



People really like living in those old rock houses. COUNTRY ROADS, SEE PAGE D1

Burley hair stylist is also one heck of a storyteller.



MAGIC VALLEY, SEE PAGE D3

No. 2 Florida dethrones Ohio State for BCS title.



SPORTS, SEE PAGE B1

Good Morning



High: 41
Low: 24

Partly cloudy and cool. Details: B6

Times-News

TUESDAY

January 9, 2007

50 cents

MagicValley.com

Otter favors grocery credit revamp

Governor also proposes spending \$5 million on community colleges

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE (AP) — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter used his State of the State speech Monday to outline his first year's agenda, backing millions of dollars for community colleges and new scholarships, redirecting grocery tax breaks to the poor and building two new nursing buildings.

Speaking at the Idaho Capitol, Otter unveiled his \$2.84 billion budget proposal for the 2008 fiscal year, which starts in July. That's a 9.6 percent increase from \$2.59 billion in the current fiscal year. While Otter's plan would spend nearly all projected revenue of \$2.89 billion, the 64-year-old Republican and three-term U.S. House member says it's fiscally conserva-

Read it online

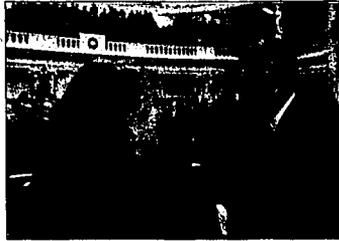
For the complete text of the governor's speech go to http://go.idaho.gov/mediacenter/speeches/sp_2007/s_p_stateidress.html

tive, because much of the increase is directed at one-time items, rather than projects extending years into the future. "I am recommending we neither significantly expand existing programs nor add any major new initiatives that would require a continuing

revenue flow," Otter said. The ongoing portion of Otter's budget would rise 3.1 percent, to \$2.67 billion, and leave an estimated \$50 million in the state bank account by the end of the budget year in July 2008, said Brad Fulton, Otter's budget director.

If the surplus materializes, Otter wants to spend \$40 million to improve emergency communication between local and state law enforcement and the military in the event of a catastrophe.

Please see SPEECH, Page A3



Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, shakes hands with House Minority Leader Wendy Jagt with his address to a joint session of the Idaho Legislature on Monday in Boise.

Governor gives Magic Valley reason to cheer

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — During his State of the State speech Monday, Idaho's new governor, C.L. "Butch" Otter, received applause more than a dozen times from a packed state House.

In a way, the legislators might have been cheering for the Magic Valley. The eight counties in southern Idaho received a handful of funding proposals from Otter, who kept his promise by not revealing any big surprises in his 1 p.m. address.

Most Magic Valley legislators said they were pleased with the budget proposals, including Sen. Dean Cameron, R-

Rupert, who was the first to clap when Otter announced a recommendation for \$5 million to establish a new community college district.

"Magic Valley ought to be very happy," said Cameron, who co-chairs the Joint Finance, Appropriations Committee and sat on the interim community college committee. "It shows the support of the governor for the Magic Valley and it also shows the support of the Magic Valley delegation and how well the delegation has and will work with Gov. Otter."

Education was a consistent theme in the speech. Otter proposed \$38 million be used

Please see OTTER, Page A3

A different kind of war



Robert Ramos jokes with his sister, Jesta, Monday afternoon while eating some french fries with lunch at their home in Twin Falls. Ramos suffered a stroke last April that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

Soldier who survived Iraq faces challenge of stroke

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — As an Army specialist with the 116th Brigade Combat Team in Kirkuk, Iraq, Robert Ramos had a particularly dangerous job working the security gate at the civilian entrance to Warrior, the forward operating base the unit called home for close to a year.

Car bombs were one of the insurgents' weapons of choice, and part of the soldier's job was to check suspicious cars and their occupants before allowing them near the gate. When he approached a car, he didn't know whether its occupants were peaceful Iraqi civilians who worked on the base, or someone with something more sinister in mind.

"It gets your adrenaline pumping," Ramos said.

Ramos enjoyed his four Iraq, the opportunity to go to a faraway place and explore another culture. "It was fun," he said. "It was an adventure, something new."

Ramos survived the car inspections, the mortar fire and the occasional rocket propelled grenade and came home in November 2005, anxious to get on with

How you can help

- Hazelton and Eden will host a District League driver and alert session at 6 p.m. Jan. 20, at Valley High School to help Sgt. Robert Ramos.
- Assistant News Writer Jesta Ramos will be featured by popular local artist Robert Ramos.
- Individual tickets at \$5 and family tickets at \$20 will be available at the door. For information, call Debbie Balbo at 310.1293.
- A fund to benefit Ramos will also be set up at the U.S. Bank branch in Hazelton, 1000 W. Main St. in Hazelton, ID 83305.

life. He went back to work in construction, putting siding up on new homes. All his life, Ramos had dreamed of being a farmer, and by last April, he'd gone to work on a farm in his hometown of Hazelton. To Ramos, there was nothing better than being out on a field in a John Deere tractor.

Life was good. Then came the morning of April 28. It was a work day, and the alarm went

off before dawn in the Twin Falls apartment he shared with his fiancée at the time and another couple. Ramos awoke, but something didn't feel right. "I had severe neck pain and couldn't figure out where it was coming from," Ramos said.

The pain extended down to his shoulders, but he thought a hot shower might do the trick. It didn't. And when he went to turn the water off, he couldn't feel his right arm. Then his other arm went numb and he couldn't keep his balance. And then, he could hardly breathe.

Ramos was having a stroke. He was just 21 years old.

His roommates called 911 and his parents, Bob and Barbara Ramos, who then lived in Hazelton. They rushed to meet their son at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

"The doctor thought he'd had a stroke," Bob Ramos said.

Robert Ramos' memories of the emergency room are cloudy. He remembers seeing doctors and nurses rallying around him. He was given a clot-busting drug, placed on a ventilator and moved to intensive care, where he spent the

Please see SOLDIER, Page A3

Water report points to a good year ahead

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

BOISE — Water users rejoice. The water-supply outlook for Idaho in 2007 is positive, according to a report released Monday by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The report says that precipitation, snowpack and reservoir storage levels are near or above average for most of the state.

Southern Idaho, however, is an exception. "Southern Idaho is near normal conditions," said Ron Abramovich, an NRCS water-supply specialist. "Not as good as northern Idaho but better than below normal."

Just a month after the water year began on Oct. 1, record precipitation levels in northern Idaho pushed some areas there beyond half their annual precipitation average. The Panhandle Region and the Snake Basin were at 230 percent average for November.

But in southern Idaho and parts of Wyoming, snow packs are at 75 percent of average. That's bad news for surface water users who rely on springs for water.

Abramovich said those users need above-normal precipitation between now and April to lessen the risk of water shortages as irrigation season.

Water users who rely on stored water in reservoirs are safer. He said high runoff captured in reservoirs last year gave a boost to levels this season. Reservoir users won't have to rely as much on snow pack this year.

Overall, though, water conditions around the state are promising.

"This is excellent news for everyone," Abramovich said in a statement released to media. "Summer water supplies are looking encouraging for farmers and ranchers and for those who enjoy recreational activities in the water."

"But, with half of winter still ahead of us, it's important to note that conditions can change, as we've seen in the past."

Abramovich said the outlook indicates drought conditions may be gone for the time being, though he said that it could take several years to see a rebound in some areas where moisture voids in dry soil are yet to be saturated.

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Milton Holt, former ISU track and boxing coach, dies at 92

The Associated Press

POCATELLO — Milton "Dubby" Holt, whose name is painted in towering black letters on Idaho State University's field house, has died at Portneuf Medical Center from complications of pneumonia, the university announced in a news release. He was 92.

Holt, who died Sunday, worked in the athletics department at the Pocatello campus for 34 years as head coach of boxing and track and

field, and as athletic director. He coached the 1956 U.S. Olympic boxing team, even though he never stepped in the ring as a boxer.

Though he never learned to swim, he also led the swim team to a conference title.

The traditional winning coach "dunk" was performed in the shallow

end of the pool. Holt retired in 1979. He led the Bengals to 13 consecutive Rocky Mountain and Big Sky conference championships in track and NCAA boxing championships in 1953 and 1957.

On his 90th birthday, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne issued a state proclamation declaring it "Dubby Holt Day."

The building that bears his name, Holt Arena, where the Bengals play home football and basketball games and the rodeo visits each year, was his brainchild.

The domed campus centerpiece was the second enclosed football stadium at the time, built after the Astrodome in Houston. Holt supervised its construction and kept the cost under the budgeted \$2.8 million.

Idaho State coach and administrator Ivo "Babe" Caccia, who served in the Navy with Holt, said that over their 70-year friendship, he never learned why Holt was called "Dubby."

"I don't think he liked the name Milton," Caccia told

Holt Idaho State Journal. Holt was born Feb. 5, 1914. He was a standout athlete at Idaho State, setting a school football record in 1937 with an 88-yard punt return. The record still stands today.

He served four years in the Navy during World War II and returned to Idaho State after his service.

Phil Luckey, the school's athletic trainer for the past 39 years, said there would not be a funeral for Holt, but that the school was planning a memorial service on campus.

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS	Today	Tonight	Wednesday
	High 41	Low 24	36 / 17

MINI-CASSIA

Today:Cool and breezy with thin high clouds. Highs in the upper 40s.
Tonight:Mostly cloudy and breezy. Lows in the lower 20s.
Tomorrow:Becoming colder with cloudy to mostly cloudy skies and scattered snow showers. Highs lower 30s.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

CLUBS

High Desert Back Country Horsemen-monthly meeting (open to the public), 7 p.m., Jerome Public Library, 200 1st Ave. E., Jerome, 324-4751.
American Legion Post 7 and **Auxiliary** meeting for veterans, wives, widows of veterans and new transfers from Post No. 85, 5:30 p.m., (doors open) and 6:30 a.m., potluck dinner followed by separate Post and Unit meetings, 733-0962 or 734-1435.
Twentieth Century Club, open to the public with a presentation by Curtis Johnson on the history of the Stricker Ranch, noon, Turf Club, Twin Falls, cost of the meal, (reservations required), 732-2552.

EDUCATION

Hagerman Valley Historical Society program, featuring a lecture and demonstration by Magic Valley resident Mark Farmer on Stone Age techniques and materials used by Native Americans of southern Idaho and surrounding areas, 7 p.m., Hagerman Senior and Community Center, 140 E. Lake St., Hagerman, no cost (refreshments served), (208) 837-6060.
Wendell School District's Latino Parent Involvement Group, a bilingual presentation featuring special guest Sam Byrd, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wendell High School, Rooms 17 and 37, 750 E. Main, Wendell, no cost (child care for children age 3 and older), 536-6571 or 961-1056.

EXHIBITS

"The Circle" by Amber Scoon, former College of Southern Idaho art instructor, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center for Arts and Science, C.S.I. campus, Twin Falls, no cost, 732-6655.
"Discontinuity," contemporary abstract paintings of local artist Ben Browne in the Galleria Pequena and new works by member-artists in the Full Moon Gallery, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Main Street Plaza, 132 Main Ave. S., downtown Twin Falls, no cost, 734-ARTS.

