spayed female 2 year old adult. 14. Border Cattle X black & white female big pup. 15. Catahula X female male adult. 16. (2) Heeler/Rot cross sable pups. 17. Lab X gold female pup. 18. Cattle X sable female pup. 19. Mastiff/Boxer cross tan & black female pup. 20. DONT FORGET US!

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518 Mobile Homes

Rentals

601 Furnished Home
602 Unfurnished Home
603 Furnished Apartments
604 Unfurnished Apartments
605 Rooms for Rent
606 Mobile Homes
616 Rentals to Share

Ag

701 Livestock
702 Dairy Supplies
703 Horses & Tack
704 Pets & Supplies
705 Farm Equipment
706 Farm Supplies
707 Irrigation
708 Seed & Fertilizer
709 Hay/Grain Feed
710 Produce
712 Miscellaneous
713 Farm Rentals
714 Pasture Wanted
715 Farm Auctions
716 Ag Services

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800 Legal Notices
801 Lost & Found
811 Child Care
802 Appliances
803 Bazaars/Crafts
805 Electronics
812 Auctions
822 Wanted to Buy
828 Garage Sales

Wheels

901 Auto
902 Motorcycles
903 Boat
904 Car
905 Truck
906 SUV
907 Boat
908 Boat
909 Boat
910 Boat

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101 Lost and Found

FOUND binoculars near Declo. Please call to identify. 208-312-2983.
LOST 5 cases of tools. Handyman Club of America & Black & Decker. Off of Highland Avenue. Call 208-404-0256.
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200 Employment

CAREGIVERS
Retirement community in Twin Falls is currently looking for Resident Aides to assist the elderly and provide companionship in a Retirement Home setting. No experience necessary as training will be provided. Day, swing and graveyard shifts available. Pay \$7.00-\$9.00 DOE and shift. Full Medical Benefits available.
Apply in person at 754 N. College Rd., Suite B, Twin Falls or call 735-5002 for more information.

200 Employment

AUTOMOTIVE
Full-time Tire Technician needed. Some experience preferred. Will train right person. Benefits, paid vacation. Apply at 190 W Ave B in Wendell or call 208-535-6168.
CASHERS
Cashiers & Janitorial positions available. Full & part-time shifts. Benefits include medical, dental, 401k, shift differential for night cashiers. Apply in person at Plying J 5350 Hwy 93 Jerome or online at www.flyngj.com

200 Employment

BANKING
IDaho CENTRAL CREDIT UNION
Why Join Idaho Central's Team?
We're the fastest growing Credit Union in Idaho! We are qualified, professional people helping members achieve financial success. If you're ready for a career with incredible opportunities for personal growth AND earning potential, we want to talk to you!

-Now Hiring-

Twin Falls Assistant Branch Manager
Assist in managing all areas of the branch including lending, training, coaching and Business Development. Train to become Branch Manager. Bachelor's Degree in related field or equivalent experience preferred.
Apply on-line at www.lccu.com

ADMINISTRATIVE

WEBB
EMPLOYEE OWNED
Seeking GREAT people with GREAT attitude!

HUMAN RESOURCES

ADMINISTRATOR
This position is responsible for overseeing the entire HR operation. Knowledgeable with benefits administration, payroll processing, basic accounting, new employee orientation, HR record-keeping, safety program administration, and more. Outstanding opportunity for the right person!
Requirements: Degree in HR/Business Administration or equivalent education & experience; excellent communication skills, ability to work with people, customer service & computer skills. Experience with Microsoft Dynamics and bilingual (Spanish/Spanish) a plus!

WEBB Landscape, Inc. is an Employee-Owned progressive & dynamic company that offers excellent opportunities for advancement and a complete benefit package incl. health, life & dental insurance, 401k, & Employee Stock Option Program. If you are interested in the following position, please send your resume to: 182 Glendale Rd., Bellevue, ID, 83313, Attn: Christine. Or e-mail a copy to christine@webbland.com fax to 208-738-2633.

SUVs

TRUCKS

SUVs

TRUCKS

SUVs

TRUCKS

SUVs

TRUCKS

SUVs

TRUCKS

SUVs

All advertising is subject to the newspaper's standard of acceptance. The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or properly classify any ad. Receipt of copy via remote entry (fax, e-mail, etc.) does not constitute final acceptance by this newspaper. The advertiser, not the newspaper, assumes full responsibility for the factual content of their advertiser message.

How To Find The Best Deal On A Car?
Visit www.sunriseexpress.com 1-800-635-0825
SUNRISE EXPRESS
COMPANY DRIVERS
Owner/Operators
(New Rates)
Deluxe Let's Model Equipment
Weekly Settlements
Holiday & Vacation Pay Health Insurance - 401K

ART WORKSHOP

Beginners/Advanced Starting January 27th
Oil Painting, Understanding Light, Form & Color!
With Maria J. Smith
The Artist's Atelier in Twin Falls
Please call 825-4119 for details

200 Employment

PhoneBase Research Inc.

PhoneBase Research currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone. PhoneBase Research offers:
Flexible evening, day and weekend hours.
\$7-\$9 an hour
Casual working environment
Monthly interviewer incentives.
Absolutely no sales or soliciting.
To apply, stop by our office at 840 Meadows Dr., Ste #2 in Twin Falls or call us at 208-738-0811

200 Employment

BUY IT! SELL IT!

A TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED FILL EVERY NEED BUY IT! SELL IT!

GENERAL

Spirit Minerals, LP is preparing to begin operation of the Big Lodge Mine and Creek Mill North of Wells, NV in the spring of 2007.
Get in on the ground floor with a company with an aggressive strategy to develop mineral deposits and processing facilities to furnish drilling mud products to the oil and gas drilling industry in the US and Canada.

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

- Mining Engineer
- Geologist
- Mill Supervisor
- Crusher/Mill Mechanic
- Lab Technician

SPRING 2007 OPENINGS

- Crusher/Mill Mechanic (3)
- Mill Operators (4)
- Crusher Operators (4)
- Loader Operators (4)

Applications and resumes are currently being accepted at our Wells, NV office for the following positions.
Spirit Minerals, LP, Barite Mining PO Box 900 Wells Nevada 775-752-2300

Spirit Minerals, LP offers competitive wages and benefits and is an equal opportunity employer.

Legal

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) and the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor (IDCL) are seeking public comment on the 2007 Housing and Finance Development Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan has been drafted to comply with Federal requirements for the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Housing and Community Development. The Annual Action Plan includes a summary description of anticipated resources and activities IHFA and IDCL will undertake with respect to the goals and strategies of the Five-Year Strategic Plan for Housing and Finance Development (also known as the Consolidated Plan) and its accompanying 2007 Consolidated Plan Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan includes projected performance reports from three Federal block grant programs: Section 8 Housing Assistance, the HOME Programs, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The HOME Programs, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs. Following the 30-day public comment period, the Annual Action Plan will be amended to include all public comments received and submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval.

- Starting Friday, January 5, 2007, copies of the draft 2007 Consolidated Plan Annual Action Plan may be reviewed at the following locations:
- Via the Internet at IHFA's Web site www.ihfa.org. The document is listed under "Research and Information." Also available at IDCL's Web site at www.communityidaho.gov. The document is listed under "CDBG."
- Public Libraries in Boise,ampa, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Moscow, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Blackfoot
- IDCL offices statewide. Visit idcl.idaho.gov and select the "Local Office" link.
- IHFA's Boise office and branch offices located at: 585 W. Myrtle, Boise; 390 W. Sunnyside, Idaho Falls; 1133 Falls Ave. E. Ste. B, Twin Falls; 215 10th St., Ste. 101, Lewiston; 610 W. Hubbard, Bay 124, Coeur d'Alene.

A public hearing to obtain comment from interested individuals and/or organizations will be conducted from 4-6 pm, January 29, 2007 at IHFA located at 565 West Myrtle, Boise, Idaho. The meeting will provide an opportunity for citizens to comment on the 2007 Annual Action Plan. Participants may request reasonable accommodation from IHFA to facilitate participation in the hearing. The hearing location is accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Participants may request a language interpreter to assist in participation of the hearing. Copies of the Action Plan may be obtained by calling the IHFA Grant Programs Department, 1-877-447-2687, TDD 1-800-545-1833, Ext. 400, or by sending an email to hifa@ihfa.org. Please indicate how you would like to receive your copy and provide the appropriate contact information. The Public Comment Period ends 5:00 pm, Monday, February 5, 2007. Persons with written comments and questions on the HOME and ESG programs, persons that require language interpretation or special assistance to accommodate physical, sight or hearing impairments, including materials in alternate formats may contact Erik Kingston, IHFA, at 1-877-438-4472 / TDD 1-800-545-1833 Ext. 400, by email to hifa@ihfa.org, by fax to (208) 331-4808 or by mail to Idaho Housing and Finance Association (Attn: Erik Kingston), P.O. Box 7899, Boise, Idaho, 83707-1899.

Persons with written comments and questions on the IDCLBG program should contact Dianna Clough at (208) 334-2850 ext. 2140, by email to Dianna.Clough@community.idaho.gov or by mail to the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0083.

PUBLISH: January 5 and 7, 2007

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF NORTH SIDE PUMPING COMPANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the North Side Pumping Company, will be held at the office of the North Side Canal Company, Ltd., 921 North Jerome, Jerome, Idaho, Tuesday, January 16, 2007 at 10:00 AM for the election of Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting in accordance with the By-laws of the Company. The following Directors are to be elected for a three year term:

- One Director from District No. 3
- One Director at Large

The Stock books will close ten days prior to January 16, 2007 and all proxies must be filed with the Secretary at least five days prior to January 16, 2007, in accordance with the provisions of the By-laws of said Company. Dated this 15th day of December, 2006 at Jerome, Idaho.

NORTH SIDE PUMPING COMPANY
By: Bernice Johnson, Secretary
PUBLISH: January 7, 14, 2007

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Annual Meeting of the stockholders of the North Side Canal Company, Ltd., will be held in the banquet room at the Sawtooth Inn, Jerome, Idaho, Thursday, January 11, 2007, at 10:00 AM for the election of Directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting in accordance with the By-laws of the Company. The following Directors are to be elected for a three year term:

- One Director from District No. 3
- One Director from District No. 1
- One Director at Large

The Stock books will close ten days prior to January 11, 2007, and all proxies must be filed with the Secretary at least five days prior to January 11, 2007, in accordance with the provisions of the By-laws of the Company. Dated this 15th day of December, 2006 at Jerome, Idaho.

NORTH SIDE CANAL COMPANY, LTD
By: Bernice Johnson, Ass't Secretary
PUBLISH: December 31, 2006 and January 7, 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE

Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise those citizens who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings.

IMPORTANT

Please address all legal advertising to:
LEGAL ADVERTISING
The Times-News
PO Box 548
Twin Falls, Idaho
83303-0548
email to legal@magicvalley.com

Deadline for legal ads: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby, legal clerk, at 208-735-3324.

BIRTHDAY PHOTOS
Have you forgotten to pickup your birthday photos? We have some photos we are sure you don't want us to toss. These can be picked up at The Times-News Classified Dept

200 Employment

CAREGIVER
Caregivers needed for Rosetta Assisted Living. Night Shift & various other shifts available. Apply at 1177 Eastridge Ct. Twin Falls or call Lisa Junod 208-734-9422

CLERICAL
Busy office needs Bilingual Office Assistant full-time. Some computer experience a plus but not necessary. Mon-Fri, 8-5. Call 208-733-9277

CLERICAL
Busy Processing facility seeking IT energetic from office person. Responsibilities include phone, logistics assistance and traffic coordinating. Must be able to multi-task in demanding environment. Good computer skills needed, bilingual a plus. Benefits offered, pay DOE. Mail resume to 300 North Lincoln, Room 407, Jerome, ID 83308 Attn: Kim

CLERICAL
Office Specialist, part-time opening working M-F, afternoon hours close 1/16. Requires word processing, bookkeeping skills. Find complete duties, qualifications, application process, and form on the CSI Web at www.csiweb.com. EEO/AA

CLERICAL

Seeking an energetic, professional, motivated, and social candidate for internship with medical office. MUST have prior office or business exp. and a college education. Apply at 1025 Bhooshone St. N #3, Twin Falls with resume.

CLERICAL
Test proctor part-time main campus position starts immediately. Find complete duties, qualifications, application process, and form on the CSI Web at www.csiweb.com. EEO/AA

COMPUTERS
IT Support, Full-time, responsible for all IT duties. Includes Hardware, Software troubleshooting, some networking. Server management, and user support, some travel necessary. Wage DOE. Send cover letter & resume to PO Box 2347 Twin Falls, ID 83303

CLERICAL
Opening for Administrative Assistant position in the Jerome County Planning and Zoning Office and Building Department. Very busy office, multi-tasking is a must. Computer, phone, & customer service skills required. Good time management and organizational skills necessary as well as excellent verbal and written communication skills. Salary range \$7-\$10 per hour DOE. We offer an excellent benefit package including medical, dental, life, matching 401(k). Pre-employment background and drug screening required. EOE. Applications and job description can be picked up at 300 North Lincoln, Room 407.

GENERAL

The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications for Meter Reader. This position will work March through November, 50 hours/week. Monday. A pro-rated monthly salary will be paid year round with a partial benefit package. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and a valid Idaho driver's license. Meter Readers are responsible for the accurate reading and recording of water usage based on a prescribed route. You may obtain more information and a City employment application at www.tfiid.org, the Personnel Office, located in City Hall, 321 2nd Avenue East, or by phoning 735-7268. The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Drug Free Work Place. Closing date is January 24, 2007.