FAMILY

"Baby and Me" class, focusing on "Shopping Smart" for young mothers with their babies or toddlers, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., St. Benedict's Family Medical Center's Health Education Center, 115 Fifth Ave. W., Jerome, no cost, 324-7262.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
Blaine County commissioners, 8:45 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Halley, 788-5500.
Sun Valley Planning and Zoning Commission, 9 a.m., City Hall, 81 Elk Horn Road, 622-4438.
Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700.
Twin Falls City Planning and Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., 305 Third Ave. E., 735-7267.
Cassia County School Board, 7 p.m., central office, 237 19th St., Burley, 878-4367.
Glenns Ferry City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 119 E. Second, 366-7418.
Gooding School Board, 7 p.m., district administration office, 507 Idaho St., 934-4841.
Jerome City Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A, 324-8189.
Kimberly City Council, 7 p.m., community center, 420 Madison W., 423-1151.
Shoshone School Board, 7:30 p.m., district office, 109 N. Apple, 886-2038.
Dietrich School Board, 7:30 p.m., school's business room, 406 N. Park, 544-2102.

HEALTH

Red Cross Blood Drive, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Burley Armory, Burley, 878-4140 for appointment.
Mini-Cassia LapBand/Weight Loss Surgery Support Group meeting, for anyone who has been banded, is waiting to be or is considering being banded and gastric bypass patients, 6:30 p.m., Heyburn Police Department conference room, Heyburn, 431-9596.
Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Magic Valley Evangelical Free Church, 821 H Ave. E., Jerome, 734-0557, 324-7237 or 326-7222.
Twin Falls Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program for senior citizens, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St., Twin Falls, free for all senior citizens, 737-5946.
Exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Snake River Weaver's Guild monthly meeting, hosted by Ely Young, 1:30 p.m., 734-5358.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium, "Far Out Space Places," 7 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families (children under age 4 not admitted), 732-6655.

MAGIC VALLEY



Lava-rock houses still standing tall

BUHL — Its walls are 16 inches thick, and when Fred Hodges' 1,800-square-foot lava-rock home north of Buhl turns 100 next year it may still be one of the most energy-efficient houses around. "It's quite comfortable, summer and winter," Hodges said. Buhl homes like Hodges' have not been built in the Magic Valley since World War II, but there are still about 50 rock houses between Rupert and King Hill that are inhabited, according to Marian Percy-Wilson, an amateur Jerome County historian. "They'll last forever if they were well built and well maintained," she said. SEE PAGE D1

Water supplies good so far

BOISE — The water-supply outlook for Idaho in 2007 is positive, according to a report released Monday by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The report says that precipitation, snow pack and reservoir storage levels are near or above average for most of the state. Southern Idaho, however, is an exception. SEE PAGE A1

Former soldier faces new kind of battle

TWIN FALLS — As an Army specialist with the 116th Brigade Combat Team in Kirkuk, Iraq, Robert Ramos survived hazardous duty only to be paralyzed by a stroke after he came home. SEE PAGE A1

Legislature convenes, hoping for early exit

BOISE — Lawmakers convened the 2007 Legislature at noon Monday, hoping for a speedy session despite the specter of some issues that could become stumbling blocks. House and Senate leaders are aiming to conclude by mid-March, in time to exit the Capitol building so a planned \$130 million renovation and expansion can start as scheduled in April. SEE PAGE D3

Citizens voice concerns over street renaming

WENDELL — City officials in Wendell are considering a plan to rename some city streets. The plan, drafted by Councilwoman Ilene Bunnaveff, would only add directional indicators to streets running north-south through the city. For instance, a current address along Shoshone Street, in the north-west quadrant of town, would be given a prefix of NW, to indicate that it would be north of Main Street and west of Idaho Street. SEE PAGE D3

OBITUARIES

Kathie Jeannine Nelson
 Seamons, 59
Phronia Louis Gay Jones
 Baux, 90
Bonita Jane Traugber
 Williams, 42 SEE PAGE D4

NEW ON THE WEB

See it online
 Take a video tour of Fred and Penny Hodges' lava-rock home near Buhl, at www.magic-valley.com.

IDAHO/WEST



No surprises from Otter in first speech

BOISE — Some Idaho residents will see the state's grocery tax credit go away, while other, poorer residents will see it increase, under a plan introduced Monday by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter in his "State of the State" speech. On the opening day of the Legislature, Otter outlined a plan that would give as much as \$30 per person in tax relief to low-income residents, but take the existing income tax credit away from families of four who earn more than \$50,000 annually. SEE PAGE A1

Idaho's judicial pay still lags, justice says

BOISE — Gerard F. Schroeder, chief justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, delivers his annual state of the judiciary speech Monday on the first day of the 2007 legislative session. SEE PAGE D5

West, Southeast still favorite places to move

ST. LOUIS — Americans continue to move to the West and Southeast and away from parts of the Northeast and Midwest, according to an analysis of migration trends by the nation's largest mover. SEE PAGE D5

Longtime LSU coach Milton Holt dies at 92

POCATELLO — Milton "Dubby" Holt, whose name is painted in towering black letters on Idaho State University's field house, has died at Portneuf Medical Center from complications of pneumonia, the university announced. He was 92. SEE PAGE A1

NATION/WORLD



Moroccan sentenced to 15 years for Sept. 11

HAMBURG, Germany — A Moroccan man convicted of aiding three of the four suicide pilots who committed the Sept. 11 attacks was sentenced Monday to the maximum of 15 years in prison for his role in the terrorist plot. SEE PAGE C1

Democrats may deny money for 'surge'

WASHINGTON — In a blunt warning to the White House, congressional Democrats said Monday they may seek to deny funds for the type of short-term troop buildup that President Bush is expected to announce for Iraq Wednesday night. SEE PAGE C1

Venezuela's Chavez to nationalize telecoms

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez announced plans Monday to nationalize Venezuela's electrical and telecommunications companies, pledging to create a socialist state in a bold move with echoes of Fidel Castro's Cuban revolution. SEE PAGE C1

Report faults industry on beverage research

Does milk lower blood pressure? Does juice prevent heart disease? Beverage studies were four to eight times more likely to reach sweet conclusions about health effects when industry was footing the bill, a new report contends. Its authors claim to have done the first systematic analysis of such studies published from 1999 through 2003 in hundreds of journals. SEE PAGE C1

SPORTS



Florida beats Ohio State for BCS title

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Not even close. Florida — yes, Florida — owned the field it wasn't supposed to be on, embarrassing Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and No. 1 Ohio State 41-14 on Monday night to run away with college football's national championship. SEE PAGE B1

North Carolina in top spot in college hoops

NEW YORK — North Carolina is No. 1 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll for the first time in almost six years. The wait has been quite a bit longer for Washington State, which is ranked for the first time in almost 24 years. The Tar Heels (14-1) moved into the top spot Monday after three weeks at No. 2 following UCLA's loss at Oregon last weekend. SEE PAGE B2

Tomlinson, two others are unanimous All-Pro

NEW YORK — LaDainian Tomlinson, Jason Taylor and Champ Bailey capped superb seasons by unanimously making The Associated Press NFL All-Pro team announced Monday. Tomlinson, San Diego's record-setting running back, also won the AP Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year awards. Miami end Taylor won the Defensive Player of the Year. Bailey tied for the league lead with 10 interceptions even though opponents tried to avoid throwing to the Broncos cornerback's side of the field. SEE PAGE B4

OPINION TO REFINISH MINI EDITORIAL

Landscaping Pole Line Road would be a waste

The irrigated landscaping between the eastbound and westbound lanes of the new Pole Line construction will be a waste of our precious aquifer resource. Also, landscaping maintenance people will be in danger of being run over by traffic! We don't need bushes and sprinklers in the middle of all that concrete. KEVIN AASA, Twin Falls

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

WEB READER REACTION

On the letter 'Rising death toll brings more questions on Iraq' ...

KRISTEN KECK: "As a fellow conservative, I just want to say that I couldn't agree more with your comments. I think we have done all we can in Iraq and it is a situation that has no end. There will be no end to our soldiers out and let the Iraqis stand on their own feet."

Times-News

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For more comments
 Each story published on magvalley.com has a link for readers to post comments. Comment areas are located beneath each article.

Otter

Continued from page A1

for a needs-based scholarship endowment for Idaho students to attend Idaho colleges.

He voiced support for lowering the voter approval requirement for establishing community college district from two-thirds to 60 percent.

"I was pleased that the governor is encouraging the Treasure Valley to try its own luck at a junior college and not expand to a full statewide unified system," Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls said. "I was pleasantly surprised."

Otter impressed Smith again when he pledged to continue the Connecting Idaho project with Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle funds. The GARVEE funds should not exceed \$264 million, he said, and should be administered by the Idaho Transportation Department, according to the governor.

Smith plans to introduce a bill that would take the remaining seven projects of the project — including the Twin Falls Bypass — and require more transparency about spending.

"He said, 'If I recall, "Let's let the professionals make the decision and you guys stay out of it on which projects go," Smith said. "It's all fitting with what I had, with what the department's got, and the governor has apparently bought on."

Otter also recommended \$10.9 million to help start a dairy and animal research and education facility in the Magic Valley. Tentatively called the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies and expected to be built in Jerome, it would be a combined effort between the University of Idaho, the United Dairywomen of Idaho, the College of Southern Idaho, and other agencies.

"We did pretty good" there,

didn't we?" asked Sen. Tom Gannon, the new chairman of the Agricultural Affairs Committee, as he left for his office. "I was very pleased with how Magic Valley did and what we got."

Otter, who drew much of his proposals through one-time budget money generated from surpluses, said he supported the proposal by former Gov. Jim Risch to provide \$37 million for buildings to house nursing facilities at two colleges, including the College of Southern Idaho.

Otter, however, said the entire budget should come from cash and not be half-bonded, as was Risch's proposal.

Under Otter, \$225,000 for an additional 70 acres of Ritter Island park at Thousand Springs, which Risch had announced the state would acquire from the Nature Conservancy along with a \$1 million endowment.

Speech

Continued from page A1

Otter's proposal also includes a 5 percent raise for state employees and increases at public schools, or \$70.4 million.

His priorities include \$26 million to boost research at Idaho's universities and for a dairy research center near Twin Falls; \$37 million to build nursing centers at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls and Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston; and creating a \$38 million endowment for scholarships.

Under Otter, \$264 million worth of bonds would be sold for a second round of projects

in the ongoing "Connecting Idaho" effort to improve the state's highway system, on top of \$200 million in 2006.

He also aims to reorganize the Department of Commerce

and Labor, and combine the departments of Human Resources and Administration into other state agencies. Forty jobs would be cut from the Department of Administration.

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Soldier

Continued from page A1

next month going through test after test to determine what had gone wrong. He also had surgery to install all the necessary tubes to keep him alive.

His family was always at his side, and the hospital even arranged a low-cost apartment for them nearby. It was the beginning of a long journey for the Ramos family, a journey that continues to this day.

Too young for a stroke?

Healthy, 21-year-old people usually don't have strokes. From what the doctors can tell, Ramos developed a clot in one of the arteries that feeds blood to the spine. But rather than traveling up-to-his-brain, the clot stayed in his spine, and the pressure caused his spine to swell between the C-1 and C-5 vertebrae. That's what caused the damage.

"The brain has an amazing capacity to heal," said Barbara Ramos, who became something of an expert on the subject after talking to her son's doctors most every day since the stroke. "The spinal cord doesn't have that."

Doctors believe the blood clot might be related to a Humvee accident Ramos was involved in while in Iraq. He was sitting in the gunner's seat in a Humvee when it hit a civilian vehicle. The accident knocked him out cold, and he came to just as the Humvee reached the base. He went to the infirmary where medics told him he might have suffered a concussion. He was given some pain medication for a sore neck, and was back on duty the next day.

On May 30, Ramos and his

mother boarded an air ambulance for Denver, and Craig Hospital, a specialty and research facility for spinal cord and traumatic brain injury patients, Ramos spent the next four months there, having MRIs and CT scans and being evaluated for movement and sensation. He also began rehabilitation, building his lung capacity and learning how to live life paralyzed from the neck down.

Ramos worked hard enough on his lung capacity that he could breathe on his own for almost 15 minutes at a time. He discovered that physical therapy was as grueling as physical training.

"Basic training was easier than this," he said.

Family therapy

Ramos returned home at the end of September, and he lives with his parents who have relocated to Twin Falls.

"Our theory is to stick together," Barbara Ramos said.

Older sister, Jessa, helps out with her brother's therapy, too, and one recent day found her hand-feeding her brother McDonald's french fries.

She tries to make him as normal as possible for her brother.

"I harass him a lot," she said.

Ramos' Army National Guard family has also come to his side. His mother only needed to place one call to Sonya Nowland, the family assistance coordinator at the local armory, and the next thing she knew, her son was getting visits from generals and dollars to help pay the expensive medical bills until her son's benefits come through. When Barbara Ramos told Nowland she didn't know how the family was going to

pay for the \$15,000 air ambulance ride to Colorado, Nowland knew just the right people to call. The Idaho National Guard footed the bill. But most of all, Ramos' fellow soldiers have been there to support him from the beginning, keeping him company and supplying him with all the beef jerky and Rice Krispie treats he can eat.

"It gives us a lot of encouragement," said his grandfather, Bill Daniels.

But he's still on a ventilator and confined to a wheelchair. Physical therapist Dave Mossman works with him now to three times a week, and he'll head back to Craig Hospital in March for another evaluation.

Ramos said he has his good days and bad days. He's hopeful about the future, but he doesn't know that it will involve a John Deere tractor.

"I hope to get back as much movement as possible in my hands," Ramos said, adding that he'd like to take some classes at the College of Southern Idaho.

Ramos is waiting for his veterans' benefits to come through and in the meantime, his hometown of Hazelton and the community of Eden have placed a benefit for him later this month.

"That's what it's like in our communities," said Ramos family friend Debbie Kelso. "They're part of our family. This boy has been through things some of us can hardly think about, and he still smiles."



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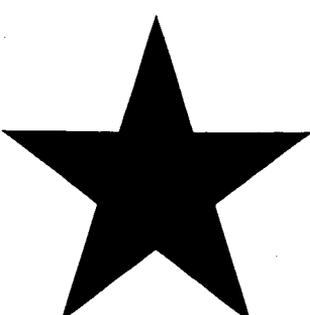
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Ex-Qwest executive reaches settlement in fraud suit

Details of deal not disclosed

By Sandy Shore
Associated Press writer

DENVER — A former Qwest Communications finance chief has reached a tentative settlement in a civil fraud lawsuit stemming from an accounting scandal that forced the telephone company to restate billions of dollars in revenue.

Details of Robin Szeliga's proposed settlement in principle, reached with Securities and Exchange Commission officials in Denver, were not disclosed in a status report filed Friday in court.

It is subject to formal approval by SEC officials in Washington, a process that could take months, her attorney, Thomas Reichert, wrote in the report.

It is subject to formal approval by SEC officials in Washington, a process that could take months, her attorney, Thomas Reichert, wrote in the report.

An SEC attorney did not immediately return a telephone message Monday. A hearing on the status of the SEC's civil lawsuit is scheduled Wednesday in U.S. District Court.

Szeliga, former Qwest Chief Executive Officer Joe Nacchio and five other one-time executives were accused in March 2005 of orchestrating a massive financial fraud that forced Qwest to restate billions of dollars in revenue.

The SEC's case has been delayed by a criminal case against Nacchio, who faces 12 counts of insider trading stemming from \$101 million in stock sales. He has pleaded not guilty.

This trial is scheduled to begin March 19, if convenient. Nacchio faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$1 million fine on each count.

Szeliga is expected to be a key witness against Nacchio.

She has been sentenced to two years' probation and a \$250,000 fine after pleading guilty to one count of insider trading.

The SEC has said the fraud at Qwest occurred between April 1999 and March 2002, allowing it to improperly report approximately \$1 billion in revenue that helped clear the way for its 2000 acquisition of U.S. West. The revenue was later restated.

Qwest is the primary local phone company in 14 Midwestern and Western states.

Buhl's new 'heroes'

Papa Kelsey's Pizza and Subs opening new West End eatery

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — For years, people have asked the Kelsey family to bring their sandwiches and pizzas to Buhl.

With Papa Kelsey's Pizza and Subs opening its new West End location at 1911 Main St. Jan. 29, their wish is finally fulfilled.

"There are Papa Kelsey's everywhere else in the valley and it was finally the right building at the right time," said Jenny Nebeker, who owns the eatery with her husband, David Nebeker.

The couple also runs the Hagerman Papa Kelsey's.

"This is going to be a central location for the other restaurants as we will be baking and providing the bread for this business as well as the Hagerman and Twin Falls stores," she said. "We are really excited to finally come to Buhl."

Before they can begin serving up their goodies, which include gourmet and oven-baked subs and an impressive variety of fresh-baked pizzas, they have lots of work to do before opening their doors.

"Before it's all said and done, we will probably have put \$2,000 into the building," said David Nebeker. "There is new carpet and paint as well as two new bathrooms. We also had to bring a lot of things up to code, like some wiring and plumbing."

Then they need to fill about 10, part-time positions. They expect the restaurant to do well and say that Hagerman, with about 700 residents compared to Buhl's population of 3,000, is very supportive.

"For such a small community, they treat it very well," Jenny Nebeker said. "Each year we do a bit better and we are confident that Buhl will also support us very well. Already we have had



Tamara Miller, an employee at the Hagerman Papa Kelsey's, takes some fresh-baked subs out of the oven. The same gourmet subs will soon be available in Buhl.

Photo by Blair Koch



Jenny and David Nebeker are pictured in front of Papa Kelsey's, which will open its doors Jan. 29.

a lot of people come in and say hello while we are working. They seem very excited that we are going to be open soon."

"There are Papa Kelsey's everywhere else in the valley and it was finally the right building at the right time."

— Jenny Nebeker, who owns the new eatery with her husband, David Nebeker

"We figure that if we just keep putting out a good product that we will continue to grow."

— Papa Kelsey's founder Dale Kelsey

The Buhl store is the 17th store in the Papa Kelsey's franchise, which was founded by Jenny's dad, Dale Kelsey, in 1981. The first store was located in Twin Falls, in very close proximity to its current location on Blue Lakes Boulevard.

"Our family came out from Michigan just to open Papa Kelsey's," said Dale Kelsey. "Everyone called us crazy, but it took off pretty good."

The franchise has restaurants across southern Idaho, Utah, Arizona and Colorado.

still in negotiation."

The Buhl location will likely serve ice cream as well as pizza and subs. Cinnamon rolls may also soon be on the menu.

"This is something that we are very proud of," Jenny said. "Before moving to Idaho our family came from a poor situation. When Dad opened the store, it was a real blessing growing up."

Owning our own stores is a blessing for my family now. Our bread is what we're known for. Our motto is 'in the bread and crust we trust,' and we hope that Buhl and its surrounding area enjoy it as much as we do."

Besides dine-in and carry-out, Papa Kelsey's will also make deliveries.

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

Buhl's growth brings business opportunities

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — Last year, Buhl added 22 new homes within its city limits. Another six homes went up in the impact zone.

Now that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's moratorium on new hookups to the wastewater system has been lifted, city officials are expecting 2007 to bring even more residential development.

Instead of a "build it and they will come" attitude towards new business, Buhl's Economic Council and Chamber of Commerce say new businesses are popping up to meet the needs of a

growing population.

"I think we are seeing growth in businesses as a culmination of several factors — from the revitalization of the downtown to new schools and residential growth," said Barbara Getzen, president of the Buhl Economic Council.

The West End is maturing from a sleepy, service-oriented bedroom community into its own destination.

"We have the skate park and completed the handsell in North Park this year," said Steve Kaatz, director of the Twin Chamber of Commerce.

"There is a growing number of opportunities for recreation, arts and culture in Buhl."

There is also a growing number of opportunities for

consumers. In 2006, Buhl saw a tattoo studio, furniture store, movie rental, winery, consignment and second-hand store set up shop.

A mortgage company and dairy service company also established their roots in Buhl last year.

Genesis Group, a dairy service company, chose Buhl to maintain a West End market presence, said owner Carl Legg. Buhl is home to the company's main office, but it also has locations in Twin Falls, Jerome, Burley and Lupert.

"We made it clear that we were going to be serious competitors," Legg said. "And when businesses compete, the consumer wins."

Buhl offers advantages to

new businesses, like lower real estate costs and a central Magic Valley market presence, but those can be offset by the cost of having to drive to Twin Falls and the surrounding area for other needed services and products, Legg said.

Even so, the new year is looking bright with expected growth planned to better serve his dairy-driven clientele, Legg said.

"We have a very defined business plan in 2007 that includes the addition of two business segments to better serve our customers," he said.

"Buhl will continue to be the center of our operation."

The new year has also ushered in new chamber goals. The chamber hopes to bring in

more business and boost its membership from 160 to at least 180.

"We want to be a catalyst for plans, strategies, programs and services that promote a favorable business climate, improve the quality of life and support the orderly growth and sustainability of our city," said John O'Conner, president of the chamber.

Just a week into 2007, Buhl is already preparing for new businesses and talks are still continuing for a possible biodeethyl/ethanol production facility just east of the city limits.

"People may not like it, but if you don't grow, you die," Getzen said. "And Buhl does not have that option."

Market Watch

Jan 8, 2007

Dow Jones Industrials	+25.48
Nasdaq composite	+2,438.20
Standard & Poor's 500	+3.13
Russell 2000	+1.12
Stocks of local interest	
Don Agri	27.51 ▲ .18
Dell Inc.	26.17 ▲ .01
Jdcorp	38.20 ▲ .18
Mitron Motors	26.41 ▲ .18
Lithcon	13.74 ▲ .16
Supervalu	35.77 ▼ .23

Commodities

Feb. 01	56.06 ▼ .22
Light sweet crude by barrel	98.25 ▲ .07
Live cattle	93.25 ▲ .87
Jan. gold	607.5 ▲ 2.6

For more, see page A5

Ethanol boom divides farmers, ranchers

By Libby Quaid
Associated Press writer

SALT LAKE CITY — From corn fields to Wall Street, enthusiasm for ethanol is at an all-time high. But not everyone is enthusiastic.

Demand for the corn-based fuel is driving up the cost of feed corn, making it more expensive to feed cows, chickens and pigs.

"It's hard to see where the future is, if corn keeps going up," said Keith Barker, a cattle rancher in southwestern Wyoming. "Anytime you jack up the price of fuel, anytime you jack up the price of corn, it just drives up our bottom line."

Long-term, it could drive up the cost of food, which is alarming to meat producers and food companies.

Like many ranchers, Barker questions the 51-cent-a-gallon tax credit created by Congress to encourage growth of the ethanol industry.

"The feeling in our area is that all the subsidies going to support ethanol production is really hurting livestock production," Barker said.

A potential split is in evidence this week during the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation this week in Salt Lake City. Large Farm Bureau is the country's largest general-interest agriculture group.

Its members still are trying to understand the consequences of the nation's rapid expansion of ethanol.

"We have a bull on the loose here, and it's going to have a lot of implications for American agriculture and our population," Keith Collins, the Agriculture Department's chief economist, told Farm Bureau members Sunday morning.