CHILD CARE
Child Care Coordinator full-time temporary position begins immediately. Requires bachelor's degree. Closes 1/12. Find complete duties, qualifications, application process, and form on the CSI Web at www.csiweb.com. EEO/AA

GENERAL
The Wood River Journal is looking for a talented and experienced Graphic Designer with photography skills to join our design team. This multi-faceted full time position will begin in January and carry the responsibilities of page layout and design, advertising design and photojournalism. Candidates must have experience with print media in a fast-paced environment and have excellent proofreading and grammatical skills. Proficiency in Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator is a must. Candidate must have excellent customer service skills and be able to work amicably in a small office alongside other employees. The Journal offers paid vacations without "backed out periods", 401k, health insurance after 30 days, stock options, profit sharing and a pleasant work environment. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Graphics

Send resume, references, three examples of design work, and cover letter to publisher@woodriverjournal.com, Fax 208-788-0083 or mail to 507 South Main Street, Hailey, ID 83333. The Journal is a drug-free workplace and applicants must pass a drug test prior to hiring. EOE

200 Employment

CLERICAL
Office Manager Established Twin Falls chiropractor seeking front/back office, billing & receptionist. Exp. req. Salary DOE. Send resumes to resumehitch@earthlink.net

CONSTRUCTION
Now accepting applications for Truck Drivers. Belly dump & dump truck for asphalt paving and sand & gravel. Prior exp. safe driving record & Class A CDL required. Endorsements prof. Equipment Mechanic. Full-time mechanic needed in Twin Falls. Doctors, loaders, excavators, pavers, trucks etc. Union position, prior exp required. Must be self starter/efficient. Debeco Construction is an EEO and is a drug free workplace. Applications available at 1563 Filmore St Unit 2-5 Twin Falls, ID 83303-5458

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su do ku
© Puzzles by Pappocorn

		3		6	8		
8		1			5		3
4		-	2				
3	7						
8			9				4
					6	3	
			7			9	
2	8			5			7
	1	9		4			

HARD # 28

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for today's puzzle on page D-19.

All-Terrain!



RESEARCH ALL TERRAIN

online

The most comprehensive vehicle search in Southern Idaho, we have the right car for you.

Times-News **Wheels**
magicvalley.com *online*

200 Employment

GENERAL
Fuel Purchaser/AP for high-volume regional fuel distributor. Requires good communication skills, ability to work under pressure, first learner background in accounting and fuel business desirable. Fulltime with benefits. Send resume to PO Box 5159 Twin Falls, ID 83303 or email to alexlatravis@unitedoil.net

200 Employment

GENERAL
Developmental Therapy in Shoshone/Richfield, 25-30 hrs/wk, \$8.00/hr. During the school year. Must have high school diploma. Freely 516-2014

GENERAL Now Hiring!!!
• Bean sorters
• Therapy techs
• Fish Processing
• P/T Dishwasher
• Housekeeping
• Bilingual Clerical
For more information call 208-733-8277 Or come to 1201 Falls Ave. E #214

200 Employment

GENERAL
Developmental Therapy in Shoshone/Richfield, 25-30 hrs/wk, \$8.00/hr. During the school year. Must have high school diploma. Freely 516-2014

200 Employment

FARM
Farm Laborer. Wanted experienced tractor & truck operators in Mountain area. Pay DOE. Call 208-432-6212 Mon-Fri 9am-1pm.

GENERAL
We Need
4- Concrete Form Setters
5- CDL Drivers (distant a plus)
4- Framers
4- Carpenters
4- Concrete Finishers
Rebar Labor
Forklift Operators
Immediate Hire
Apply today
870 Blue Lakes N
735-5999
Se Habla Espanol
Never a Fool!

200 Employment

DRIVERS
*TOP GUN
Truck Driver/Tractor Operator
Class "A" CDL
Instruction
735-6556

GROCERY
Ridley's has openings in the Magic Valley and Platteau areas.
Meat cutter & Full-time Meat Manager. Experience a must. Bonuses & bonuses. Complete wages. Call 208-320-2074.

200 Employment

GENERAL
Mill Worker needed. Must be dependable. 40 hours/week. Mechanical aptitude required. \$17.00/hr. Call 208-735-8955 or fill out application 2580 Beverly Ave Twin Falls

MANAGEMENT
DEBCO
CONSTRUCTION
Quality Control Manager- Twin Falls. Position will assist & implement QC program for heavy highway contractor. Previous experience required in asphalt & aggregates field testing, documentation, etc. Knowledge of Supervisory methods & pricing operations required. WPCMC Certification preferred. Great opportunity in an EEO and provides a drug free workplace. Please send resumes to PO Box 5456 Twin Falls, ID. 83303-5456 or e-mail to www.lance@debcousa.com

200 Employment

GENERAL
Rain Gutter Installer Must have Drivers License and good working ethics. Whitehead Home & Energy, call for appl. 208-735-8688

MEDICAL
TWIN FALLS
Cafe Center
Kitchen Help needed. Twin Falls Care Center is looking for help in the kitchen. Prefer someone that has experience in therapeutic diets, and familiar with the Idaho Food Code. I am willing to train the right person. If you are a quick learner, fast paced, and dependable I'll put an application at 674 Eastland Dr or call directly 208-734-4264. We are a drug free workplace.

200 Employment

DAIRY
Milkier, \$1800 per month plus bonuses. Housing available. Call 208-420-3128

INSTALLERS
Auto and residential glass installers and apprentices. Excellent opportunity for Idaho's largest glass company. FAST Glass 775-848-1069

MEDICAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
Occupational Therapist Assistant
SunDance Rehabilitation has a Full-Time OT & OTA opportunities in Twin Falls.
Bonuses include Sign on Bonus, relocation assistance, matching 401K, and 4 weeks paid time off the first year!
Contact: Sandy.Cunning@sunh.com P: 866-844-5625 F: 505-468-8730 EOE

200 Employment

LAW ENFORCEMENT
Adult Middleman Probation Officer FT Probation Officer
Supervision of adults in criminal jurisdiction with assistance to Magistrate Court and Prosecuting Attorney's Office proceedings. Criminal background check valid drivers license. Send resume to Box 91482 C/O Times News PO Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303

MISCELLANEOUS
• Forklift/Load Storage
• Mechanic
• Machine Operator
• Welder-stainless
• Concrete
• Carpenter
• Farm Manager/
• Milker
• Warehouse Resort
• FT Secretary
• FT Receptionist
• Sales-Rep.
• Burley
• 674-0409
• Twin Falls
• 733-7300

REBEL
Call 208-735-8955
or
208-735-8956

Find it Fast in The Times-News CLASSIFIEDS

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800-658-3883 ext. 2
Fax 734-5538
132 Fairfield St. W.
Twin Falls
twinad@magicvalley.com

GENERAL
INTERMOUNTAIN
NOW HIRING!
• Laborers
• Skilled
• Semi-Skilled
Bonuses
Call 736-3855

GENERAL
Developmental Therapy in Shoshone/Richfield, 25-30 hrs/wk, \$8.00/hr. During the school year. Must have high school diploma. Freely 516-2014

GENERAL
We Need
4- Concrete Form Setters
5- CDL Drivers (distant a plus)
4- Framers
4- Carpenters
4- Concrete Finishers
Rebar Labor
Forklift Operators
Immediate Hire
Apply today
870 Blue Lakes N
735-5999
Se Habla Espanol
Never a Fool!

DRIVERS
*TOP GUN
Truck Driver/Tractor Operator
Class "A" CDL
Instruction
735-6556

GROCERY
Ridley's has openings in the Magic Valley and Platteau areas.
Meat cutter & Full-time Meat Manager. Experience a must. Bonuses & bonuses. Complete wages. Call 208-320-2074.

HEALTHCARE
Physical Therapy Aide needed full-time for busy clinic. Need friendly, energetic, self-motivated person to do a variety of tasks. Good people skills a must. Please fax resume to 208-736-1582

HEALTHCARE
RN Psychiatric Nurse. Great opportunity in the field of behavioral health nursing. Come work at Canyon View Psychiatric and Addiction Services. Call 208-737-2871 Apply online: <http://www.mvmc.com>

MANAGEMENT
DEBCO
CONSTRUCTION
Quality Control Manager- Twin Falls. Position will assist & implement QC program for heavy highway contractor. Previous experience required in asphalt & aggregates field testing, documentation, etc. Knowledge of Supervisory methods & pricing operations required. WPCMC Certification preferred. Great opportunity in an EEO and provides a drug free workplace. Please send resumes to PO Box 5456 Twin Falls, ID. 83303-5456 or e-mail to www.lance@debcousa.com

MEDICAL
TWIN FALLS
Cafe Center
Kitchen Help needed. Twin Falls Care Center is looking for help in the kitchen. Prefer someone that has experience in therapeutic diets, and familiar with the Idaho Food Code. I am willing to train the right person. If you are a quick learner, fast paced, and dependable I'll put an application at 674 Eastland Dr or call directly 208-734-4264. We are a drug free workplace.

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Auto and residential glass installers and apprentices. Excellent opportunity for Idaho's largest glass company. FAST Glass 775-848-1069

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MISCELLANEOUS
• Forklift/Load Storage
• Mechanic
• Machine Operator
• Welder-stainless
• Concrete
• Carpenter
• Farm Manager/
• Milker
• Warehouse Resort
• FT Secretary
• FT Receptionist
• Sales-Rep.
• Burley
• 674-0409
• Twin Falls
• 733-7300

ST. BENEDICTS Family Medical Center

Full-Time
➢ CMA-Jerome Family Clinic
➢ Certified Nurse Aide - Acute Care
➢ Certified Nurse Aide - Home Health
➢ Coder - Jerome Family Clinic
➢ Housekeeper - Environmental Svcs
➢ Nurse Apprentice-Acute & Home Health
➢ Registered Nurse - Acute Care
➢ Registered Nurse - Home Health

Part-Time
➢ Dietary Aides (20 hrs/wk and 30 hrs/wk)
➢ LPN with Charge Course - LTCU
➢ Maintenance Worker
➢ Registered Nurse - Home Health
➢ RN Surgery (if possible full time)

PRN
➢ Certified Nurse Aide-Home Health
➢ Social Worker (MSW)-Home Health

At St. Benedict's Family Medical Center we have dedicated, skilled team members who embrace our commitment to excellence in patient-centered care. We're also proud to be able to offer you a competitive wage and excellent benefits.

Please feel free to contact Human Resources at (208) 324-0427 for more information. Applications can be submitted in person, by email to sbfmcresume@sbfmc.org, or by fax (208) 324-3878

709 Lincoln Ave
Jerome, ID 83338
EOE/AA

NOW HIRING NEW RN GRADUATES! APPLY TODAY!

St Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

ADMINISTRATIVE/PROFESSIONAL
• CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST TEAM LEADER, DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING - 208-734-2111
• Coding Manager - 208-734-2111
• COMPUTER ANALYST/TRAINER - 208-734-2111

NURSING
• REGISTERED NURSES - Med/Surg, IT, ER, ICU, ED, Rehab, Hospice Care
• NURSING MANAGER - Labor and Birth
• CNA - Full-time and part-time positions

PHYSICIANS SERVICES
• OFFICE NURSE - Family and general medicine
• CLINICAL ASSISTANT MANAGER - Labor and Birth

St Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center
1313 Box 501, Twin Falls, ID 83303
www.mvmc.com

For a complete listing of open positions, or to complete an application, visit our website www.mvmc.com

We offer competitive salaries & an excellent benefits package for any position. 20 hours per week. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. Resumes must be accompanied by an application. To add a position to your current application, please call 208-734-2111.

EARN EXTRA CASH BY DELIVERING THE Times-News

No experience necessary

We are currently accepting applications for independent contractors to deliver the Times-News to our customers. Are you available between 3 and 6 am, seven days a week? See how much extra income you could make in just a few hours each week.

DO YOU LIVE NEAR ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS? IT'S AN EASY WAY TO PICK UP EXTRA CASH...

• South Park Oregon Trail Subdivision	• Alturas Dr. • Dorlan Dr. • Heyburn Ave. E.	• 2nd Ave. E. • 3rd Ave. E. • 4th Ave. E.	• Aspen St. • Atlantic St. • Saddle St.
TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS
• Magic Valley Ranch Subdivision	• Alyssa Ave. • Caswell Ave. W. • Fisher Ave. W.	• Woodstone • Paradise Place Apts.	• 11th Ave. E. • Addison Ave. E. • Maple Ave.
TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS
• Carriage Ln. • Eastgate Dr. • Sagebrush Dr.	• Oleary Jr. High Area • Trotter Dr.	• Bitterbrush Dr. • Sagebrush Dr. • Trotter Dr.	• Crestwood Dr. • Del Mar Dr. • Sherry Dr.
TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS	TWIN FALLS
• Stevens St. • Idaho St.	• Motor Route • Town Route • Excellent Profit	• Motor Route • Town Route	• Motor Routes BUHL
FILER	FILER	SHOSHONE	
• 16th - 19th • 18th St. - 18th In • Almo - Burley	• Oakley - Burton • Spencer - Teton • 21st - 27th	• Atlantic - Birch • Fairmont • Boardwalk	• Oakley - Contant • Yale - Park Ave. • 11th - 16th
BURLEY	BURLEY	BURLEY	BURLEY
• Town Routes • Motor Routes	• Sign On Bonus JEROME	• E. Ave. A • E. Ave. B • E. Ave. C	• Link Apts. • W. Ave G • W. Ave. I
BURLEY	JEROME	JEROME	JEROME

Call now for more information about routes available in your area!

Jerome, Halley, Shoshone, Gooding & Wendell
Jerome, Filer, Buhl, Cardston, Ketchikan
Twin Falls, Ketchikan, Burley, Hazelton, Rupert, Heyburn, Cassia & Blaine

Cactus Petes

Looking for a Career Change? Are you a Team Player?

Slot Technician

Do you like working with your hands? Have you ever installed a car stereo or built your own personal computer? Would you like to learn how slot machines work? Then come join our team at Cactus Petes as a slot technician!!

Must be at least 21 years old. 100% on the job training.

Don't be afraid to try something new!!!

\$10.20 per hour to start

Transportation Available from Twin Falls, Filer, Rogerson, and Hollister. Full Time Employment Housing Available

Full Benefits Package Including Medical, Dental, Vision, and 401k

To apply go to www.ameristar.com And look for careers link

For more information Call Eric 775-755-6912 EOE/Drug Free Workplace

EOE/Drug Free Workplace

200 Employment MAINTENANCE Maintenance Mechanic In food processing plant in Jerome. Must know some electrical, pneumatics, possess good troubleshooting skills and also some welding and fabrication preferable. Applicant must have own hand tools and be willing to submit to drug testing. Wage DOE. For application please call 208-324-8410 Classifieds: For people everywhere, 733-0931	200 Employment MANAGEMENT Gooding Wanted: person to manage small apt community. Duties include renting apartments, compiling paperwork, collecting rents, and general maintenance. Fax resume to: 208-345-5114 Equal Opportunity Employer MARKETER Get paid to wave. Must be outgoing & energetic. No experience necessary. Call 888-871-1940.	200 Employment DRIVERS CDL Class A local delivery good pay. Call 208-735-7900 MARKETING Event Coordinator/Marketing Assistant Responsible for planning company travel, trainings, seminars and trade shows. Ordering and maintaining marketing/promotional items and as other administrative tasks. Graphics Exp a plus. Send Resume to EDS PO Box 31 Jerome, ID 83338	200 Employment MECHANIC Experienced in construction heavy equipment. 5+ years diesel engine & hydraulics preferred. Benefits and paid vacation. Send resume to Inter-West Equipment Sales PO Box 2662 Twin Falls, ID 83303 or call 208-733-3003 800-301-9549 208-734-1747 fax	200 Employment MECHANIC Experienced Diesel Mechanic needed for Japanese trucking company. Afternoon evening shift. Call 208-324-7600 or apply in person at 731 Golf Course Rd in Jerome. MECHANIC (Midwest) Transport in Rupert is looking for light duty Truck Mechanic to work evenings and weekends. Pay DOE. Please call 436-7500 or 312-4418	GENERAL Buy-out planned! Actors, Models, Extras. No school experience. EARN \$10-\$55 HOUR. 208-433-9511 MEDICAL Experienced CNA and NA needed part-time working full-time with flexible schedules. Please apply at First Choices Home Care & Hospice 147 Main Ave E Twin Falls or call 208-735-7200	LANDSCAPING Tree Trimmers wanted. Pay DOE. FT Records. Assistant. No school experience. 208-733-3242 MEDICAL Burley Care Center now hiring for Medical Records Assistant. 20 hours per week. Long term care documentation knowledge preferred. Contact Kallie at 208-878-8474 PROFESSIONAL Developmental Specialist. Energetic, organized individual w/ a bachelors degree in human services field to work with disabled adults. Benefits avail. Wage DOE. Send resume to PO Box 1892 Twin Falls, ID 83303	MEDICAL Needed part-time CMA with clinical and administrative skills. Please send resume Box 83348 COO Tim Myers PO Box 648 Twin Falls, ID 83303 PROFESSIONAL PBR Worker: needed to work with children & adults. Benefits avail. Send resume to 834 Falls Ave Ste 1050 Twin Falls, ID 83301 or fax 738-0999 PROFESSIONAL Wendell School District #232. PBR (Psychosocial Rehabilitation) Worker. Requirements: must have a bachelors degree in human services field such as sociology, social work, psychology, criminology, special education, education, etc. Works with students. Job is in need of training in areas such as behavior control, social skills, communication skills, and coping skills. Twin Falls Area is in need of training in areas such as behavior control, social skills, communication skills, and coping skills. Call 838-2416 for application or visit www.a232.net/21210.us under Job Openings Open until filled	MEDICAL Local form looking for Mechanic. Housing available, competitive hours/earnings. Own tools required. Fax resume to 208-423-4396 or call 208-423-4282. RECEPTIONIST If you are a team player and enjoy a challenging, dynamic & fun environment, JN Farms has an opportunity for you. This opportunity involves receptionist duties, AP, Payroll, limited human resources duties and general office duties. Experience with Microsoft Office, QuickBooks Pro, ten key, typing (50wpm) payroll & payroll taxes, are minimum requirements. Bilingual skills a very strong plus. Pay DOE. E-mail resume with reference to: jkerns@satlink.net by January 15th RECEPTIONIST Receptionist needed. Computer, phone, fax, and customer service skills required. Full-time Mon-Fri, 8-5. The rewards are excellent. Quickbooks exp a plus. Send resume to PO Box 8178 Twin Falls, ID 83303.
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YOUR NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR NEXT NEW CAR



2006 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB

MSRP \$27,675
 MSRP \$2,505
 MSRP \$1,150 OR 1.9% FOR 60mo. OAC

\$21,920



2006 NISSAN XTERRA S 4X4

MSRP \$24,850
 MSRP \$2,000 OR 1.9% FOR 60mo. OAC

\$24,285



2006 NISSAN PATHFINDER S 4X4

MSRP \$28,585
 MSRP \$1,777
 MSRP \$1,000 OR 1.9% FOR 60mo. OAC

\$25,808



2006 NISSAN 350Z

MSRP \$33,854
 MSRP \$1,777
 MSRP \$1,000 OR 1.9% FOR 60mo. OAC

\$33,854



2006 NISSAN TITAN KING CAB LE

MSRP \$31,735
 MSRP \$2,739
 MSRP \$1,150 OR 1.9% FOR 60mo. OAC

\$24,845



A DRIVE LIKE NO OTHER

7

ROB GREEN

ROB GREEN

1080 Blue Lakes Blvd. N
 www.GreenAutoGroup.com

OPERATIONS
 Full-time position in Operations Support, specializing in mixing dry and liquid fertilizers, and other general plant operation at Simplot Grower Solutions.
 Att: and David Boes, 150 W. Gate Rd N Jerome, ID 83338 or stop by the plant to fill out an application. Phone 324-4357

PROFESSIONAL
 Executive Director The Buhl Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director.
 Interested individuals may send resumes to: Executive Director, 9:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri. Send resumes to 716 Highway 30 E, Twin Falls, ID 83303. No Phone Calls Please

MANUFACTURING



Great Opportunities For the New Year!

Seastrom Manufacturing Co., Inc. is adding a 2nd shift! The hours for this shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. We are looking to fill the following positions:

Press Operator (8 positions): Set up and run stamping press, perform routine maintenance of press; perform regular quality inspections of product.

Compound Insert Technician (3 positions): Prepare, assemble, disassemble and maintain compound tooling dies, handle precision components.


Grinding Technician (2 positions): Perform form and flat grinding for compound insert tooling.

Quality Inspector (2 positions for 2nd shift, 1 position for 1st shift, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.): Perform production inspections throughout the production process, use precision measuring equipment, review paperwork for accuracy, trouble shoot, communicate within and between departments to produce a final product meeting customer expectations.

Material Handler (1 position): Maintain, distribute, receive, de-coil and saw raw material inventory in order to insure timely delivery to presses and inventory controls. Perform accurate computer entries for inventory control, pull and restock raw materials using forklifts and stationary lifting devices. Ability to read, understand and follow work orders, as well as the ability to read blue prints. Seastrom Mfg. provides excellent benefits, competitive pay, training and paid time off.

Apply on-line or in person. www.seastrom-mfg.com
 456 Seastrom Street
 Twin Falls, ID 83301
 ATTN: HR Department
 Drug Free Workplace/EOE

LAW ENFORCEMENT




CORRECTIONAL DEPUTY SHERIFF
 Jerome County Sheriff's Office

Salary (10 hour shift)
 Starting Range \$1891.00 per month

Salary placement depends on qualifications, law enforcement experience and education. Advancement to patrol possible.

Undersheriff Jocelyne Nunnally
 1-208-644-2772
 300 North Lincoln, Jerome Idaho 83338

Background investigation to include criminal history records check, credit history and physical examination. Must possess a valid drivers license. All applicants must successfully complete the above prerequisites before employment.



AUTO MALL

JOIN OUR GROUP NOW!

If you are a professional looking for the right company to help you build your career? We are a leading car dealer seeking a few good people to join our fast-growing team. We offer training and development to help you reach your goals, both professional and financial.

LET'S TALK!

- ✓ Up to 30% Commission
- ✓ Up to \$2500 Monthly Bonus
- ✓ Paid Vacation
- ✓ Guaranteed Monthly Salary

ARE YOU READY?

If you are a people person, self-motivated, success-driven and looking for a career versus just another job.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP!

CALL TIFFANEE FOR AN APPOINTMENT
208-736-2480

LINCOLN MERCURY HONDA

200 Employment

MECHANIC
Experienced Mechanic needed. Bonafide, paid vacation. Apply at 1200 W. Ave B in Wendell or call 208-338-6465.

RECEPTIONIST
Receptionist for busy veterinary office. Full time, Tuesday-Saturday. Send resume to c/o Times-News ID Box 548 - Twin Falls, ID 83401

RESTAURANT
Idaho Joe's is currently accepting applications for Cooks. Starting pay \$9-\$11/hr DOE. Apply in person at 596 Blue Lakes Blvd Twin Falls

RESTAURANT
Now hiring for Waitress, and Cooks Writing to train. Apply in person at 496 Addison Ave. W

RESTAURANT
Subway on Overland Ave. in Burley is now hiring for a Manager. Experience required. Fun atmosphere. Call for interview at 801-698-4933.

RETAIL
Clothing Sales D&B Supply in Jerome is currently seeking a full-time candidate to assist customers and oversee all activities in clothing sales. D&B's competitive pay/benefits and a great work environment. Apply at 1120 S. Lincoln

RETAIL
Only 1 Dollar now taking applications for Assistant Manager. Competitive pay. Some days, nights, weekends, holidays. Please apply at store during store hours 423 S Lincoln Jerome, ID 83338

SALES
Full-time Commission Sales Person. Motivated, classic design experience helpful. Apply at 204 Main Ave N. Twin Falls

SALES
Franklin GOODING LOCATION is accepting applications for OUTSIDE SALES PERSON Franklin Building Supply offers a great wage & benefit package. Apply in person at 113 Main Street Gooding, Idaho

SALES
Industrial Sales Fluid Power Distributor is seeking a sales person to cover SE Idaho. Please visit our website for more information www.westernintech.com Send resume to njones@westernintech.com

SALES
INDUSTRIAL SALES REP
We are looking for a self-starter with ability to maintain focus and motivation for excellent opportunity in our company. This person will be responsible for sales and promotion of Facility Supplies & Packaging products to existing accounts while developing new prospects. Must be customer focused & action oriented. This position requires high levels of organization, professionalism & attention to detail. Great opportunity for growth. Excellent base salary plus commission depending on experience. Please fax resume and salary history to 208-735-5171.

SALES
WESTERN STATES **CAT**
SALES COORDINATOR
Western States Equipment, The Caterpillar dealership in Twin Falls, ID has an employment opportunity for a Sales Coordinator. This is an administrative role. One to two years of similar experience required. Working knowledge of industrial earthmoving equipment is preferred. Must be customer service oriented. This position requires superior business ethics, excellent communication and computer skills. A college degree is preferred. Position offers excellent benefits and compensation. Please reference Job #281-2006 and submit application when applying. See our website at www.wesco.com for job and application details. An Equal Opportunity Employer

200 Employment

SALES
Looking for a Salesman/General Manager if you are willing to relocate to South Central Idaho and have experience in roofing & sheetrock wholesale materials, we have a place for you. Please send resume to 13601 W. McMillan Rd. Box 152 Boale, ID 83713

SALES
Stuck in a rut? Farmers Insurance is looking for a sales agent in the Twin Falls area. This position offers flexible hours with great income potential. Candidate should have strong communication skills and be able to work independently. For your confidential interview call (208) 733-1801

RETAIL
Do you want to love your job? Here's the refreshing change you are looking for!
Children's Photographer

We will hire vibrant people to capture great expressions from our little friends in our Magic Valley Location. We would like to invite you to be part of our team!
• No experience necessary!
• We will train you to be a photographer
• Employees receive free pictures!
• Flexible PT schedules!
• \$8.00/hr starting pay!

Get the job that will make you want to come to work.
These positions will fill quickly!
Call (208) 735-7454, email resume to 20k@kiddiekandids.com or apply in person at 1485 Pole Line Road East, Twin Falls, ID.

kiddie
www.kiddiekandids.com

200 Employment

SALES
WEBB EMPLOYEE OWNED
Webb Landscape, Inc. is currently seeking applicants for the position of Garden Detail Supervisor. Qualified candidates will be team-oriented, knowledgeable in plants, plant care, landscape design, have supervisory skills and capable of running several crews. This is a full-time, year round position. Webb Landscape, Inc. is an Employee-Owned progressive and dynamic company that offers a complete benefit package including health insurance, 401k, and Employee Stock Option Program. Apply in person at Webb Landscape or send your resume to 162 Glendale Rd Bellevue, ID 83313 Attn: Christine Miller or e-mail a copy to christine@webbland.com

200 Employment

SALES
Oakwood Homes a Berkshire Hathaway Company is looking for top sales people! Stop spinning your wheels in "dead end" retail jobs and contact us!
We are a nationwide leader in production, retail and financing of quality factory built homes, and we want to add team members for the upcoming season and new location at our Twin Falls store. NO real estate license needed. Duties include assisting customers with home buying decisions and possessing the ability to "Close The Sale!"
Excellent commissions, benefits & training. Full-time, weekends
Apply locally at: 21360 Hwy 30 Twin Falls, Idaho or fax resume to 208-733-7771.