Enough plants are under construction or being expanded to more than double the nation's ethanol production, from around 5 billion gallons



The sun rises while a John Deere combine sits parked on a freshly harvested corn field with acres of corn left to harvest Sept. 9 near Ashland, Ill. From corn fields to Wall Street, enthusiasm for ethanol is at an all-time high. But not everyone is enthusiastic. Demand for the corn-based fuel is driving up the cost of feed corn, making it more expensive to feed cows, chickens and pigs.

for ethanol byproducts, he said.

The ethanol boom has been good news for grain farmers and rural communities, where new plants are opening at a breakneck pace. While big agribusiness companies such as Archer Daniels Midland Co. and Cargill Inc. produce the most ethanol, many new plants are farmer-owned cooperatives.

But the boom has put the squeeze on those who produce beef, chickens and pork.

While hog producers are expected to get prices this year that are similar to 2006, around \$46 a hundredweight, they still won't break even. For that, prices would need to average \$50 a hundredweight, said Ron Plank, an agriculture economist at the University of Missouri.

"The big thing is much, much bigger feed costs, and that will give us red ink, I'm afraid, in 2007 and 2008," Plank said.

according to industry estimates. Production will probably keep expanding even if prices rise higher, Collins said. Prices

have climbed above \$3 a bushel, the highest level in more than a decade. Strong returns mean plants could cover costs even above \$4 or \$5 a bushel, depending on prices

MONEY

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of Mutual Funds with columns for Name, Div, Last Chg, and various fund details.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of Closing Futures prices for various commodities.

CHEESE

POTATOES

Table of Cheese and Potato prices.

SUGAR

METALS/MONEY

Table of Sugar and Metals/Money prices.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange data including NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table of Market Summary data including NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ.

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Table of NASDAQ National Market data.

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Table of Dairy products prices.

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AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange data.

EDITORIAL

Otter refines message in sharp state address

Gov. CL "Butch" Otter wants limited government because Idahoans like it that way. That includes a State of the State address that fits nicely in your lunch break.

True to his style, Otter's first State of the State address was an appropriate and succinct start to his new administration. Yet Otter also delivered bold ideas that had substance and clarity — something his campaign seemed to lack in the fall. For legislators, the new governor's first directive effort gives them a much better indicator of his ability to work on new solutions.

On budget matters, Otter told the state its economy remains strong while reminding us that nothing stays hot forever. To that end he didn't recommend major expansions in state government programs. He proposed a \$2.8 billion budget for 2008, a 3.7 percent increase over 2007.

Otter's first item, then, is to compensate state employees with raises for a second year in a row after years of lean pay. The governor proposed a 5 percent merit-based pay increase for state workers. Otter also remains committed to an increase in the income tax grocery credit.

On education, Otter didn't go too far on a limb with K through 12 public school issues. But his points on higher education provide some bold leadership on issues that have sorely needed it.

Otter gave some of his most detailed thoughts on community colleges, saying he supports reserving local control and the legal framework to fund those colleges that are supported by voters.

To meet the demand for more colleges, Otter endorsed the idea of lowering the supermajority vote requirement for community college districts to 60 percent. But the shift would also require that the vote be held on a general election date. Otter would continue funding the \$5 million pot of statewide support for those colleges. The fund would get more money as voters create new districts in the future.

Otter went even further by proposing \$38 million in a needs-based endowment for in-state college scholarships — an area of serious need in Idaho where many high school graduates don't go to college. And in a bold move that merges financial and education savvy, Otter endorsed Gov. Jim Risch's plan for \$37 million of new nursing college facilities at the College of Southern Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College, and to pay for those constructions in full rather than use bonding debt.

In addition to the nursing school plan, southern Idaho could also benefit from Otter's proposal for ag services in this region. Otter wants to bring the state's primary education and research programs for dairy industries closer to the Magic Valley. His \$10.9 million bid for a lab complex that would group state agencies, University of Idaho research programs and the dairy industry has significant promise to the area economy. Otter's direction warrants so clear on other issues. For the pending water decision from the courts, he asked legislators to be ready to act. But didn't give any lead on funding for mitigation, or more importantly, long term plans with aquifer recharge.

On K-12 school issues, he likewise stuck to minimal comment. His \$1.36 billion budget proposal for general fund spending on schools seems a healthy start (with close to \$55 million in new spending). But Otter needs to go beyond rallying for new superintendent Tom Luma. We need to know his expectations for schools, rather than defer to another state official.

But there's plenty to like in his recommendations for highway bonding projects. Otter is turning those decisions over to the state Transportation Board, and away from legislators. Each project can now stand on its own merits instead of politics. As a stalwart of limited government, Otter's first trip to the gubernatorial lectern was succinct, but not predictable, personally conversational but not rehearsed. Idahoans and lawmakers should be pleased with the first note.

Times-News

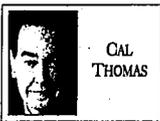
Brad Hurd . . . Publisher Chris Stenbach . . . Editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorial are Brad Hurd, Chris Stenbach, Steve Crump, Traci Ellis, Bill Bittzenburg and David Cooper.

Our view: New Gov. Butch Otter provided succinct and bold ideas in his first legislative address. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Call it low faith in the high road

When one is "converted," people look for changes in behavior that testify to a transformation of heart and mind.



Cal Thomas

The new House Democratic majority has announced its "conversion" on matters of institutional and individual ethics. Now comes the watching and waiting to measure the depth of their sincerity. Initial signs leave room for cautious optimism, or pessimism, depending on one's faith, in people who have erred in the problem to provide the solution. Liken it to how much trust one might place in an embezzler who is put in charge of bank security, or a serial liar who is asked to devise an honor code.

The New York Times reported their ethics reform package, which, among other things, requires lawmakers to attach their names to the " earmarks," also known as "pork," they slip into spending and tax measures. In addition, members would be required to reveal if they have any personal interest in the measure.

Suspicion as to whether Democrats, who have long evaded in bipartisan pork barrel spending with Republicans, are serious about going on the wasteful spending wagon were quickly raised when Charles Rangel former U.S. House chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said, "You have to assume that everything we



have done is subject to a referendum. These things are not locked in cement."

The earmark legislation is also tied to the Democrats' proposed "pay as you go" rule that would keep the House from adding to the deficit with new tax cuts or entitlement spending without offsetting them with spending cuts or tax increases. Republicans see that as stealth tax hikes.

The New York Times reported that the earmark measure "could prevent the kind of corruption that led to several big scandals in recent years, including former Representative Randy Cunningham's sale of earmarks to government contractors for cash, gifts and campaign contributions." Not exactly.

According to Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW), which has published a "Guide to Earmark Reform," "Projects such as digitization of Department of Defense manuals, which helped land former Rep. Randy 'Duke' Cunningham in jail, would not require sponsor identification because the funds were

directed to DOD, not a specific company. In that situation, the company that eventually received funding for the project had bribed Cunningham." This is not the only potential loophole in the ethics rules change. "The ultimate goal of earmark reform," says CAGW, "should be the elimination of all pork-barrel projects from the federal budget." That is not likely to happen, so CAGW proposes the ultimate transparency and accountability in order to reduce the number and overall cost of such projects.

The new House rule defines a congressional earmark as a "provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, or Senator providing, authorizing or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality, or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or

administrative formula driven or competitive award process."

Clear now? CAGW says the House definition of an earmark falls short in two ways. In addition to the one mentioned above regarding the Pentagon and Randy Cunningham, "It omits projects earmarked for more than one state and those designated for federal agencies. For example, the fiscal 2006 Agriculture Appropriations Bill includes \$6,435,000 for wood utilization research in Alaska, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia. The House rules would not require the identification of a sponsor of this earmark."

Republicans will have little credibility advocating that these or tougher rules be placed in cement. They have been at the spending trough as much as Democrats. Neither will President Bush have much influence calling, as he has, for spending reforms, since he has refused to vote a single spending measure.

The Senate this week considers revising its ethics rules. Don't look for the "king of pork" Roy Blunt (R-MO) to take the anti-pork pledge. That would be like asking Britney Spears to "convert" to responsible behavior. Any real reform will be up to "we the people." A good beginning can be found in the CAGW guide.

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

Fast action would have saved stranded driver

SPENCER H. KIM

Early last month my son, James Kim, died of hypothermia in a snowy wilderness in Oregon after setting out on foot to seek help for his family, who were stranded in a car.

My son's death was a tragedy that could have been prevented. A wrong turn on a poorly marked wilderness road need not have resulted in the death of James' wife and two daughters, nor his death while trying desperately to find help. I am sharing some of the hard-learned lessons that I took away from my family's trauma in the hope of making it less likely that others will suffer the same fate.

First, it is crucial that measures be adopted to ensure against mistaken access to potentially hazardous logging and private roads. Those responsible for the maintenance of such roads must be required to post clear signs warning against access. Governments should allocate sufficient resources to regularly monitor roadblocks designed to prevent access, and it should be a federal crime to tamper with such signs and barriers.

Such measures might not have stopped James and his family from being misled by a map that depicted the road they chose through the Coast Range as a major thoroughfare, but they would have prevented the ill-fated turn that led them into a maze of logging roads and across treacherous terrain that travelers never should have had access to in the first place.

Locals say mistaken access to the road in question is common, although it is at the entrance to the logging roads

information was confirmed not by authorities but by conscience-driven cellphone company engineers who saw fit to volunteer their time. This information proved critical to significantly reducing the search area, and it allowed for the discovery and safe rescue of James' wife, Kaiti, and my grandchildren, Penelope and Sabine, less than two days later.

Had this information been confirmed sooner, rescue teams could have immediately focused the search operation, and James probably would have been rescued with his family.

Third, steps should be taken to ensure that authorities are adequately trained for search-and-rescue operations, have a clear sense of their available resources and know when and where the procedures necessary to conduct an effective, well-coordinated search-and-rescue operation.

We are eternally grateful for the heroic efforts of the Oregon State Police and volunteers who risked their lives to save James and his family. But the search was plagued by confusion, communication breakdowns and failures of leadership until the Oregon State Police set up a command post. The media widely reported that leads that could have led to more timely discovery of the car were not pursued. Misinformation was rampant, diverting searchers. National Guard helicopters with sensitive heat-detecting technology languished on the tarmac for days, even after the cellphone information provided a better picture of where James and his family probably were

specifically to prevent unsuspecting travelers from wandering onto them. The appropriate federal agencies failed to perform their duty and lock the gate for the winter. James was not the first victim of an accidental death in the same area, but with a few changes, he could be the last.

Second, Congress should change the law so that most recent credit card and phone-use records can be immediately released to the next of kin in the event of an emergency. Privacy laws are important to safeguard personal information, but there needs to be provision for exceptional access to information by relatives when it is critical to their family member's survival.

Four days passed before we even knew James and his family were missing. But because my family was unable to contact credit card and phone-use information until days after his absence was discovered, the start of the search was needlessly delayed. Precious time and a precious life were lost. Privacy concerns kept both the hotel where James and his family last stayed and the restaurant where they last dined from sharing credit card records.

Similarly frustrating was that we did not know about a transmission into James' cellphone on the night his family became stranded until the evening of Dec. 1 — three full days after the San Francisco Police Department was notified that James and his family were missing. Remarkably, this

Meanwhile, James hiked through the forest for two long, cold days and nights, and Kaiti and her children waited through two more days of freezing temperatures until rescue workers discovered and rescued them.

Finally, the Federal Aviation Administration classification code for Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) to limit media presence during a life-or-death search-and-rescue operation should be more strictly enforced. A TFR is used to restrict aircraft operations within designated areas to separate "non-participating" aircraft from those engaged in official activities, including search-and-rescue operations.