200 Employment

RESTAURANT
Dessert Cafe Needs Line Cooks and Catering Staff. Experience preferred. Call for appointment 426-8128

SALES
TOYOTA sales are great with a super new model lineup! You'll also be selling the shaggiest used cars in town. We offer great commissions and a 5 day work week. If you are an experienced Automobile Salesperson who would enjoy working in a great atmosphere join in person at

WELLS TOYOTA
246 Shoshone W Twin Falls, ID 83401

200 Employment

RESTAURANT
Part-time Cook & Server needed. Flexible hours. Apply at Taylor Cafe at CSL

SUPERVISOR
Seastrom
Production Supervisor For 2nd shift: 2 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Requires previous manufacturing and leadership experience, ability to problem-solve, prioritize jobs and maintain a positive team environment. Working knowledge of computers and above average communication skills required. Must be detail-oriented. Seastrom Mfg. provides excellent benefits, competitive pay, training and paid time off. Apply online or in person. www.seastrom-mfg.com 456 Seastrom Street Twin Falls, ID 83301 ATTN: HR Department Drug Free Workplace/EOE

200 Employment

RETAIL
WEBB EMPLOYEE OWNED
RETAIL SUPERVISOR
Webb Landscape, Inc. is seeking an energetic and committed supervisor for its Bellevue Garden Center location. This position is full-time with lots of potential for growth. We offer an outstanding benefit package including medical, dental, and life insurance; 401k; paid vacation; a generous stock option program; and more.

Responsibilities include managing entire operations of a high-end sales and garden center with a full-time staff. Plant leadership, retail sales experience, outstanding customer service, exceptional leadership skills; ability to train, supervise and motivate staff; and an eye for detail is needed. Degree in horticulture a plus! Please send resume to: Webb Landscape, Inc. 162 Bellevue, ID 83313 Attn: Christine Miller or email to: christine@webbland.com

200 Employment

PROFESSIONAL
Position Announcement
Emergency Services Training Coordinator
Current Opening: Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education, Boise, Idaho
Salary Range: \$42,000 to \$44,000, depending on experience

COMPETITIVE BENEFIT PACKAGE AVAILABLE

SPECIAL NOTIFICATION: This is a 12-month position. This position is exempt from classified service and the Rules of the Division of Human Resources.

Qualifications: Candidate must be certifiable in accordance with the Idaho Professional-Technical Limited Occupational Specialist certification. Candidate must effectively demonstrate knowledge and experience in the following areas: knowledge of training coordination and curriculum development; knowledge of state and federal laws and standards affecting the emergency services; experience in fire suppression, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services; experience in leading meetings and working on teams; demonstrate knowledge and experience in organizational leadership and management; strong interpersonal and organizational skills, supervision, written and verbal communication skills and computer competence.

Responsibilities:
• Coordinate fire, hazardous materials and other emergency services training with fire departments and other emergency service agencies.
• Assist in coordinating fire training at regional/state academies/conferences.
• Use agency database to manage training.
• Provide timely and quality customer service.
• Build effective relationships with the Idaho technical colleges as well as with state and national emergency service organizations.
• Visit fire departments and other emergency response organizations to assist with training plan development.
• Review and approve instructor qualification applications.
• Assist with coordination of IFSCA accredited certification testing.
• Assist with professional/technical education development projects as assigned.
• Perform other duties as assigned.

Application procedure: The application package must include a letter that specifically addresses the position responsibilities and qualifications; a current resume; transcripts of all postsecondary training and education and a listing of references that includes at least two former or current supervisors. Retain a copy of your entire application.

Screening of the applications will begin on January 31, 2007 and will continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Mail application package to:
Sara Jones
Division of Professional-Technical Education
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0095

Any questions please call (208) 334-3216 or visit our web site at www.pto.idaho.gov
TDD (208) 334-3216; Fax (208) 334-2365

Please indicate any accommodation you request to satisfy the above requirements.

The Division of Professional-Technical Education is an equal opportunity/veterans preference employer.

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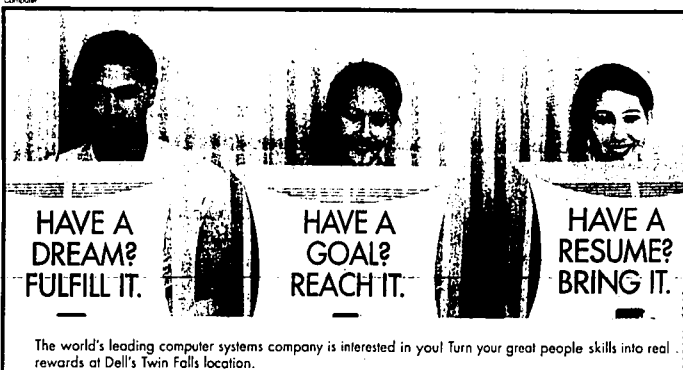
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Computer



THE world's leading computer systems company is interested in you! Turn your great people skills into real rewards at Dell's Twin Falls location.

DEL JOB FAIR
Employment Info Session
On-the-spot interviews available. Bring your resume.
Monday, January 8, 5pm - 8pm
851 Poleline Road, Twin Falls, ID
Door prizes • Refreshments

CUSTOMER CARE
It's your mission to effectively manage customer service resources and focus on delivering a positive customer experience according to Dell standards. Build a world class team by attracting, developing and retaining high-performing customer service talent. You will serve as a role model for customer service personnel while developing the team's top-notch customer service abilities. Responsibilities also include interacting with cross-functional groups (e.g., Sales, Services, Software and Peripherals, Finance, Operation) to solve business and customer issues, managing team/individual activities and metrics, and handling customer escalation issues.

At least 3-5 years of experience in customer service or sales management related field including the ability to train and develop others are required. You must understand the customer segment to effectively manage a customer service team while developing a strong team environment.

TECH SUPPORT REPS
Enjoy working with computers? Then share your expertise directly with business users. You'll provide hardware and software troubleshooting over the phone. Using your talents and training you will resolve routine to moderately complex technical issues and assist customers by interpreting problems and providing resolutions on technical and service problems. Experience using computers and excellent customer service skills are necessary. A strong understanding of computers is desired.

As a Dell employee you'll receive:
• Base Salary plus incentive bonus
• Medical, Dental and Life Insurance
• Educational Assistance
• Employee Stock Purchase Plan
• 401(k)
• Paid Time Off

DELL
If unable to attend please submit a resume to us_twinfalls@dell.com or drop off your resume to 851 Poleline Rd in Twin Falls.

Western States is an equal part of Dell's commitment to quality and the future. We encourage you to apply, whatever your race, gender, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, or other characteristics. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in the recruitment process, please let us know. The above job requirements are not intended to fully describe the position requirements or essential functions, or responsibilities which are subject to change. Dell and the Dell logo are trademarks of Dell Inc.

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Magic Valley HomeSeller

magicvalley.com
Online

New Search Engine

Agent Profiles

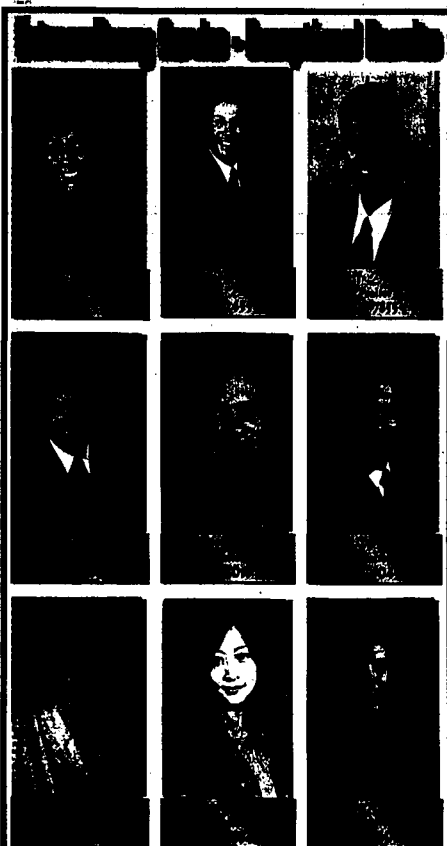
Featured Homes

Open Houses

"What's My Home Worth?"

Mortgage Calculator

Click the Magic Valley HomeSeller button on our homepage magicvalley.com.



602 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS Now home to be completed in March. Rock Creek Trail Estates. 1,538 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 2 bath, vaulted ceilings. Try ceilings, rustic maple cabinets, stucco front. Closest Aid closet system, finished insulated garage. Buy now - you pick colors, flooring and upgrades. \$179,900. 1132 Knoll Ridge Rd. 208-731-1415

602 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS Nice, one bedroom, one bath home near CSI. Great location for rental or starter home. Lots of upgrades and big fenced yard with mature landscaping \$87,000. 220 Monroe Street (208) 737-4806 or (208) 410-0175

602 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS Mansion styled house (3000+ sq ft) formal living/dining, bsm't, fenced yard, vintage style. 30 yrs. Landscaping included. Choose your plant/closets. First info: www.TwinFallsZeroDown.com or 1-888-603-6339 ID1103

602 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS New Homes. No Money Down OAC. Starting under \$130,000. \$78/mo. 5.0% APR. 30 yrs. Landscaping included. Choose your plant/closets. First info: www.TwinFallsZeroDown.com or 1-888-603-6339 ID1103

613 Acreage and Lots

SHOSHONE 5 flat acres with water shares. \$220,000 Call 208-324-2761

MAGIC VALLEY AREA Are you ready to help BUILD your OWN home? Would you like to learn new skills and get to know your neighbors in the process? If so, **Mercy Housing Idaho** may be for you! Funded by USDA-RD and IHFA

USDA Idaho Housing & Finance Agency

For more information please call toll free 208-737-4170 or 1-866-335-2087

TWIN FALLS North Pointe 1412 Annie Dr. E. New 2200 sq ft, 4 bdrm., 3 bath, 2 story, 2 car garage, gas heat, fireplace, AC, stove, dishwasher, microwave, oak cabinets, laminate floor, open floor plan, 475 sq ft. front porch, and their rock veneer. \$265,000 By appointment. 208-308-4920

TWIN FALLS North Pointe 1412 Annie Dr. E. New 2200 sq ft, 4 bdrm., 3 bath, 2 story, 2 car garage, gas heat, fireplace, AC, stove, dishwasher, microwave, oak cabinets, laminate floor, open floor plan, 475 sq ft. front porch, and their rock veneer. \$265,000 By appointment. 208-308-4920

NELSON REALTY LLC 734-3930

WHO can help YOU sell your property? Classifieds Can! 733-0931 ext. 2 magicvalley.com

WANTED A FAMILY TO MOVE IN! The perfect starter or investment home! Everything is already done, clean and well kept. New carpet, hardwood on the floor, and fresh paint. Ready to move into this great home with a split floor plan, vaulted ceilings in the living room, private bath off the master bedroom, and fully fenced backyard. \$98,500 MLS#98272386

"Call List" **Liz McGarrigle** Realtor, A Twin Falls Specialist **308-884-1**

Visit my Web site at www.idahohl.com

WANTED A FAMILY TO MOVE IN! The perfect starter or investment home! Everything is already done, clean and well kept. New carpet, hardwood on the floor, and fresh paint. Ready to move into this great home with a split floor plan, vaulted ceilings in the living room, private bath off the master bedroom, and fully fenced backyard. \$98,500 MLS#98272386

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618 Mobile Homes

BUHL 1973 24x48 mobile home that has been remodeled. Really good condition. Needs to be moved. \$6,000 or best offer. Call 208-543-8343

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Darci is an Idaho native, raised in Sun Valley, who then relocated to the Magic Valley. She and her husband, Michael, also run Western States College, a film and audio school for at-risk kids. She has two children living here in the Magic Valley, as well as 4 grandchildren. In her spare time, she has trained under Terrah Katherine Collins in the study of Feng Shui in San Diego.

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<p>303 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</p> <p>TWIN FALLS clean large 1 bdrm, 1 bath, garage, parking. \$475 + \$300 dep. Call 208-731-0916</p> <p>TWIN FALLS Like new, quiet, 3 bdrm, 2 bath home. NW Twin Falls. Single level, 2 car garage, fenced yard, central air, W/D hook ups and central laundry provided. No smoking \$595 mo. Fee free. Call 404-4345</p> <p>TWIN FALLS NE location, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, lg family room, AC, \$700 mo. Sawtooth School District, 2 car garage. Call 208-420-6925 or 734-7437</p> <p>TWIN FALLS new carpet & paint, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, lg family room, AC, \$790 mo. Extra 2 car garage. 420-6925 or 734-7437</p> <p>TWIN FALLS New Home 578 Clover Ave. 3 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, \$800 510-3855-672 Max.</p> <p>TWIN FALLS newer 3 bedroom 2 bath, fenced backyard, auto sprinklers, gas heat/AC, no smoking, pets neg. Lease/Deposit required. \$825 mo. 208-731-6070</p> <p>TWIN FALLS Newer, 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1700 sq ft., beautiful floors 2535 Alderwood Ave. \$625 510-329-4784</p> <p>TWIN FALLS nice neighborhood, 3 bdrm, 2 bath, sprinklers, fenced yard, 2 car garage, \$900 month. 208-536-4613</p> <p>TWIN FALLS NW Brand new 3 bdrm, 2 bath town home, gas heat, AC, 2 car garage. Nice split floor plan. \$875. Call Denise at 208-420-8770</p> <p>TWIN FALLS Park View Sub. 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1773 sq. ft., 2 car garage, w/ sprinklers & landscape \$350/month + deposit.</p> <p>TWIN FALLS Park View Sub 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 living rooms, 2 car garage, 1773 sq. ft., w/ sprinklers & landscape \$350/month + deposit.</p> <p>2033 Maple 5 bdrm, 1 bath multiple living areas, detached garage w/ fenced back yard. \$500/month + deposit. H30 Properties 733-2088</p> <p>TWIN FALLS you can rent to own your own home even with poor credit. 1 bdrm, garage, lots of yard. Call 602-509-1217 or Sam 208-275-1821</p> <p>TWIN FALLS/BUHL Three 1 1/2 and 1 month rent with 1 yr lease. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, fireplace 731-4521.</p> <p>WEWELL 3 bedroom 2 bath, fenced yard close to elementary school \$750 month + dep. No pets/smoking call 208-420-4564</p> <p>WEWELL Country home, 2 bdrm, 1 bath DW, W/D hookups. \$600 + deposit. No pets/smoking. Call for application, leave msg 208-536-2351</p>	<p>304 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex</p> <p>BUHL 1 bedroom apartment. \$275 month - deposit - Call 208-734-0817</p> <p>CASTLEFORD 1 bdrm, available now. Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 208-543-8333</p> <p>RILER 3 bdrm 2 bath duplex, all appls, 1 car garage, fenced yard. \$675 mo., + \$675 dep. 328-5047.</p> <p>HAGERMAN 1 bdrm, unfurnished apt., \$385 - \$325 security deposit. No pets. Tenant responsible for power, phone, TV hookups. Call 208-358-0747 for appointment.</p> <p>JEROME Casa Del Prado Apts 1 bdrm for immediate move in. Partially furnished. Please contact Cindy 208-324-0572.</p> <p>JEROME nice clean, 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, all appls - truck - \$800 month. 208-420-1011 208-324-2744.</p> <p>JEROME Prestwick Apts over 62 handicapped or disabled, 1 bdrm, all appls, private patio, AC incld, H/A accepted. Contact Cindy 324-0572.</p> <p>JEROME upstairs apt, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, appls incld, water & trash paid, \$390 + dep. 731-0547 or 543-8258</p> <p>JEROME, 325 W. 8th St. Brand New, 2 bdrm 2 bath, 2 story w/ bonus area. single car garage. \$700 month + deposit. H30 Properties 733-2088</p> <p>KIMBERLY 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large yard, appls, W/D hook up. No smoking. \$550 mo. + \$275 dep. 324-2244</p> <p>KIMBERLY/TWIN FALLS TAX REFUND! MOVE IN NOW to purchase 3 bdrm, manufactured homes. 212-6554.</p> <p>PAUL 2 bdrm, duplex with garage, DW, W/D hookups. No pets, no smoking. \$200/dep. \$400/month. Call 208-312-4165, 208-312-4198 or 208-878-8755</p> <p>TWIN FALLS 302 - Brachman - St. H. #B 2 bdrm, 1 bath, kitchen appl, elec heat, well AC, W/D \$575 + \$575 dep. No smoking/pets. 1395 Addison Ave E 2 bdrm., 1 bath, kitchen appliances, gas heat/AC, W/D hookups, \$550 month + \$550 dep. No smoking/pets. Veeth Property Management Lyle @ 731-6589</p>
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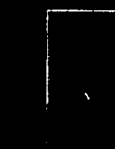
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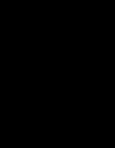
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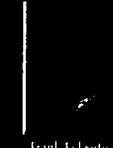
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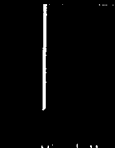
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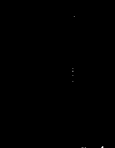
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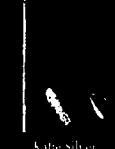
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832 Classifieds... TRUCKS... 733-1823

833 Classifieds... TRUCKS... 733-1823

834 Classifieds... TRUCKS... 733-1823

835 Classifieds... TRUCKS... 733-1823

836 Classifieds... TRUCKS... 733-1823

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840 Classifieds... TRUCKS... 733-1823

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Sunday Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams
THREE LITTLE WORDS by Josiah Broward, Scranton, Pennsylvania

Crossword puzzle grid with letters and numbers indicating starting points for clues.

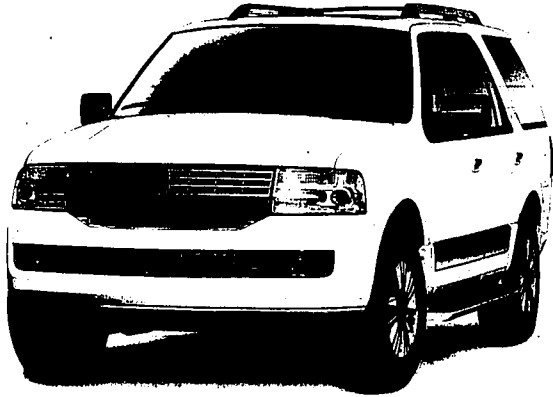
- ACROSS
1 Soup starter
2 Cameraman's
14 Oval crustacean
20 Property arranged
21 In the Baltic
22 Group of Italian islands
23 Was atop
24 Detection
25 Additional
26 Sinful city
27 Inland town
28 Polynesian drink
30 Weight-lifting plank
31 Spoon
34 Game of X's and O's
36 Hard as Cobb
37 Wind of leaves
38 Things
39 Diner's
40 Side-fair alter
41 Dainties
42 Wedding worker
44 Bay letters in
45 E-word
46 Drive near
47 Lights
48 Reservoir
49 First world (adj)
50 Greek letter
51 Russian
52 Mexican or Gray
53 Tick off
54 Biblical peak
56 Hard city
57 CD add-on
58 Firm about
59 Fiat
70 Actor killer
71 Over in Jim
73 Encircle
74 Haughty one
76 Drink of the Middle East
77 Thumino
78 delinquency ailment
79 Returns to
81 Schubert's
82 Am Spinrad
83 Band
84 Band
85 Temp workers
87 French feminist
88 De Beauvoir
89 Pull a cash source
91 Italian article
93 Swing a thumb
94 U.S. states
95 Epitaph Johnson
96 Milk curdler
97 Hamlet
100 "Whither"
101 "Hamlet"
103 Willie Mays
105 "I Want"
107 "Candy" group
107 Slav part
108 Slav part
109 Down for the
110 Down for the
111 European river
112 Phis
114 Big name in small places
116 Bizarre
116 Pacific weather phenomenon
119 Swimmer
120 Williams
121 Arsenic sulfide
121 Was without
122 Roman god
123 Glossy lizards
DOWN
1 Greet the villain
2 Coconut's lower
3 Helen Wells and Orville
4 Hatch eggs
5 Third wheel
6 Modestly pretis
7 Directional ending
8 Runner
9 Two-line winner, Wimbledon
10 Contamination
11 Sneak a peek
12 Moving part of a loudspeaker
13 Destructive beetle
14 de Franco June 1967
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106 In one piece
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110 Leg trench
113 Silent agreement
115 Over the lady
116 "Purse" letters
117 "Ain't" or "Ain't"

Advertisement for Toyota Camry LE, Yaris, Sienna, Corolla, and Prius. Features images of cars and text: 'Camry... Is the winner that's setting a new standard', '\$20,980**', '\$12,880**', 'Available 268 Horsepower', '\$1,000*', '\$500*'. Includes phone number 1-800-621-5247 and website www.willstoyota.com.

Real estate listings for various properties in Twin Falls and surrounding areas. Includes 'Garage Sales', 'Snow Vehicles', 'Motocycles', and 'Campers and Sheds' sections with contact information for 'Twin Falls Real Estate' and 'Will's Real Estate'.

Advertisement for a motor trend car, featuring the text 'MOTOR TREND' and 'Available 268 Horsepower'. Shows a car driving on a road.

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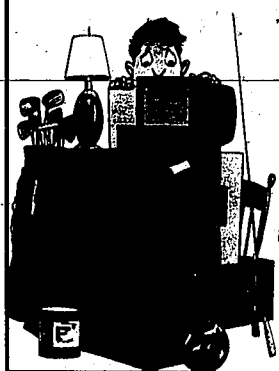
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INSIDE: Senior calendar, E2 | Dear Abby, E4 | Horoscope, E3 | Engagements, weddings, anniversaries, E5

Clean it out and Give it away

These groups are happy to put your castoffs to use



By Virginia S. Hutchins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Be burdened no longer by that unwanted stuff. We've found willing recipients for the bath towel that lost its fluff, the board game your children outgrew, your eyeglasses with the outdated prescription.

Maybe the clean-out-and-start-fresh urge hit your household this month. And perhaps you worry that your family will forget about generosity, now that the annual flurry of holiday giving has passed.

Here's how to address both at once: Give away used stuff. Get it off your shoulders and off your conscience.

Yes, indeed, a number of groups around Magic Valley are perfectly happy to put to use your fabric remnants and dog-eared magazines, the videos you're tired of, the coats your kids outgrew.

Charity-based thrift stores around the valley are good options, of course, but here's a sampling of other recipients to consider:

Books, puzzles, learning toys

Does the toy room at your house look neglected and forlorn? Those books, puzzles, blocks, dolls, art supplies and educational toys your own children outgrew can find new life in the hands of youngsters at South Central Head Start centers.

Notice, however, that everything on Head Start's wish list contributes to learning. So do some sorting as you clean out the toy box.

And don't expect to see anything too fragile added to the array at a Head Start center.

"A lot of things at a home aren't quite tough enough for a school setting," said Charly Jester, Head Start operations manager for Magic Valley's eight counties.

Some bigger kid stuff — like 100-piece puzzles — won't be appropriate for the Head Start crowd, mainly 4- and 5-year-olds from low-income families. "If we get it, and we'll just pass it on to a family," Jester said.

So if in doubt about your stuff, go ahead and offer it.

Head Start's staff handles many families in need of used beds, mattresses, dressers and other household furniture for both children and adults — and will gladly pass on those donations, too.

For more: Call Jester at 736-0741.

Magazines, paperbacks, yarn

Time can drag for hospital patients and their families, so volunteers at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center welcome up-to-date magazines for patient rooms and waiting areas.

"We try not to get those that are too old," said Loraine Devey, the hospi-



ABOVE: Bailey Carron, 4, left, and Morgan Adams, 5, play with an alphabet puzzle Dec. 20 in Rev. Michael's Unit Three class of a Head Start center in Twin Falls. Head Start accepts donations of used puzzles and games for children.

TOP LEFT: James Mayfield, 5, left, and Skyler Fiscox, 4, play with blocks Dec. 20 at a Head Start center in Twin Falls.

tal's director of volunteer service. The exception is outdated issues of Reader's Digest, whose patient appeal seems to be timeless.

Volunteers distribute magazines daily, along with paperback books. (Hardcovers can be too heavy for a reader lying in bed.) Especially in demand is reading material for fishing, or western-themed magazines.

Also, the hospital auxiliary makes quilts and caps for newborns and for children on the pediatric floor. So auxiliary members want yarns — especially pastels and bright colors. And one volunteer is looking for fleece to make comforters for families stuck waiting for loved ones' medical procedures.

For more: Call first, 737-2006.

Eyeglasses

Your used eyeglasses can find new life on the face of someone in a developing country, thanks to an international effort of the Lions Club.

The Twin Falls Lions Club maintains more than two dozen drop

boxes to collect glasses — yes, even empty frames, frameless lenses and drugstore reading glasses.

"It seems like there's a demand for about everything," said Floyd Miller, a Twin Falls Lions Club board member and past international director.

Donations are sent to a Lions recycling center where they're washed and machines read the lens prescriptions. Recycled glasses are packaged and catalogued, ready for the optometrists who visit other countries, taking along loads of glasses.

To donate: The two dozen pickup points include some optometry offices, major retailers, thrift stores, funeral homes, churches and a couple of barber shops, among others. If you don't find one of them on your regular rounds, use the drop boxes at the Twin Falls County Courthouse or Twin Falls High School. Or give the glasses to any Lions member.

Bedding and towels

Care for a constant flow of dogs and cats that need new homes. People for Pets Magic Valley Humane



DEA Journal of Marjorie reads a magazine Dec. 21 in her room at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. The hospital can always use popular magazines like Ladies' Home Journal or Sunset for its patients.

Society needs old blankets and towels. "Always in short supply," said kennel worker Tiffany Pitz.

Think used blankets, throws, com-

forters, towels, washcloths, rubber-backed bathroom rugs and afghans of

Please see CASTOFFS, Page E3

Class aims to help baby — and you — get more sleep

By Jean Bean
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — When Amber Patterson puts 11-month-old Sam in her crib, the baby tosses and turns, tries to play and generally fights sleep.

"Sometimes she'll get fussy and she'll yell — I mean like a piercing scream, not even a cry," Patterson said. "She doesn't want to go to sleep."

Patterson has a lot of experience coaxing babies to sleep, after running a day care in her Twin Falls

home since 2001 and caring for foster children for two years.

"Some cry a lot more and are harder to get to sleep," she said. "Some are real easy and will go to sleep if you just rock them or put them in a swing."

Lack of sleep is a common complaint pediatricians hear from exhausted parents. But help is on the way through a class called "The Happiest Baby on the Block." Shelley Bonnes, a registered nurse at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, is certified to teach an innovative approach developed by pediat-

About the pediatrician:
Dr. Harvey Karp explains how to calm a fussy infant.

See page E4

rician and child-development specialist Dr. Harvey Karp. He stresses what he calls the 5 S's: swaddling, holding baby in a side-stomach position, shushing and sucking.