Unfortunately for James, aviation authorities acquiesced to media requests to relax restrictions and allowed low-altitude flights in the area while the aerial search was still underway. This untimely and irrational decision caused many rescue helicopters to abandon their operations for one full afternoon due to dangerous conditions created by media airplanes. It took personal pleas to Washington to get restrictions reinstated. The search, not media interest, should be the top priority.

With his last heroic determination to rescue his family, James proved himself to be a man of action. My son deserves a legacy worthy of that man. As a tribute to him, I have decided to follow his lead and do as much as I can to help another senseless tragedy.

Spencer Kim lives in Thousand Oaks, Calif. This piece appeared in The Washington Post.

LETTER

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office; mailed to: EO, Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-6336; or e-mailed to letters@magvalley.com.

sons, flies and frequent over-application to land complete the miserable package.) Windrows of manure (miles and miles of them) contribute airborne pathogens to our Snake River plains winds. (To the detriment of our health).

Bottom line: We do not need more CAFO dairies and feedlots. But, like the old time "snake oil salesman," I predict that special interests will try to promote more CAFO development and expansion in Twin Falls County (and throughout the valley).

The welfare of the populace, including water, soil, and air quality issues transcends any argument for further CAFO development or expansion.

Folks, enrichment of the few at the expense of many seems to be the common denominator, and it is my deepest conviction that greed-driven agendas will flush this valley right down the sewer if we allow it.

I argue how to parcel out our mother earth, (livestock, beehive, gurgling, near a dying doe. — JIM CONDER, Filer

Quality of life tops need for more CAFOs

L. Ben Neff's cordial response to my letter wherein he compared confined animal feeding operations' water utilization to pivot irrigation systems is noted. After considering his "circular reasoning" and progressing beyond the Math 101 lesson, I offer further observations: Normally, pivots do not operate year round (nor do they manufacture manure). CAFOs do operate year round, 24/7. During winter, CAFOs presumably draw water from wells in an already bankrupt aquifer (counterproductive to pathetic attempts by the state to recharge the aquifer). So do we need more CAFOs? Valley cow populations (they outnumber humans) generate megapounds of manure. (Odor, toxic emis-

Free will, but with a dead end

There was a touch of irony in the giddy Democrat takeover this week: Nancy Pelosi indulging her inner Haight-Ashbury and dipping the Capitol in tie-dye, sashaying around with the Grateful Dead, Wyclef Jean, Carlos King, Richard Gere, feminists and a swarm of well-connected



MAUREEN DOWD

urchins. The first act of House Democrats who promised to govern with bipartisan comity was imperiously banishing Republicans from participating in the initial round of lawmaking. Even if Republicans were brutes during their reign, Democrats should have shown more class, letting the whiny minority party offer some stupid amendments that would lose.

Perhaps the Democrats' power-shift into overdrive is a neurological disorder, or neopolitical disorder. If free will is an illusion—if we are, as one philosopher put it, "nothing more than sophisticated meat machines," doomed to repeat the same mistakes over and over—that would explain a lot about the latest trend in which everyone is reverting to type.

William James wrote in 1890 that the whole "ting and excitement" of life comes from "our sense that in things are really being decided from one moment to another, and that it is not the dull rattling off of a chain that was forged innumerable ages ago."

In "The New York Times" science section this week, Dennis Overbye advised James to "get over it," observing that "a bevy of experiments in recent years suggest that the conscious mind is like a monkey riding a tiger of subconscious decisions and actions in progress, frantically making up stories



about being in control." As Mark Halleck of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke told Overbye, "Free will does exist, but it's a perception, not a power or a driving force. The more you scrutinize it, the more you realize you don't have it."

That would explain why, after voters insisted that the president wrap it up in Iraq, he made a big show of pretending to listen, then decided to do a war do-over.

Is this just the baked-in stubbornness of one man, or is W's behavior evidence that he has no free will? The Decider freely choosing another huge blunder or is he taking instructions from his genetic and political coding, fearing that if he admits what a fool he's made of Iraq, he'll be labeled a wimp, as his dad was?

IFW is trapped on a tiger, not the only one.

John McCain can't get beyond seeing himself as a maverick now that he's become a nonmaverick, a right-wing Republican urging an escalation of a hopeless war, even though he's already lived through an escalation of a hopeless war.

"There are two keys to any surge in U.S. troops," McCain told an appreciative audience at the American Enterprise

Institute on Friday. "It must be substantial, and it must be sustained."

With the letter she and Harry Reid wrote to the president Friday, warning him that "we are well past the point of more troops for Iraq," Pelosi tried to exert her free will to stop the Surge. But the Democrats aren't willing to take real action and cut off money for the Surge. They're predetermined to want to have it both ways: not to be blamed for the war and not to be blamed for pulling the plug on the war.

Iraq has become a snake pit of factions failing to escape fate. Shiites and Sunnis have been fighting and killing each other for about 1,400 years over who was the rightful heir to Muhammad, and yet the entire American high command was somehow taken aback that Shiites and Sunnis can't muster the free will to keep their country from disintegrating.

Could it have been kismet that there were Shiites taunting Saddam at his hanging? Maybe it was preordained back in the days when Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone and the British official Gertrude Bell drew the boundaries of the modern Iraq that a security guy with a cell phone

beings have free will. We just know that human beings in Washington appear not to.

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

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Happy Feet (M) 7:15-9:45
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ODYSSEY 6
Pursuit/Hogwarts (M) 7:00-9:30
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Blood Diamond (M) 7:45-9:45
Codenamed: Cleaners (M) 7:30-9:45
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Black Christmas (M) 7:30-9:45

LETTER

Nation could use the wisdom of Ford

After watching the funeral of President Gerald Ford and some of the comments from different people who knew him and talked with him, political as well as news media, what a truly sincere person he was. It's truly sad to see such a great man as he really was die. But he did a great job. Then when you try to compare him with what we're stuck with now, it makes you sick to your stomach.

I hope somewhere out there

in the USA there might just be another Gerald Ford. We need someone who doesn't have defense contracts and is working his pockets.

In my 42 years of work with the Defense Department and much was traveling around the world. I can honestly say, for the most part, everybody hates the USA.

We need to start changing our image and trust around this little planet called Earth. We need a good leader, not a political yes man. We need to bring our troops home and start mending fences and

make our own people like us, too.
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Rupert

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Survivors from Indonesian ferry sinking found alive after 9 days at sea

The Associated Press

MAKASSAR, Indonesia — Fifteen people who spent nine days on a life raft after their ferry sank in the Java Sea — sharing emergency rations of food and water — were plucked from the water after the crew of a passing ship saw them waving for help. One in the group — an 18-

year-old — died hours after the rescue, which came Sunday after the life raft drifted 370 miles from where the Indonesian ferry carrying more than 600 people sank in stormy weather.

Balman, a 25-year-old construction material supplier who was taken to the hospital as soon as he reached land, said

Monday that four of the ferry's crew members were among those on the life raft. "Their knowledge of the sea helped us, especially when we were pounded by high waves and when the sun was blazing down on our raft," he said. "They encouraged us and kept our spirits alive." Balman, who like many

Indonesians goes by only one name, said he was in the ferry's cafe when the ship turned dark and listed. "Water rushed in and the boat started to sink. I tried to smash the window but I couldn't," Balman told The Associated Press. "Finally someone helped me break it and I swam into the sea. I was pulled

into a life raft with 14 other people." Indonesia's tropical waters are generally warm — from 72-84 degrees — and officials said people have been known to survive for days. Many of the Senopati Nusantara's lifeboats were equipped with emergency rations of cookies, dry bread and water — including the one

brought to shore Monday. It also had an emergency whistle. "We shared the food and water and saved some of it until we were rescued," said Balman. About 245 people have been found alive since the ferry sank after being pummeled by 12-foot-high waves just before midnight Dec. 29, but only 13 bodies have been recovered.

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P180/70R-16	39.05	180/70R-150R	30.87	P210/70R-16	51.52
P180/70R-16	42.18	175/70R-150R	30.89	P210/70R-16	50.17
P210/70R-16	41.77	180/70R-150R	33.94	P210/70R-16	50.17
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P175/70R-15	32.08	32.08	P220/70R-16	45.58	45.58	200/70R-140R	40.13	40.13
P175/70R-15	32.13	32.13	P220/70R-16	48.81	48.81	200/70R-14	40.08	40.08
P180/70R-16	39.05	39.05	180/70R-150R	30.87	30.87	P210/70R-16	51.52	51.52
P180/70R-16	42.18	42.18	175/70R-150R	30.89	30.89	P210/70R-16	50.17	50.17
P210/70R-16	41.77	41.77	180/70R-150R	33.94	33.94	P210/70R-16	50.17	50.17
P210/70R-16	42.96	42.96	175/70R-150R	34.78	34.78	P210/70R-16	54.11	54.11

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INSIDE: LaDarrian Tomlinson is a unanimous All-Pro performer in the NFL. B6



INSIDE: Local sports, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Comics, B4-5 | Weather, B6

Bruins girls could take No. 1 seed with wins

By Brad Guice
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Three Region Four-Five-Six games remain, and the Twin Falls Bruins girls basketball team is on a roll.

At 5-0, they've beaten every conference foe at least once and are in the running for a clean sweep and a No. 1 seed at the conference tournament as they face Idaho Falls and Madison this week.

"If we win just one, we'll have it sewn up," head coach Joe D. Shepard said. "It's important for us to get the win and wrap this up."

Both the Tigers and Bobcats are virtually out of contention for a high seed at this point,

but it doesn't mean that Twin Falls should take either lightly. It would be easy to do so as they look toward Highland, the team that has usually upended the Bruins' plans for a high seed in past years, but that's how upsets happen.

But the Bruins are in a fairly comfortable place. The starting lineup of Ashley Lyons, Kelsey Jardine, Amber Peterson, Kelly Weisman and Megan Crist is a strong one and the rotation of Brooke Robinette, Devan Matkin and Kami Barker off the bench keeps things going. Crist, Jardine and Matkin are each averaging around 7.8 points per game, along with Peterson, Weisman and Robinette checking in with

Bruin Rebound

Boys
Tonight: Twin Falls (5-4, 1-1 Region Four-Five-Six) at No. 1 Madison (11-0, 2-0), Rexburg, 7:30 p.m.
On the horizon: The Bruins face a new Class 4A team when they travel to Burley on Thursday, and then host Pocatello on Saturday. Next week will feature two home conference games — Highland (0-4, 0-1) on Jan. 17 and Skyline (3-7, 1-1) on Jan. 19.

Girls
Wednesday No. 4 Twin Falls (13-2, 5-0 Region Four-Five-Six) at Idaho Falls (1-13, 1-3), 7:30 p.m.
On the horizon: The Bruins host the Madison Bobcats (2-11, 0-5) on Friday for some week-ending conference play. On Jan. 16, they host the Century Diamondbacks before traveling to Pocatello to face the Highland Rams (9-5, 3-2) in conference action on Jan. 18.

"We have a good eight-man rotation, I should say" Shepard said. "We can start

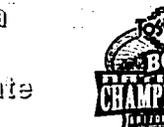
any of those eight, and it wouldn't hurt us much. "The big thing is keeping healthy, cause that can change a season."

Boys
— Eleven wins, zero losses, an overall 55.7 points per game average, a No. 1 ranking in the Idaho media poll, Madison seems like a destroyer of teams, but there's a lot of basketball left to be played. "We believe anybody is beatable, and we have to have that mentality going in. It's tough to go undefeated in the season. That's what we found out last year," Harr said of last year's 23-2 state championship run.