The class will show parents the calming reflex and techniques that activate it. And they will learn:

- Why the idea that gas pains

cause colic is an old wives' tale.

- Why keeping the house quiet is often upsetting to newborns.
- Why most babies get more upset in the evening.

- An easy way to help infants sleep a few hours more at night.

- Why fathers are often the best baby calmers in the family. Bonnes said that by using Karp's methods new parents can learn to soothe their infants and avoid excessive crying. The class aims to give them tools they can use to help

Please see BABIES, Page E4s

Happy babies

"The Happiest Baby on the Block" classes will be held at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center's downtown campus.

- When: 6:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 16, March 6 or June 5.

- Where: 660 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls, in the facility's main waiting area.

- Fee: \$20. Participants will receive a movie, plus a CD with calming sounds, valued at \$40.

- Call: Class size is limited, and pre-registration is required. Call 732-3148.

Baby cuddlers fill neonatal void

By JoAnn Kilmiewicz
The Hartford Courant

It is perhaps the sweetest, safest spot in this wing of bustling machines and hurried nurses: the warm nook of Susan Falvo's study embrace.

Here in the neonatal intensive care unit of Connecticut Children's Medical Center, where tiny cots hold fragile babies born too sick or too soon to head home, Falvo is cradling the precious, if impatient, Keira Smith. She and twin sister Kayla arrived in the world 17 weeks early — barely within the threshold of survival.

Their mother, Stacy Bowen, visits daily to feed and bathe and hold her little girls. But the reality is she has a full-time job. And the reality is the busy nurses of the NICU can't possibly stop to hug and soothe the 520 babies that come through their wing every year.

So volunteers such as Falvo give their time as one of the medical center's 16 official baby cuddlers, dispensing the tender human touch science shows is needed for healthy development.

"Nobody would like to be in a box all day," says Falvo, eased into a reclining chair with a sleeping Keira, her little face peeking from beneath her yellow cotton hat. She rhythmically strokes the baby's back as the morning sun streams through the window. Falvo explains

why she has given three hours of her time every Wednesday for the past 10 or so years.

"It's a nice feeling to hold these innocent little babies," said the retired grandmother from Wethersfield, Conn. "They're nice and warm and quiet. It's a peaceful thing to do."

She looks down at the little body crumpled against her chest.

"Right, toosie!" she coos. It's a pleasant, the most sound of the medical center's 11 volunteer programs, says Marisol Rodriguez-Colon, volunteer services coordinator. And once they're in, few volunteers stray.

"Maybe their children are grown and out of the house, or they don't get to see their own grandbabies very often," Rodriguez-Colon said. "To be able to hold these babies and provide that affection and warmth can be very satisfying."

Such programs are not uncommon, existing in some variation at children's hospitals around the U.S. They date back to at least the 1980s, rooted in evidence from a host of studies that show the developmental benefits of skin-to-skin contact between a parent and child, says Peggy Gordon, director of neonatal nursing at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where about 40 people volunteer their cuddling services.



Baby cuddler Susan Falvo, a volunteer at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center's newborn intensive care unit, holds one of two twin girls born prematurely. Falvo is one of several specially trained volunteers who hold fragile newborns when their parents can't be there.

"What those programs do is provide some sort of substitute for what would be the ideal, which is the mother's touch," Gordon, president-elect of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, said. "Although they're not getting the same volunteer everyday, at least they're getting cuddling and warmth, and not just

the clinical touch of nurses starting IVs or drawing blood."

At CCIMC, the volunteers come from all backgrounds and ages, for all sorts of reasons, says NICU manager Marla Booker, College students and retirees, work-a-day professionals, men and women. They came to remember what it was to hold their

own babies, to feel the steady breath and beating heart of the babies they might never have. They came to make a little difference in what is not an easy time for these babies and their families.

Booker notes the volunteers don't handle the sicker babies who require specialized care; they interact only with those on their way to gaining strength and heading home. Like the Smith girls.

Weighting just over a pound at birth, both babies required surgery. They suffered from respiratory infections, gastroesophageal reflux and chronic lung disease, among other ailments.

Their mother wishes she was the one there, giving them the hugs and love that only a mother can. But knowing a devoted volunteer like Falvo is giving her girls daily affection gives her some peace of mind, she says.

"Knowing that they're protected, so to speak... knowing that someone is taking the time to sit with them, to stroke their hair, pet their faces and just hold and cuddle them. If I'm not able to do it, at least someone else is able to," she said.

Castoffs

Continued from page E1

size — as long as they're washable or bleachable. Dog toys and ropes, too.
But no electric blankets. Animals "tend to catch the cords out of them," Pilz said.

• To donate: First drop them off, at 420 Victory Ave. in Twin Falls.

Men's coats

Your clothing and household donations to Mustard Seed, St. Vincent de Paul and Deseret Industries thrift stores can indirectly help the families of individuals in crisis who get assistance from South Central Community Action Partnership. Those three share splendidly with SCCAP — what it doesn't have much storage room for used stuff — when the partnership finds someone with a need, said Leanne Trappan, SCCAP's community services director.

But there's something the partnership needs badly enough that it wants direct donations: men's coats.
"Women tend to have more coats and go through them because they're tired of them. Men wear them out," Trappan says. "Men's coats are harder to come by."

The partnership also has storage room for blankets and other bedding.

• To donate: Call first, 733-9351.

Books, videos, music

You might never see them on the shelves of the Twin Falls Public Library; but one way or another your donated books, videos and music will help build the library's collection.

The library welcomes hard covers, paperbacks, movies and instructional videos (both VHS and DVD), music and audio books (cassettes, CD, framed art, sheet music and board games ("if all the pieces are there"), said Diane Van Engelen, director of the Twin Falls Public Library Foundation. But no magazines. And, if you please, no Reader's Digest condensed books. Librarians evaluate the donations, putting some into circulation. The rest are sold at the library's annual book sale in April, which raises money for building book collections and otherwise improving the library.

"Nonpaper items are big sellers; they go fast," Van Engelen said.

• To donate: Simply drop items in the donation box at the library, 201 Fourth Ave. E. in Twin Falls. If it's a large

donation, call the foundation at 736-6205 to make arrangements.

Fabrics and threads

The Hearts and Hands quilting group, associated with Our Savior Lutheran Church in Twin Falls, gave away over 200 full-size quilts and 100 baby's and child's quilts in 2006. The quilts go to the Red Cross, the Office on Aging, Child and Family Services, a homeless shelter, a crisis center, a hospital neonatal unit and a rescue mission, said Hearts and Hands member Dorothy Kees. Volunteers — who do the quilting at home and during get-togethers — welcome threads and good cotton fabrics. No polyester knits and nylons. **• To donate:** Drop off at 464 Carriage Lane N. in Twin Falls, or call Kerbs at 733-8470.

Board games and art supplies

Sometimes people take their junk to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Magic Valley, said Robin Lowe, branch director in Twin Falls. For instance, magazines and outdated computers. She doesn't want any more of those.

"And actually, we're really good on books, too," she added. Elementary school libraries have given books to the Boys and Girls Clubs, but the Boys and Girls programs in Twin Falls and Bullh dog have certain wishes. "We try not to be too picky, but we like board games or puzzles," Lowe said. Pool cues, foosballs, construction paper, crayons and art supplies, too.

• To donate: Call first, 736-7011.

Clothing, blankets, dishes

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault often flee to the Crisis Center of Magic Valley with no possessions.

"When they leave here, they normally don't have anything to start a home with," said Connie Heston, legal advocate for the Crisis Center, a shelter for victims and their children.

The shelter needs women's and children's clothing and shoes — in good condition — plus blankets and dishes.

"Things that aren't in good shape we can't keep," Heston said.

• To donate: Call first, 733-0100.

Musical instruments

The Salvation Army would love to have used musical

instruments in working condition, said Becky Bonnett, business manager in Twin Falls. With the help of a local music store, The Salvation Army will find children in need who want to learn to play and will give them the instruments.

One local Salvation Army volunteer offers free guitar lessons, she said.

• To donate: Call 733-8720 or drop them off at 348 Fourth Ave. N. in Twin Falls.

Almost everything

And that miscellaneous stuff that ended up on your give-it-away pile? It's a good bet that St. Benedict's Long Term Care Unit in Jerome can put it to use.

"We use everything from shoes, slippers, clothing items, hats, gloves — you name it — socks, slipper socks, coats," said Shauna Donahedian, unit secretary and activities director. Used, of course, is fine. The LTC Unit uses everything with sanitizer.

In long-term care, she said, people wear street clothes and want to look as they would at home — not in the hospital. Also on the wish list: Unpenned toiletries. Used curling irons, shavers and hair dryers (a maintenance worker checks them over to be sure they're in working condition). Craft items (even stray buttons you can find a home on a homemade pinette frame). Seasonal decor. Framed pictures and other wall art. Unique things to post on bulletin boards.

"Anything to fully-up your rooms," Donahedian said. Plus items for the unit's "bingo store": cards, rubber

No takers here

Notice that nobody — from Head Start to the Humans Society — is asking for old computers.

"They go out of date so quickly," said Robin Lowe, a branch director for Boys and Girls Clubs of Magic Valley. "Old computers aren't very helpful." Neither is outdated software.

Prices have dropped, and it's often cheaper for a charity as well as for you to buy new than to fix the old. So how do you get rid of old computer equipment? "Tell me when you figure it out, will you?" said Luther Malone, co-owner of The Computer Place on Addison Avenue in Twin Falls. Some local dealers, including The Computer Place, accept selective trade-ins to salvage parts, then use them to repair other customers' older computers for which parts have disappeared from the supply chain. But no guarantees on that old stuff. "We've got it running out of our ears at this point," Malone said.

stamps, envelopes, stationery (sure, an opened box is fine), wreaths to put on graves.

"You name it, we pretty much can find a use for it," Donahedian said.

• To donate: Call first, 324-4525. If Donahedian can't use it, she'll have ideas about who can.

Times-News Features Editor Virginia S. Hutchins can be reached at 735-3242 or virginia.hutchins@lee.net.

No rest for the weary, Aries

IF JAN. 7 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Expect smooth sailing in the year to come and a chance to come face to face with original thinking. You will have more than your fair share of energy in February when you can start a new exercise program or complete more successfully in the career arena. People will be more apt to grant favors or offer a helping hand in June, July and October — and those are months when you can ascend to a higher plateau in the material world. In September and October, you can express your individuality in unique ways and may receive publicity or applause.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): No rest for the weary. Being organized will make a challenging schedule easier to handle for the next few days. You will be able to recharge your social batteries later in the week.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Keep a low profile for a few days and be content with your current lot. To make a big splash in business, career or as a lover, aim your moves for midweek.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be a genius when it comes to insurance or business dealings. Your special someone might not have time to talk things over until Tuesday or Wednesday.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can please some of the people some of the time. Communication is the key to making a relationship work. Joint efforts might make an old financial problem vanish.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spare the rod and spoil the inner child. Self-discipline and attention to routine will whip a pile of tasks into order. Dream quickly behind the scenes and you may find a congenial playmate later in the week.

HOROSCOPE

Jeraline Saunders

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Children are usually happy because they aren't afraid to use their imagination. To find contentment, concentrate on an engrossing pursuit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Loved ones might be demanding or overly tired for the next few days. Some endearing touches such as flowers or chocolates may win approval.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Find your way through the tax and IRS. Old obligations may need resourcefulness. Keep dreams alive by sharing them with loved ones even if the time isn't quite ripe.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your knowledge, expertise and experience to the test. Drive and determination will get you over the hump and a partner might give you a bright financial idea.

CAPRICORN (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Plan your work and work your plan. Self-discipline will do wonders to get you through the next several days. By midweek you will be able to spend your hard-earned cash on something nice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): Work hard to create extra time to play hard. If romance rules your heart, you might find ample opportunity for the exuberant expression of tender feelings by Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put business before pleasure. A puntational work ethic added to some street smarts will give you the edge over the competition for the next two days. Plan instrumental dinners for the middle of the week.



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Snow appeal

The appeal of snow is crystal clear to scientist Ken Libbrecht

By Margaret Webb Pressler
The Washington Post

You've seen snow, but have you ever studied a snowflake? That is, have you looked hard at a falling crystal and seen its unique design up close?

It's not easy to glimpse something so tiny that it often melts or blows away as soon as it lands. Imagine trying to photograph one!

But that's what Ken Libbrecht has spent much of the past four years doing: catching snowflakes, putting them under a microscope and taking pictures. He loves doing it for the same reason he loves bird-watching: He gets to spend time in nature looking for something that's hard to find.

"Snowflake-watching is just as much fun," he said. "You can't do it on a nice, warm, sunny day, but, hey, there are no mosquitoes."

Libbrecht is a scientist who has written four books about snowflakes. You might have even seen some of his snowflake photos: Four were featured on U.S. postage stamps this holiday season.

Libbrecht didn't do anything special to get his work turned into stamps — he was working in his lab one day when the U.S. Postal Service called. "It's very exciting," he said.

Libbrecht is interested in snowflakes because they are fairly complicated and because scientists don't fully understand them. He goes on snowflake-hunting trips from his home in Southern California. Yes, there is snow in the mountains in California, but Libbrecht's favorite hunting ground is in Canada, in northern Ontario.

His wife and two kids, now 14 and 17, usually go with him, but "this year I am going alone," he said. "My family's gotten kind of tired of it."

In his latest book, "Ken Libbrecht's Field Guide to Snowflakes," he answers lots of questions about snowflakes in a way that's easy to understand. Their beautiful crystal structure is mainly the result of two things: conditions in the sky and the structure of water molecules. A water molecule is the smallest unit that can be recognized as water.