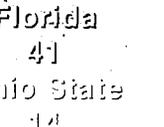
An "underdog" status, Harr reasoned, might be what the Bruins need right about now. Unlike their female counterparts, the Bruins are still searching for their core group of players. At this point, every player has been hot or cold or any given night, leading to lineup changes and varying rotations. Twin Falls is still raw in many ways, but eventually, Harr said he will pick a lineup and stick with it. "We'll try to pick a solid eight and stick with it," he said. "We're halfway through the season now, and it's time to get a system down." Harr's record, including playoffs or cold shooting, Harr's expectations are the same: Win.



Florida 41
Ohio State 14



Florida 41
Ohio State 14



Gators: Nothing left to prove

By Ben Waller
Associated Press writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Not even close.

Florida — yes, Florida — owned the field it wasn't supposed to be on, embarrassing Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and No. 1 Ohio State 41-14 on Monday night in twin away with the college football national championship.

Chris Leak and Tim Tebow showed off coach Urban Meyer's twin quarterback system to perfection as the No. 2 Gators became the first Division I school to hold football and basketball titles at the same time. "I'm not surprised at all. Nobody never gave us a chance at all," Florida receiver Dallas Baker said. "We came here with a chip on our shoulder and something to prove. Nobody gave us a chance, but finally we can throw up the No. 1."

Now, only one question remains: What about Boise State, the last undefeated team left standing?

The Broncos (13-0) stunned Oklahoma on the very same field in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day while Florida and the Buckeyes finished with identical 13-1 records.

Wisconsin and Louisville also had one loss, and that surely will renew calls for a playoff.

"I'd give Tim Tebow the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown, then it quickly fell apart for the Buckeyes. He hobbled off minutes later after being injured while celebrating the touchdown, and by the time he returned for the second half on crutches, Florida led 34-14.

"Ohio State didn't get it done," Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel said.

Underdogs by a solid touchdown, Meyer had a word for the critics who demeaned the Gators.

"I'd like to thank all those people. Our program speech was easy," he said.

Maligned for never winning the big one, Leak completed 25 of 36 passes for 213 yards and a touchdown. The Rambo-like Tebow threw for one TD and powered into the end zone for another.

Troy Smith, meanwhile,



Florida's Kenneth Tooles celebrates after Florida defeated Ohio State to win the BCS national championship football game Monday in Glendale, Ariz.

joined a long list of Heisman Trophy quarterbacks — Jason White, Eric Crouch and Gino Torretta, among them — to fall apart in bowl games. He was just 4-for-14 with one interception and never showed off his elusive running.

"Not everything in life is going to go the exact way you want it," Smith said. "I don't have any regrets, though. I really don't. We came out and fought. We came up short."

"Sometimes you have great games and sometimes you don't," he said.

Defensive ends Derrick Harvey and Jarvis Moss made it a miserable night for Smith. Linebacker Earl Everett got into the act, too, running down Smith despite missing his helmet.

"Honestly we've played a lot better teams than them," Moss said. "I could name four or five teams in the SEC that could probably compete with them and play the same type of game we did against them."

Florida won its second national title, adding to the



one Heisman winner Darryl Wuertel brought home in 1996 under coach Steve Spurrier with a 52-20 romp over Florida State in the Sugar Bowl. This time, the man in charge was the 42-year-old

Meyer, once a 200-hitter in the low minors in Adanti's farm system. Since then, he's made a rocket rise in the coaching ranks, topped off by a title in his second year at Florida.

The Bowl Championship Series added an extra game this year to determine a champion. Some fans were certain Michigan deserved to be here, that is until it got pummeled by Southern California in the Rose Bowl.

This game had no name — perhaps now it might be the Meyer Bowl, at least for a year. And back home in Gainesville, the Gators can raise another championship banner as they did after the basketball team UCLA in Indianapolis.

"How do I compare them? Both have confetti landing on my head," athletic director Jeremy Foley said. "I couldn't believe it in April. I can't believe it now. I can't believe I can talk about it without jinxing us. Obviously, things had to break our way to even get here."

Tressel's team, meanwhile, looked as if it belonged at the

Holiday Bowl, because it took this night off. Given 51 days to prepare, the Buckeyes were confused from the get-go once Florida got the ball.

In the first football matchup between these schools — they've both played the sport for 100-plus years — the Gators emphatically stopped Ohio State's 19-game winning streak.

The Buckeyes beat a pair of No. 2 teams earlier in the season, defending champion Texas and Michigan. They were no match for Florida's speed, strategy and style.

The Buckeyes looked completely flummoxed — by Florida's frenetic offense at the outset. Trying to match up with the Gators' shifting formations, they often jumped around at the line and still were out of position.

Leak gladly took advantage of the confusion, picking wide-open receivers at will and hitting his first nine passes. Criticized most of his career for a lack of fire, the guy with the soft, green eyes seemed real comfortable.

No. 5 Broncos receive one No. 1 vote

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Boise State had something not even the national champions can claim — an undefeated record.

The Broncos finished the season as Division I-A's only unbeaten team and fifth in the season's final AP Poll after No. 1 Florida upset No. 2 Ohio State 41-14 Monday night in the BCS national championship game.

"Let's go play 'em next week," Florida coach Urban Meyer said with a laugh about Boise State. "I love Boise State, but I wouldn't want to do that. We're done."

A week before the Gators' gauntlet had the Buckeyes spinning at University of Phoenix Stadium, Boise State opened up its bag of tricks and put on the bowl season's best show on the very same field.

The Broncos used a hook-and-lateral to score the tying touchdown, a Statue of Liberty play to score the decisive 2-point conversion, and the Broncos beat Oklahoma 43-42 in overtime to become America's favorite underdog on New Year's Day.

Some of the Broncos were looking for more after the Fiesta Bowl.

"We went 13-0 and beat everyone on our schedule," Zabransky said. "We deserve a chance at the national title."

The AP Top 25

The Top 25 from last week's poll, with the number of first-place votes in parentheses. * denotes a new entry. All times Eastern Standard Time. All times are in Pacific Standard Time.

Rank	Team	Points	First-Place Votes
1	Florida (4)	25.0	25
2	Oklahoma (1)	22.0	1
3	Ohio State (1)	20.0	1
4	Michigan (1)	18.0	1
5	Boise State (1)	17.0	1
6	Georgia Tech (1)	16.0	1
7	Arkansas (1)	15.0	1
8	Alabama (1)	14.0	1
9	LSU (1)	13.0	1
10	Nebraska (1)	12.0	1
11	Illinois (1)	11.0	1
12	Michigan State (1)	10.0	1
13	Georgia (1)	9.0	1
14	Arizona (1)	8.0	1
15	Washington (1)	7.0	1
16	Stanford (1)	6.0	1
17	North Carolina (1)	5.0	1
18	West Virginia (1)	4.0	1
19	Utah (1)	3.0	1
20	Colorado (1)	2.0	1
21	South Carolina (1)	1.0	1
22	Mississippi State (1)	1.0	1
23	Northwestern (1)	1.0	1
24	Virginia Tech (1)	1.0	1
25	Wake Forest (1)	1.0	1

No. 19 Nevada ekes by Boise State despite Larry's 22-point night

The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Playing the second half without the injured Nick Fazekas, Marcelus Kemp scored 27 points and No.

19 Nevada went on a 9-0 run down the stretch to rally for a 90-86 victory over Boise State on Monday night. Ramon Sessions added 21 points — 11 in a row during

one late key stretch — for the Wolf Pack (14-1, 2-0 Western Athletic Conference), who have

equaled their best start since 1951-52. Former College of Southern Idaho standout Reggie Larry and Coby Karl each had 22 points for Boise State (7-6, 1-

1), which had opened an 81-77 lead on Larry's three-point play with 3:20 remaining. Fazekas had 14 points and nine rebounds before being held off the court with an

ankle injury just before the half. He returned to the bench on crutches with about 7 minutes left in the game. A school official said his condition was not immediately known.

SPORTS

Lighthouse Lions top TFCA boys

Times-News

JEROME — The Lighthouse Christian Lions defeated the Twin Falls Christian Warriors 67-40 after a blistering second-half surge at Jerome Middle School on Monday.

The Lions were up 31-23 at the half, then went on a 35-point tear as they held the Warriors to only 17. Senior Justin Manning put up 21 points on nine baskets, three of which were 3-point goals. Ryan DeKruy followed up with a baker's dozen.

"We came out and tightened the defense," Lions head coach Sam Fowler said. "It was like sleepingwalking through the first half."

For the Warriors, Clint Irvin and Caleb Bolyard chipped in 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Lighthouse Christian (5-6, 2-4 Magic Valley Southside) travel to Hagerman on Thursday. The Warriors visit Magic Valley Christian on Friday.

Lighthouse Christian 67, Twin Falls Christian 40
 Twin Falls Christian 11 12 9 9 0 0
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 Lighthouse Christian 11 12 12 20 17
 Lighthouse Christian 11 12 12 20 17

Shoshone 50, Hansen 35
 SHOSHONE — Shoshone senior Kurt Bingham hit a few 3-point goals to start the night and it grew from there as the Indians defeated the Hansen Huskies 50-35 on Monday.

Bingham hit three treys as part of her six baskets for 19 points, and Shaynee Gulliford poured in 13. Hansen's Abby Curry and Charlotte Freestone put in 18 and 13 points, respectively, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Indians.

"Kort got a couple of threes off the bat, then we'd go inside to Gulliford," Shoshone head coach Tim Chapman said.

On defense, Shoshone's Myka Medlock had four steals.

The Indians (11-5, 6-1) travel to Ketchum for a Magic Valley Northside game against The Community School on Thursday. Also that night, Hansen will

host Rockland.
 Shoshone 50, Hansen 35
 Shoshone 11 12 12 20 17
 Hansen 11 12 12 20 17
 Shoshone 11 12 12 20 17
 Hansen 11 12 12 20 17

Girls basketball
Shoshone 50, Hansen 35
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Bowling
Jerome 10, Wendell 3
JEROME — The Jerome Tigers varsity girls bowling team defeated the Wendell Trojans 10-3 on Monday.

Jerome's Jill Georgia had the high game with 147, while Wendell had the team Baker of 165.

In junior varsity play, the Jerome A and C teams won 10-3 and 11-2, respectively. Nikole Nelson of Jerome had the A game high of 150. Jerome won the B&W with 168. Jerome's Kelsey Peterson won the C game high with 118 and Jerome won the Baker with 119.

Wendell's B squad won 10-3 with Mercedes Beltram rolling a 138 game high. Wendell also won the Baker with 163.



Los Angeles Clippers guard Shaun Livingston, left, drives past New Orleans Hornets forward Rasual Butler during Monday's game in Oklahoma City.

Clippers top Hornets

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sam Cassell scored 31 points and Cuttino Mobley finished with 20 to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 100-90 win over the New Orleans Hornets.

Playing for the first time in three weeks, Cassell scored 10 points during Los Angeles' decisive 17-3 fourth-quarter surge, including a 3-pointer that gave the Clippers the lead for good at 79-77 with 9:12 to play.

Cassell had missed seven games with plantar fasciitis in his left heel before returning against the Hornets.

and Luther Head added two apiece.

It was the fifth 30-point performance in six games for McGrady, who hit just three of 10 shots in the first half.

Juwan Howard added 16 points and nine rebounds, Dikembe Mutombo grabbed a season-high 16 rebounds, and the Rockets won for the sixth time in eight games.