A snowflake starts as a nearly invisible speck of dust. Tiny bits of water



Ken Libbrecht of California has spent four years chasing snowflakes, and he has written four books about the frozen water crystals.

Become a snowflake watcher

1. A gentle snowfall is best.
2. Take a magnifying glass, sketch pad, pencil and a piece of black paper outside and wait a few minutes for the paper to get cold. (Black cloth will work, too.)
3. Hold the paper out flat until a few flakes land, then quickly examine them with the magnifying glass. Hunt for the best ones, or see how many types you can find. Sketch them quickly before they melt!
4. If you have a microscope, let some flakes fall on a slide and put it under the lens to see what you caught. No good hits? Dry the slide and try again.

vapor (the gas form of water) attach to the dust, then freeze. These molecules are triangular, and as more of them attach to the dust they eventually create a hexagon, or six-sided shape.

Some snowflakes become flat hexagons and stay that way, sometimes with broad "petals" forming at the six corners, making them look like flowers. Other snowflakes turn into hexagonal columns.

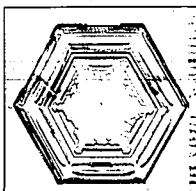
But if the changes in temperature

and humidity are just right, thin branches may sprout on a baby snowflake as it tumbles in the air, creating six-pointed starbursts called dendrites.

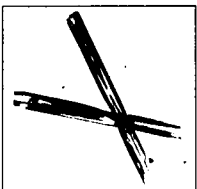
These are usually the prettiest flakes and are most likely to form when the weather is either just below freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit for water) or around 5 degrees. Irrrrr! Perfect snowflake specimens — those lace-like flakes that Libbrecht loves — are hard to find, even when



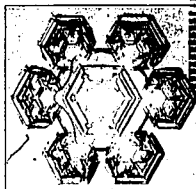
Long branches or dendrites



Simple crystal plate



Needles



Plates and dendrites combined

No two the same

The beautiful patterns on some snowflakes come from the weather. As a snowflake falls, the humidity and temperature determine its shape. Each patch of dry or humid air has a different effect on how a snowflake forms. Because no two flakes take exactly the same path to earth, each flake has a unique design.

Snowflakes grow faster when it's more humid. The added moisture

in the air creates flakes with long branches, or dendrites. When a snowflake falls through mostly dry air, it grows more slowly and becomes a simple crystal plate. Snowflakes that hit both dry and humid patches on their journey may have characteristics of plates and dendrites. There are many other types of snowflakes, as well, including needles and capped columns.

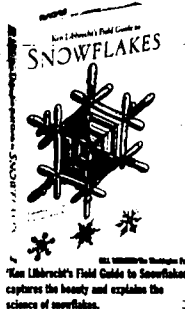
Snowflake fact

Wilson Bentley was the first person to photograph snowflakes, in 1885. You can read his story in the book "Snowflake Bentley," by Jacqueline Briggs Martin.

the weather seems ideal for creating them. "I've been in places where the temperature is 5 degrees and the wind is calm — and the snow still looks like sand," he said.

Libbrecht has had some success growing snowflakes in his lab, but it's not the same, he said. They're not as pretty, and it's a lot of work.

No, the best way to enjoy snowflakes is the old-fashioned way, he said: "You just go outside, and they fall from the sky by the billions."



Ken Libbrecht's Field Guide to Snowflakes captures the beauty and explains the science of snowflakes.

Talking with actress Haylie Duff

By Casey Lynch and Rand Saunders
Kidsday reporters, Newsday

We interviewed actress Haylie Duff in Manhattan recently after a performance of the Broadway show "Hairspray."

Question: What got you interested in singing and acting?

Answer: When I was a little girl, my mom, my sister and I used to dance around the house and sing to the oldies and stuff. I also did ballet when I was a kid. My dance instructor suggested that I go to acting classes. So I did.

Q: Do you prefer to work on stage or in front of a camera?

A: They are totally different. I like each of them for different reasons. I like stage because I like seeing the audience and having them enjoy the work that we are doing. With film, you don't really get to see that. On TV



Haylie Duff

they are watching in their living rooms, so you never get to see them enjoy all the hard work you do. That is the thing that is so wonderful with stage — you get to enjoy it with the audience.

Q: Of all your roles, which one is your favorite?

A: I don't know! I love them all for different reasons. I love "Hairspray" because I love being the mean girl, and I get to do things that I don't normally do in real life. I get to say things I wouldn't normally say to people.

I love playing Sandy Jameson on "7th Heaven" because, in a weird way, she is a really great role model for teenagers because she has made some really big mis-

Did you know?

- Haylie Duff wrote two songs for her sister Hilary's album, "Metamorphosis."
- She appeared as cousin Amy in Hilary's Disney Channel TV show "Lizzie McGuire."

takes and she has a baby boy too young, but she is a good role model because of the way she handles herself and takes care of her life.

Q: Do you prefer to work with your sister Hilary or solo?

A: I like both! People kind of gave us a hard time when we did commercials together. I think people are too judgmental sometimes.

We love working together and we loved making "Material Girls," and we are both interested in doing different things, too. In a perfect

world, we would like to work on separate things and then work together.

Q: If you weren't acting or singing, what job would you do?

A: I would either be a speech therapist and work with kids or work with animals.

Q: You were in the movie "Napoleon Dynamite." Did you think it was going to be such a big hit?

A: It is a funny movie! When I read the script I thought it was really funny, and I loved it. I thought it would just be the greatest movie. When everyone else read it, it looks much different than it appears on screen. Nobody really wanted me to do it.

My manager told me it was so weird that I wanted to go to Idaho to do this movie. My favorite movie is "Drop Dead Gorgeous," and this movie had the same type of campiness to it.

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INSIDE: Study on jet lag study raises some red flags about your health, F4

The lodge at

Isolated Canadian lodge offers cozy hideaway in the Rockies

By William Kronholm
For The Associated Press

WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK, Alberta — My dilemma: Should I trudge through thin-deep snow to the side door at the Kilmorey Lodge library? Or should I use the front door, shooting away the doe and her fawn that have taken shelter there from the falling snow?

I opt for the library door. The deer, after all, are one reason we chose this isolated lodge in the almost-deserted village of Waterton Lakes in the Canadian Rockies. This is their home; we are merely visitors.

In summer, Waterton Lakes National Park is a popular mountain destination for Canadian vacationers, smaller and less crowded than the better-known Banff and Jasper national parks to the north. It also receives thousands of visitors who come north across the U.S. border as part of their visit to Glacier National Park, which abuts it.

Together, they form the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

But in winter, Glacier is essentially shut down. Its hotels and restaurants are closed and boarded up, its high mountain roads buried by deep, drifting snow. The border crossing that is the summer shortcut from the U.S. to Waterton is barricaded until summer.

Waterton Lakes, at the core of the Canadian park, comes close to doing the same. The grocery store and the gas station are boarded up; so are the fudge shop, the espresso bar and the ice cream parlor. The summer population of more than 2,000 shrinks to perhaps 100, many of them park staff. And even many residents in nearby Montana assume Waterton has joined Glacier in winter slumber.

But on the shore of Waterton's Emerald Bay, a snug century-old lodge remains open, a beacon of warmth offering cozy rooms and an award-winning restaurant year around for those willing to make the off-season trek.

We are here this weekend because the Kilmorey Lodge tops our list of places where we must want to be snowed in. Our cross-country skis are strapped on the car, and our snowshoes are in the trunk. We seek a blend of adventure and solitude, but also a comfortable bed, a warm fire, and gourmet meals served by cheerful and attentive staff. Kilmorey offers it all.

Adventure isn't far away. Waterton plows a road eight miles up from the village into the high country of the



This undated photo provided by Kilmorey Lodge shows Viny Mountain and Waterton Lake from Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada.

Rockies. From there the remaining two miles of unpaved road lead cross-country skiers or snowshoers to Cameron Lake, nestled in a cove at 5,400 feet, hard against the Continental Divide.

It is one of the easiest and safest ways for winter visitors to view the high back country of the Canadian Rockies in winter. Later in the season, when the ice is thicker and safer, Cameron Lake itself becomes a thoroughfare for skiers. And all around are forest and mountains, inviting explorers on snowshoes.

Back down in the townsite is Cameron Falls, a spectacular waterfall on the edge of town that in winter is an easy destination for skiers who want an adventure, a bit short of true wilderness.

Deer are common here, and they often bed down in the shelter of trees near the Kilmorey. A small herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep also frequents the townsite. In its visitors may even catch a glimpse of a mountain lion, searching for winter prey. This also is serious grizzly bear country, but they are hibernating this time of year and pose no threat.

Please see **KILMOREY**, Page F2



A cross-country skier skis a trail in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada.

If you go ...

KILMOREY LODGE, Located in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta, Canada.
<http://www.watertoninfo.ab.ca/kilmorey/> or 403-859-2334. The lodge contains 23 guest rooms, two of which are wheelchair accessible. Winter rates range from \$85-\$168, the latter for a two-room family suite; summer rates are higher.
WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK, <http://www.pc.gc.ca/0pp/obj/waterton/>

By Beth J. Harpaz
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Destinations in Asia and river cruises in Europe are among the hottest new trends in travel as 2007 begins, while changes in passport regulations and a growing awareness of environmental issues may also affect where and how people vacation in the new year.

Please see **TRENDS**, Page F2

Hot destinations in 2007



Caribbean National Rain Forest
Naguabo, Puerto Rico



80-foot Buddha statue
Bodhgaya, India



Biltmore House
Asheville, N.C.

TRAVEL

Trends

Continued from page F1

ASIA

Is Asia the new Europe? China was No. 1 on Lonely Planet's annual list of hot destinations for the new year, and China also placed first for the country representing the best value for the dollar in a survey of members of the U.S. Tour Operators Association. The U.S.T.O.A. picked Southeast Asia as the hottest up-and-coming area for packaged travel, with the No. 2 spot going to China, India and Croatia in a three-way tie.

"China and India are off the charts," agreed Sandi Hughes, vice president of AAA Travel, the automobile association's travel services division. She attributed the growth in travel to the region to a combination of business travel spurred by U.S. investment, immigrants and their families traveling back and forth, and pure leisure travel by Americans interested in culture, history and monuments.

The continued weakness of the dollar against the euro and the British pound may also be leadingsome American travelers "to look for alternate destinations," said Rick Garlick, director of strategic consulting for the Maritz Hospitality Research Group. "Places like Thailand and Singapore have gained new appeal."

The first nine months of 2006 showed air travel to Asia by U.S. citizens was up 7 percent over the same period in 2005, according to the U.S. Commerce Department's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, compared to a 4 percent growth in travel to Europe.

The United Kingdom, France, Italy and Germany remained among the top 10 overseas destinations for travel by U.S. residents in 2005, which was the most recent full year for which data was available from the Commerce Department. But travel to Japan, No. 7 on the top 10 list for 2005, was up 10 percent from 2005; travel to China, No. 10 on the list, was up 21 percent; travel to No. 12 Hong Kong was up 25 percent, and travel to No. 15 India was up 33 percent.

RIVER CRUISES

The new craze in European cruising? River cruising. "You stop in villages, towns and vineyards along the way," said Bob Whiteley, head of the U.S. Tour Operators Association. "You have access to inland areas of countries in the U.S., France and Germany that the big ships can't get to. It's equivalent to an escorted tour without the unpacking." He added that the trend is big among tourists, not 64 hours with a cruise on the Yangtze River.

Hughes, of AAA, added that European river cruises are also more attractive to Americans than they used to be because some trips ban smoking and offer more American cuisine. And a ship with just 90 cabins is far more intimate than one with several thousand passengers, allowing guests to become friends.

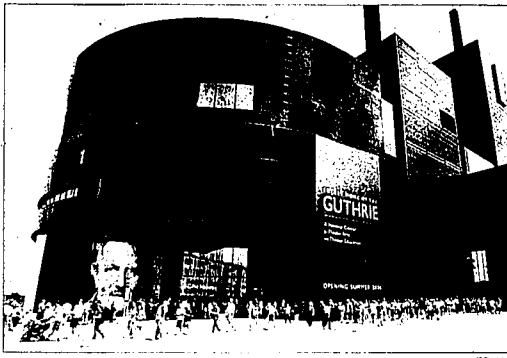
Tom Armstrong, spokesman for Lank World Discovery tours, said sales for Lank's 2007 European river cruises are 60 percent higher than where they were last year. At this time, Lank's trips starting at \$7,730 a person, double occupancy, tours the Rhine and the Danube and stops in nine countries, <http://www.lank.com>

PASSPORT RULES

In the past, U.S. citizens could go to Canada, Mexico or most Caribbean countries and re-enter the U.S. using a driver's license and birth certificate.

But beginning Jan. 23, you'll need a passport to re-enter the U.S. by plane. For now, you can still return to the U.S. from those destinations by land or sea without a passport, but eventually — and as early as January 2009 — re-entries and cruises will also need passports under the new rules from the Department of Homeland Security.

Only 27 percent of Americans hold passports, and the change in requirements may affect travel patterns. "There will be an increase in travel to places like



A long line snakes in front of the new Guthrie Theater, in this June 25 photo, which was part of the opening weekend for the new home for the theater near the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands among places in the Caribbean because people who did not get their act together and get their passports, they'll be affected by the new rules," predicted Amy Zill, editor-in-chief of Travelocity. She said the changes will be most noticeable once people start planning their spring break trips.

The new regulations could be particularly hard on travel to Canada, according to the Maritz Hospitality Research Group, which provided statistics indicating that by the end of 2006, new passport requirements will lead U.S. residents to make 7.7 million fewer visits to it in 2006.