Nuggets 104, Bucks 92

DENVER — Earl Boykins scored 26 points and Allen Iverson had 23 to lead the Denver Nuggets past the depleted Milwaukee Bucks 104-92 Monday night.

The Bucks were without injured guard Michael Redd and lost his backcourt mate Mo Williams during the game. Ruben Patterson, who played in Denver last season, started in Redd's spot and scored 29 points, three shy of his career high, and had 11 boards.

Marcus Camby added 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Nuggets, who snapped a five-game losing streak.

— *The Associated Press*

Rockets 84, Bulls 77

CHICAGO — Tracy McGrady scored 25 of his 31 points in the second half and hit the go-ahead jumper to lift the Rockets to an 84-77 victory over the Bulls.

McGrady's long jumper with 1:19 left broke a 77-77 tie. Houston's Shane Battier blocked a driving layup by Ben Gordon with 25 seconds left. McGrady then hit one of two free throws to make it a three-point game and Chuck Hayes

Ageless Vijay Singh's strength is his desire

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — First came his induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame. A week later brought an end to his worst season in five years on the PGA Tour, and what appeared to be the beginning of the end to Vijay Singh.

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The proof was in Singh's two-shot victory in the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship, a command performance in which Singh didn't make a bogey over the final 29 holes and never let anyone closer than two shots to him over the final 25 holes.

And it was no accident.

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"I wanted this win, and I practiced hard for it," said Singh, who turns 44 next month. "I worked hard and it paid off."

His work ethic is now legendary in golf circles.

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More than sheer work, however, Singh's legacy might be his desire.

Scott considers it a miracle that someone could grow in Fiji and win on the PGA Tour. Even more astounding is that Sunday was his 30th career victory, for 16th on the career list with Leo Diegel.

And he now has won 18 times since turning 40, breaking the record held by Sam Snead.

North Carolina moves to No. 1

NEW YORK (AP) — North Carolina is No. 1 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll for the first time in almost six years. The wait has been quite a bit longer for Washington State, which is ranked for the first time in almost 24 years.

The Tar Heels (14-1) moved into the top spot Monday after three weeks at No. 2 following UCLA's loss at Oregon last weekend.

It is North Carolina's first time at No. 1 since a two-week run in February 2001, and it's the first time the Tar Heels are there in the three-plus seasons, including the 2005 national championship, under coach Roy Williams.

"I feel good where we are, but it's so, so early," Williams said Monday. "We have 15 more battles to go in the conference, so we'll see what happens."

Williams is no stranger to having a top-ranked team. In seven of 15 seasons at Kansas, the Jayhawks reached No. 1, including a one-week stretch in 1996-97.

"We've been No. 1 before, and if you don't finish that way at the end of the year, it means you had a good little stretch," he said.

Washington State (14-2) is having an unexpected stretch, and the quick start has the Cougars tied for 22nd in the poll, their first ranking since a one-week stint in February 1983.

Picked last in the Pac-10 preseason media poll, the Cougars have gotten off to an impressive start under first-year coach Tony Bennett, including wins over

breaking losses and some bad losses. It's a start, and that's all it is. We're in the No. 1-ranked conference in the country, and we have 14 games to go, so we have to keep that same fighting mentality."

North Carolina received 64 first-place votes and 1,788 points from the 72-member national media panel to easily outdistance No. 2 Florida (14-2), which had three No. 1 votes and 1,682 points in moving up one spot from last week. The Cougars were No. 1 in the preseason poll and for the first two weeks of the regular season.

Wisconsin (15-1) received one first-place vote and moved from fourth to third, the highest ranking in school history while UCLA dropped from first to fourth.

The Bruins (14-1), who received four first-place votes, held the No. 1 spot for six weeks until the 68-66 loss at Oregon on Saturday.

Ohio State moved up one place to fifth and was followed by Kansas, Pittsburgh, Texas, A&M, Oklahoma State and Arizona.

Duke, which dropped six spots after its home loss to Virginia Tech on Saturday, was 11th and was followed by LSU, Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee, Clemson, Air Force, Nevada and Memphis.

This is North Carolina's 82nd poll with a No. 1 ranking, fourth on the all-time list behind UCLA (134), Duke (110) and Kentucky (98).

Gwynn, Ripken locks for the Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — While Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr. try for perfection, Mark McGwire takes a most imperfect past into Hall of Fame balloting.

Gwynn and Ripken likely will vote for the highest percentages ever in Hall of Fame balloting when the vote is announced Tuesday. McGwire, also on the ballot for the first time, probably will draw only one in four votes, according to a November survey of about 20 percent of eligible voters taken by The Associated Press. That would leave McGwire far short of the 75 percent needed to gain baseball's highest honor.

McGwire finished with 583 home runs, seventh on the career list, and hit 70 homers in 1998 to set his second record, a mark Barry Bonds broke three years later.

But many voters have said they won't select McGwire until he answers questions about steroids use. McGwire's refusal to address his past during a 2005 congressional hearing damaged his reputation among many of the 10-year members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America who cast ballots.

"I think I would vote for him," Gwynn said. "I think I would vote for a lot of those guys who are considered to have done it."

Gwynn and Ripken were thought to have a chance at becoming the first players to get 100 percent of ballots cast. Tom Seaver holds the record percentage at 98.84, set when he was selected on 425 of 430 ballots in 1992.

Paul Hagen of the Philadelphia Daily News was among three writers who submitted blank ballots that year, joined by Bob Hertzog of The Pittsburgh Press and freelance writer Bob Hunter. Retired writer Deane McGowen and Bud Tucker did not vote for Seaver.

"That was the first year that

baseball intervened with Pete Rose and kept his name off the ballot," Hagen said Monday. "I just felt like that was a way of protesting. It had nothing to do with Tom Seaver."

Ty Cobb was left off four ballots. Nolan Ryan wasn't on six. Hank Aaron is in, Babe Ruth is on 11 and Willie Mays is on 23. Joe DiMaggio needed to appear on the ballot three times to get in, receiving 44 percent and 69 percent in his first two tries.

"I admit I sort of felt that maybe after it might come sooner," DiMaggio was quoted as saying by The New York Times after he was elected in 1955. "But after failing to make it during the first two elections for which I was eligible — well, I just wasn't too sure."

Reliever Bruce Sutter made it last year on the 13th try, when Jim Rice fell 53 votes short and Goose Gosage was 54 shy. Rice is also on the ballot for the 13th time this year, and he may have a better chance at gaining election next year, when Tim Lincecum and David Justice are the top first-time eligibles. Rickey Henderson goes on the 2009 ballot.

Gwynn and Ripken are baseball dinosaurs who spent their entire major league careers with one team.

In a 20-year career with the San Diego Padres that began in 1982, Gwynn played eight NL batting titles in the Home Run Derby's NL record and was a member of 15 All-Star teams. He finished with a .338 career average and won five Gold Gloves as an outfielder.

Ripken played in 2,632 consecutive games, breaking Lou Gehrig's ironman record of 2,130. Ripken spent 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles, hitting .276 with 431 home runs. A 19-time All-Star, he won the AL Rookie of the Year award in 1982, the AL MVP award in 1983 and 1991 and was a two-time Gold Glove shortstop.



North Carolina's Tyler Hanford (50) shoots as Florida State's Al Thornton defends during the second half of Sunday's game in Chapel Hill, N.C.

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Singh wasn't impressed.

"There's no trophies for doing it," he said. "Really, it's just a record created by who? It's not even a record. It's just numbers."

But put that in perspective.

Love has won 19 times (one major) in his career. Singh is one victory away from doing that in his 40s.

"And everyone looks at Davis as having a great career," Luke Donald said. "If you keep yourself fit, age isn't a factor and he's a testament to that. It's hard to have that dedication for so long, that desire to want to succeed. Let's face it, we all get lazy from time to time. Vijay seems to bypass that and continues to work hard to get better."

Johnny Miller once said the difference between him and Jack Nicklaus was that Miller once reached the top of the mountain and wondered what else there was to prove, while Nicklaus reached the top and looked for the next mountain.

Singh knows the feeling.

He reached his peak in 2004 when he won nine times and replaced Tiger Woods at No. 1 in the world, holding the top spot for the better part of six months until Woods went on one of his tears.

Singh has a constant battle with his putting, and then his swing started to leave him. But he never lost his desire.

"It's easy to fall off the top," he said. "Once you're sliding down, you've got to have something to hold onto. My physical condition probably kept me there. If I wasn't strong enough, once you mentally get a little frustrated, you can just slide off so quickly. The good news is I'm fresh and I'm really looking forward to the season."

"I'm quite happy with the way I'm feeling right now."

For the longest time, Love was motivated by how well Nicklaus played in his 40s. He won the U.S. Open and PGA

Championship at age 40, then captured his sixth Masters title in 1986 at age 46. Love also was inspired by good friend Jay Haas, who qualified for the Tour Championship when he was 50.

"This is now the standard of never saying, 'I'm done,'" Love said of Singh. "It's pretty incredible. He doesn't get injured, he's very efficient. If he wasn't that strong, or that supple, he might not be able to do that."

The next question is how much longer Singh can play at this level.

He was approaching his 40th birthday when he set out to become No. 1 in the world, a goal that seemed laughable considering his age (39), his world ranking (No. 7) and the fact Woods had won the Masters, U.S. Open and was runner-up at the PGA Championship that year.

Two years and 13 victories later, Singh was No. 1.

"He's a great ball-striker; he hits enough balls, he ought to be," Scott said. "But he's pretty good at everything. You don't get to where he's gotten being average."

The odds are against Singh reaching that pinnacle again, mainly because the Woods shows no sign of letting up. The world's No. 1 player skipped Kapalua, and will go after his seventh consecutive PGA Tour victory in three weeks at the Bullock Invitational.

Singh sets no limits to what he can do.

"Fred Funk won 48, and I'm a lot bigger and a lot stronger than Freddie Funk," Singh said. "So if he can win at 48, what makes me think I'm not going to win when I'm 50? I'm not looking that far ahead. Right now, I'm just looking at the way I feel and I'm going to continue to work hard at my physical shape."

"If I'm healthy and playing the way I'm doing right now ... five, six, 10 years, I don't know. I'm just going to keep going."

COMICS

So what's in a name? In this case, chuckles

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blonde

By Dean Young & Starn Drake



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



"I CALL THIS A 'MARGARET SANDWICH,' 'CAUSE IT'S FULL OF BALONEY!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



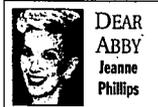
"It's not a toy horse. It's a chess piece."

DEAR READERS: Mail keeps arriving regarding names that match occupations. My staff and I have been having a wonderful time reading it, and I would love to share more with you. So, if you're up for a chuckle, read on. (If not, just go back to the national news.)

DEAR ABBY: When I saw the letter about Miss Flunger, the dietitian at Stout University I had to write. My father was born in Menomonee, Wis., where Stout is located, and later taught there. He used to tell me about a law firm there called Ketchum and Chestnut. Also, he had a high school classmate named Iva Liver.

DEAR ABBY: The day your column on funny names appeared, I had a good laugh and then began reading the front section of the paper, where I encountered the following: It's from The Associated Press with a byline of Lauran Neegrard, which I am enclosing. It's titled "Circumcision of African men can cut HIV risk by half." The physician quoted from the World Health Organization is Dr. Kevin De Cock. I could not believe the two articles appeared in the same newspaper on the same day.

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, I interviewed an attorney who was supposed to handle an



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

Important matter for me. His name: Rex R. Case. (Needless to say, I did not hire him!)

DEAR ABBY: For many years the Internal Revenue supervisor in Oklahoma City was "L.M. Filer."