SAVE THE WORLD

Why not save the world while you're on vacation? The Travel Industry Association's "Voice of the Traveler" survey from last fall found that 21 percent of Americans are interested in taking a volunteer or service-based vacation.

"People will pay their own way to travel to a place, then donate their time to anything ranging from rebuilding New Orleans after Katrina, to helping orphans, to teaching English," said Travelocity's Zill. The American Hiking Society organizes volunteers to fix up national parks, while groups like Global Volunteers and Cross Cultural Solutions send volunteers to help construct monuments around the world.

And don't forget ecotourism. Garlick was surprised to find that a third of travelers had heard of environmentally correct vacations when asked about them in a recent

Internet-based survey conducted by Maritz Hospitality. "There's a lot more awareness than I suspected," he said. "Then we asked people who'd heard of them: 'Would you consider taking this type of vacation?' Two out of three said they would consider it."

Some travelers have started offsetting their carbon emissions from their flights or car trips by donating to organizations that preserve forests or support renewable sources of energy like solar power. REI Adventures <http://www.reiadv.com> recently announced that it would provide travelers with energy credits to offset the carbon emissions from all of its 2007 tours.

Other travelers may choose to stay in an eco-lodge where food is locally grown and waste is recycled, or they can patronize ski resorts that have gone green by buying electricity from wind farms. The San Francisco Marriott <http://www.marriott.com/sfd> has taken its recycling efforts full circle, serving wine from vintners who use compost made from the hotel's food scraps.

SPAS

Last fall, the travel industry's "Voice of the Traveler" survey found that 54 percent of travelers said they were interested in going to a spa on a vacation, and 28 percent said they were more interested in a spa vacation now than they were five years ago.

While you can find a day spa in just about any mall or hotel, the newest spa trend for 2007,

according to Travel + Leisure magazine, is a "longevity retreat" with a focus on medical testing and advice at a destination spa. Among the places offering wellness and health care along with massages and soaks are Canyon Ranch; the California Wellness Institute; and the Center for Life in Balance at Miraval, in Tucson, Ariz.

HOT DESTINATIONS

Lonely Planet markets its guides to travelers around the world, but its annual list of hotspots for the new year included a somewhat surprising choice: the U.S. as No. 2 after China in the top spot. The U.S. entry mentions Hawaii, New Orleans, and New York City's Brooklyn, which was singled out for its arts, restaurants and neighborhoods. Next on the Lonely Planet list were Morocco, Argentina, Brazil, Turkey, Nicaragua, Spain and Greece, followed by Cuba, Mexico and India (tied for 10th place). Lonely Planet traveled to Cuba by U.S. residents and citizens banned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Trommsdorff's another top travel guidebook publishing company, offered a list of a dozen standout destinations for 2007, beginning with Krakow, Poland, followed by Jolo, Manipal, Panama, Asheville, N.C.; Ethiopia, Portland, Ore.; Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands; Okanagan Valley, British Columbia, Canada; Glen Canyon, Utah; Zurich, Switzerland; and Portland, Maine. (The list including Ethiopia was compiled before an outbreak of fighting between Ethiopia and Somalia.)

Kilmorey

Continued from page F1

Canada first protected Waterton as a park in 1895. In 1910, it became forever linked to its giant neighbor to the south — Glacier Park is eight times bigger in area — when James Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway in the U.S., decided to make Glacier and Waterton "the playground of the Northwest" with a network of hotels, camps, and chalets targeting wealthy tourists who would travel on his railroad.

His son, Louis Hill, chose a knoll overlooking Waterton as the spot for a new grand hotel, linked on a circuit to three others in Glacier Park. The Prince of Wales Inn, resembling a giant alpine chalet, opened in 1927.

It still overlooks the village of Waterton, and staying there is a highlight for many summer visitors. It is closed in winter, and few even venture there because of the fierce and frigid winds that can howl down Upper Waterton Lake. Those that do visit the Prince of Wales can see the thick steel tables that literally keep the huge hotel from blowing away.

At the townsie below, the wind is buffered by trees, and it is calm when we return to the Kilmorey after our adventure on skis. It makes for a pleasant evening stroll through the snow around the shore of the partially ice-covered Emerald Bay, listening to the hunking of hundreds of Canada geese.

Evening comes early in winter, and the glow from the lodge windows is an invitation, just off the lobby is a small, cheery pub where we can sit by the fireplace and look out over the snowy wilderness.

As in many old inns, the rooms are each unique and packed from cozy to spacious, but all have antique furniture, plush mattresses and thick comforters that invite you to

Evening comes early in winter, and the glow from the lodge windows is an invitation. Just off the lobby is a small, cheery pub where we can sit by the fireplace and look out over the snowy wilderness.

snuggle in and sleep late. The rooms have no televisions, telephones or dataports, and there is no cell phone service; this is not the place for such intrusions.

Dining at Kilmorey is a treat: a list of Canadian restaurant awards over the last few years fills a half page of the guest directory, and plaques fill a wall in the Lamp Post dining room. The menu and wine list belie the isolation of the small lodge.

This night we opt for an appetizer of black tiger prawns sauteed with maple-infused Canadian whiskey and a hint of crushed garlic. For a main course we choose pecanore — scallops, clams, mussels, shrimp, crab, calamari, cod and prawns sauteed with garlic, Italian herbs and onion in the crackle of the fire and topped with sautéed onion and cream, then tossed with linguine.

Then we head to one of Kilmorey's most pleasant features — the back library, with its comfy armchairs gathered around a wood-burning fireplace. You can choose to enjoy your coffee and dessert here after dinner. But it's always a quiet refuge, the perfect place to curl up with a good book, listen to the crackle of the fire and watch the softly falling snow deepen outside the door.

Perhaps we'll be snowed in. We can always hope.

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Counting Sheep



Some of the goat and mountain times were in the sheep business. Moses and Mr. Sherman to name just a couple. Anyone who has ever loved a rack of lamb knows why. These hardworking fathers of the wool growers association were in good luck. Their flocks who moved the sheep to the west had a way of it.

In the days of the wild and woolly sheep, it was much more so. It still provides a way for a rancher to appreciate triple benefit. We utilize the sheep's wool for clothing, its milk for cheese and its meat to create special cuisines.

Believe it or not, we have over 270,000 head of sheep in Idaho. Enough to rank us 5th in the nation for sheep and lamb production. Not bad considering Idaho is home to only about 2 percent of the nation's sheep farms and ranches.

For the most part, Idaho's wool growers are third, fourth and even fifth generation ranchers. These men and women place a premium on the environmental health of the state. They work hard to strike a healthy balance between the care of their herds and that of the land.

The next time you pull on those toasty wool gloves to shovel your sidewalk, remember the families that raise the sheep that provide the wool to make your comfort possible. These families appreciate your support and understanding of their way of life.

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Surfers, turtles ride the waves of Nicaragua

By Jonathan Finer
The Washington Post

It was pitch-black and pushing past midnight on a desolate beach when I more or less gave up on spotting a sea turtle. My two brothers and I had braved a bumpy hour crammed in the back of an old jeep as it rumbled across gravel and muck to La Flor, a wildlife sanctuary on Nicaragua's Pacific coast. The week before, we were told, more than 10,000 of the suitcase-size reptiles had landed in the darkness to lay eggs, the turtle equivalent of the Normandy invasion.

But for two turtle hours, we had crisscrossed the shore in sweltering heat, flashlights drawn, with nothing to show for it. Even so, we had few complaints. It was 30 degrees warmer than the brisk New England fall we'd left behind nine days earlier. Not a single structure was visible anywhere along the pristine, mile-long crescent of sand. And on a moonless night, flashes of lightning on the horizon shone bright enough for us to make out boulders jutting from the sea, washed by the gently breaking waves.

Then some of the boulders began to move. "Is that one?" my brother Ben asked our guide, a young woman from the nearby town of San Juan del Sur. What else could it be? At the plinking pace one might expect after a journey from as far away as Alaska, the turtle ambled toward the palms that lined the beach, then stopped to dig its nest. As about a dozen other turtles made landfall all around us, the boulder unrolled more than 100 eggs into the pit, buried its treasure with treasured feet and returned to the sea, as slowly as it had come.

It was the rare sort of scene for which travelers have long ventured to better-known destinations in Mexico or, more recently, Costa Rica, Nicaragua's southern neighbor. For centuries, most foreign visitors to Nicaragua came to meddle in its politics, including the American military advisers who worked with contra guerrillas during the 1980s civil war. But in recent years, waves of tourists have discovered that the beautiful country has treasures to offer and is working to bury its troubled past.

The Western Hemisphere's second-poorest nation, Nicaragua is at something of a crossroads. In a pivotal presidential election last month, its voters backed Daniel Ortega, leader of the Sandinista front, which controlled the government during the civil war. U.S. officials, along with foreign investors in Nicaragua, whose numbers have stagnated for six or more years, are concerned that Ortega, who was backed by the

Soviet Union during the Cold War and remains close to Cuba's Fidel Castro, will impose market-unfriendly policies.

Tourism and foreign investment are what is driving this part of the country," said Jon Thompson, who moved to Nicaragua from California in 1990 and last year founded a bilingual magazine called El Puenche (The Bridge) that covers the country's burgeoning industries. "There are a lot of people worried that Ortega will undo all of this, and there is no Fla Fla."

Those worries were dismissed in San Juan del Sur, about 15 miles up the coast from La Flor, where I spent a week this fall. The charming, Sandinista-run village has long been a popular entry for those exploring Nicaragua. Of arriving in San Juan del Sur by sea in 1986, Mark Iwan wrote that "bright green hills never looked so welcome, so enchanting, so altogether lovable." Simple homes now sprang up those hillsides, and exquisitely manicured grounds of the Piedras y Olas Stones and Waves, the town's first luxury hotel, overlook dozens of fishing boats that bob on its half-moon bay.

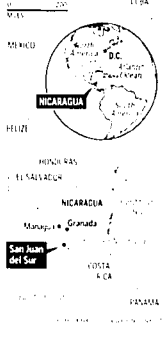
San Juan del Sur has undergone a dramatic transformation since surfers began arriving in the mid-1980s. Initially the surfing scene was dominated by transplanted Californians and Hawaiians who relied on local kids to help them find beaches with the best-breaking waves. But after a while, many of those kids packed up surfing themselves, and more than half of the dozen or so surf shops in town are run entirely by locals. Slowly, the town has been reborn as the country's hottest travel destination, popular with Nicaraguan vacationers during Easter and home to growing numbers of foreign tourists year-round.

"When I was a kid, there was basically nothing here," said Gaspar Guadamuz, 23, who works at the local branch office of American real estate company Century 21, one of several U.S. firms with a presence in town. "Land values have gone up 20 to 40 percent just in the last year, and 500 percent in five years. It started with the surfers. I remember them coming to town and wondering what were the long things they were carrying."

As brothers, an artist and a college student, and I wanted to give surfing a try, though we knew it wouldn't be easy. Born and raised in Vermont, the closest wave gotten to water sports was the frozen kind sking and ice hockey. A company called Arena Caliente (Hot Sand) offered lessons, boat rentals and



Visitors to San Juan del Sur come for an authentic Central American experience though U.S. influences are growing.



transportation to and from a renowned nearby beach called Madiera for \$35. We holed the hostel muller on its dilapidated shivertank oning about a minute before it arrived, just after 10 o'clock one morning. We piled into the back and went barnding through town with the windows down and the radio blaring reggaeton, a Latin American fusion of rap, rock and reggae. The driver, a 19-year-old with flowing bleach-blond locks, initially introduced himself only as Don Bigote, "Mr. Mustache." (We later learned his name was Kekim.)

With the surfboards stacked on top, we cruised along back roads to a hilltop above Madiera and walked the last half-mile with our boards because Kekim was worried the jeep wouldn't be able to make the ascent if we got hit by an afternoon rainstorm. Because of the country's developing infrastructure, Madiera, like most of Nicaragua's best beaches, is only barely accessible over land. Most surfers comb the coast by boat to determine where the waves are breaking. While the setting was postcard perfect, the only building nearby was a beachfront bungalow, which serves local

snacks and rents a few spartan rooms for less than \$5 a night — the surfing was a bit of a struggle. We started small, steering well clear of the giant pipelines cutting a quarter-mile out from shore. We lay flat on the boards as the waves came in, paddled furiously with our arms as they passed under us, and tried to propel ourselves to our feet in one motion, as the boat started to charge toward shore with the rushing water.

Most of the time, we wiped out within seconds. Despite our failings, the instructors were tireless and good-natured, offering advice or well-deserved ribbing. "Proximo," Kekim kept saying with a smile. "Almost." But as with beginning golfers who spend most of their time in the rough but go home crowing about one great drive, we agreed at the end of the day that the few times we coasted smoothly along the surface made us want to try surfing again later in the week.

For travelers, San Juan del Sur is a cheaper alternative to Costa Rica, but it also offers a more authentic Central American experience, locals say. It's hard to find Costa Ricans in some of those Costa

Rican resort towns," said Thompson, the magazine founder. "Here people look at you for who you are, rather than seeing you as just another tourist."

But the rise of foreign tourism has led to a string of new and surprisingly tasty and affordable American-style restaurants, including Big Wave Diner, which boasts the best burgers in town, and the Canadian-owned Pizzeria San Juan. The town's first English-language bookstore and cafe, El Gato Negro (The Black Cat), opened this year and maintains a vast collection of books on Nicaraguan history and culture, along with the standard set of best-sellers. A Subway restaurant opened there this fall.

There's concern that all the development could upset a delicate balance. All the money coming into town has a positive side and a negative side," said the Rev. Roberto Alvarez, 32, one of two priests who run the town's large Catholic church. "It means better jobs for many people, but a lot of people are selling their land and moving into the rural areas. We have to make sure we hold on to our culture."

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