DEAR ABBY: My sister lives in Williamsville, N.Y. (near Buffalo), where there is a funeral home that seems nothing out of the ordinary, except for the name: Amigone Funeral Home. (Am I Gone.) True! Look them up — they're in the phone book!

DEAR ABBY: I have two names for you. My daughter's pediatrician is Dr. Lefevere, and my former priest's was Father O'Pray.

DEAR ABBY: When I first moved here, I was looking for a new obituary and came across a listing for a Dr. C. (Cynthia, I believe) Hymen.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago I needed minor surgery and went to the VA hospital in Palo Alto. The young female anesthetist was a novice named Mallet. Try as she might, she could not find a vein — and when I took the "Mallet by the handle" and told her if she couldn't find a vein she should use a mallet, she didn't crack a smile.

DEAR ABBY: I once met a liquor salesman named Casey Sausce.

DEAR ABBY: I have diabetes and see a dietitian and a diabetes educator. Their last names are Short and Stout. I'm sure they never hear the end of it.

DEAR ABBY: Linda Toots taught flute at Fingertwood!

DEAR ABBY: There's a nudist colony in northern New Jersey that is owned by a Dr. Lust.

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At least three needed for a riot

This day in history: Adrian of Utrecht became Pope Adrian VI on Jan. 9, 1522. He was the only Dutch pope in history — and the last non-Italian pope for more than 400 years.

RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS
Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

lighter Doc Holliday? That gun-slinging pal of Wyatt Earp was a dentist.

Got two unruly friends? Under federal law you need a mob of at least three people to be considered a "riot."

A reader wants to know, what kind of name was guaranteed to be a riot?

What's the only state with a one-syllable name? Maine.

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\$15 Gift Certificate to Smith's Food Stores

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Cool and breezy with thin high clouds. Highs in the lower 40s.
Tonight: Increasing clouds but continued mostly dry. Lows in the lower to middle 20s.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy to cloudy and turning drizzle with light snow showers and fumes. Highs middle 30s.

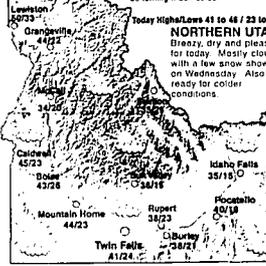
WINDY WINDUP FORECAST

Today: Cool and breezy with thin high clouds. Highs in the upper 30s.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy and breezy. Lows in the lower 20s.
Tomorrow: Becoming colder with cloudy to mostly cloudy skies and scattered snow showers. Highs lower 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
Light snow showers and fumes are possible for today and especially tonight and Wednesday. It will also become very cold over the next few days with blustery conditions lasting through the weekend.

BOISE
Cool and breezy today with partly to mostly cloudy skies. Mostly cloudy tonight and Wednesday with a few snow showers tomorrow. It will also be turning much colder.



Today High/Lows 41 to 48 / 23 to 28
Northern Utah Breezy, dry and pleasant for today. Mostly cloudy with a few snow showers on Wednesday. Also be ready for colder conditions.

TWIN FALLS FIVE DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy and cool temperatures	Mostly cloudy and mostly dry	Turning colder, a little sunny	Colder yet, lingering drizzle	Even colder but mostly sunny	Continued very cool and mostly dry
High 41	Low 24	38 / 17	23 / 12	19 / 15	22 / 17

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric Pressure	Sunrise and Sunset
Yesterday's High: 53 in 1999	Year to Date: 0.07"	Yesterday's Maximum: 50%	Yesterday: 30.5 in	Wednesday Sunrise: 8:07 AM Sunset: 5:24 PM
Yesterday's Low: 23 in 1999	Month to Date: 0.07"	Today's Minimum: 20%	Today: 30.5 in	Thursday Sunrise: 8:08 AM Sunset: 5:24 PM
Record High: +12.9 in 1961	Normal Year to Date: 0.07"	Record Low: 10.0 in 1961	Record Low: 29.8 in 1961	Friday Sunrise: 8:08 AM Sunset: 5:24 PM
Record Low: -12.9 in 1961	Normal Year to Date: 0.07"	Record High: 100.0 in 1961	Record High: 30.5 in 1961	Saturday Sunrise: 8:09 AM Sunset: 5:24 PM

MOON PHASES



MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Today	Tomorrow	Today	Tomorrow
7:55 AM	8:00 AM	6:00 PM	5:55 PM

REGIONAL FORECAST

City	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Boise	42	25	38	18
Idaho Falls	40	23	35	16
Blackfoot	38	21	33	14
Shoshone	36	19	31	12
Arco	34	17	29	10
Almo	32	15	27	8
Hamlet	30	13	25	6
Donnerstag	28	11	23	4
Wendover	26	9	21	2
Albion	24	7	19	0
Blaine	22	5	17	-2
Brantford	20	3	15	-4
Chubbuck	18	1	13	-6
Donnelly	16	-1	11	-8
Elgin	14	-3	9	-10
Hammond	12	-5	7	-12
Heppner	10	-7	5	-14
Idaho City	8	-9	3	-16
Jerome	6	-11	1	-18
Kimberly	4	-13	-1	-20
Malheur	2	-15	-3	-22
McCall	0	-17	-5	-24
Malheur	-2	-19	-7	-26
Mountain Home	-4	-21	-9	-28
Opportunity	-6	-23	-11	-30
Prater	-8	-25	-13	-32
Reynolds	-10	-27	-15	-34
Shoshone	-12	-29	-17	-36
Stanton	-14	-31	-19	-38
Timber Lake	-16	-33	-21	-40
Twin Falls	-18	-35	-23	-42
Wendover	-20	-37	-25	-44
Wilder	-22	-39	-27	-46
Worley	-24	-41	-29	-48
Yellowstone	-26	-43	-31	-50

NATIONAL FORECAST

City	Hi	Lo	City	Hi	Lo
Atlanta	48	32	Los Angeles	42	28
Boston	40	24	Las Vegas	38	24
Chicago	38	22	Memphis	36	20
Dallas	36	20	Minneapolis	34	18
Denver	34	18	Mobile	32	16
Detroit	32	16	New Orleans	30	14
Houston	30	14	Phoenix	28	12
Indianapolis	28	12	Portland	26	10
Jacksonville	26	10	Raleigh	24	8
Los Angeles	24	8	San Antonio	22	6
Los Angeles	22	6	San Diego	20	4
Los Angeles	20	4	San Francisco	18	2
Los Angeles	18	2	Seattle	16	0
Los Angeles	16	0	St. Louis	14	-2
Los Angeles	14	-2	Tampa	12	-4
Los Angeles	12	-4	Washington	10	-6
Los Angeles	10	-6	Wichita	8	-8
Los Angeles	8	-8	Yonkers	6	-10

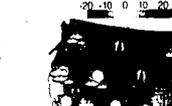
U.V. INDEX



WORLD FORECAST

City	Hi	Lo	City	Hi	Lo
London	10	4	Paris	8	2
Madrid	12	6	Rome	10	4
Stockholm	14	8	Oslo	12	6
Helsinki	16	10	Reykjavik	14	8
Amsterdam	18	12	Brussels	16	10
Frankfurt	20	14	Zurich	18	12
Berlin	22	16	Munich	20	14
Vienna	24	18	Prague	22	16
Warsaw	26	20	Budapest	24	18
Belgrade	28	22	Sofia	26	20
Thessaloniki	30	24	Belgrade	28	22
Bratislava	32	26	Prague	30	24
Brno	34	28	Vienna	32	26
Bratislava	36	30	Prague	34	28
Brno	38	32	Vienna	36	30
Bratislava	40	34	Prague	38	32
Brno	42	36	Vienna	40	34

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do."
-Mark Twain

CANADIAN FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
Calgary	32	20	Edmonton	30	18
London	28	16	Montreal	26	14
Ottawa	24	12	Quebec	22	10
Regina	20	8	Saskatoon	18	6
Winnipeg	16	4	Victoria	14	2

AP names Tomlinson, Taylor, Bailey unanimous All-Pro

NEW YORK (AP) — LaDainian Tomlinson, Jason Taylor and Champ Bailey capped superb seasons by unanimously making The Associated Press NFL All-Pro team announced Monday.

Tomlinson, San Diego's record-setting running back, also won the AP Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year awards. Miami end Taylor was the Defensive Player of the Year.

Bailey tied for the league lead with 10 interceptions even though opponents tried to avoid throwing to the Broncos cornerback's side of the field.



San Diego Chargers halfback LaDainian Tomlinson celebrates the Chargers' 20-17 victory over the Denver Broncos in this Dec. 5, 2004, in San Diego.

"My whole idea to go out on a Sunday is to be a pain in the butt for the other team," said Taylor, who had 62 tackles, 13 1/2 sacks, 14 quarterback hurries, two interceptions — both returned for TDs — 11 passes defensed, 10 fumbles forced and two fumbles recovered.

"I can be a pain in their butt and give somebody a headache, there more times than not it's going to work out well for myself."

It worked out so well for him, Tomlinson — who set NFL records for points with 186, touchdowns with 31 and TDs rushing with 20 — and Bailey that they received all 50 votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL.

2006 NFL All-Pro Team

Offense	Quarterback	Running Back	Wide Receiver	Tight End	Offensive Line	Center
Tomlinson	Tomlinson	Tomlinson	Tomlinson	Tomlinson	Tomlinson	Tomlinson

Two others, both Chicago Bears, came close to sweeping the vote. Devin Hester, who set a league mark with six kick returns for touchdowns, was the only rookie on the team, earning 40k votes. Middle linebacker Brian Urlacher, a repeater from last year, got 48.

Tom Brady is scaring the AFC again

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — When Tom Brady was overbooked in this year's Pro Bowl voting, his reaction demonstrated exactly what he is all about.

"The only one I bow I'm interested in and it's not the Pro Bowl," he said.

After Sunday's win over the New York Jets, the New England Patriots' star quarterback is two wins away from getting back to that Bowl for the fourth time. He's 4-0 in the Super Bowl and now is 11-1 in playoff games, the main reason the lowest-seeded team of the four left in the AFC might be the scariest.

In fact, San Diego, Baltimore and Indianapolis saw what they knew — and possibly feared they'd see — in the Patriots' 37-16 win over the Jets 22-for-34 for 212 yards and two touchdowns as Brady simply picked apart a team that battered him less than two months ago at the same venue, when New York won 17-14.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) throws under pressure from New York Jets safety Kerry Rhodes (25) during their 37-16 victory over the New York Jets in their AFC wild-card playoff football game in Foxborough, Mass. Sunday.

That's classic Brady: resilient and remarkably consistent.

In six seasons as New England's starter, his passer rating has been between 85.7 (2002) and 92.6, and his touchdown to interception ratio just about 2-1. He was right there this season despite a receiving corps that might have been the worst of any playoff teams an 87.9 rating with 21 TDs and 12 interceptions.

That makes the Pro Bowl slight even more curious, although Pro Bowl selections normally are curious by definition. The other AFC QBs are Peyton Manning (automatic), Carson Palmer (OK) and Philip Rivers of the Chargers, who is in his first season as a starter and still a bit untested in the end of the season.

Anyone want to bet Mary Schottenheimer would rather have Brady than Rivers when his Chargers (14-2 in the regular season) play host next Sunday to the Patriots?

One simple stat from Sunday's game illustrates how good Brady is. Jabar Gaffney, unemployed until October, had eight catches for 104 yards after having only 11 all season and just a single 100-yard game since 2001.

"Tom has been harping all year that if we get open, he's going to get it," said Gaffney. "I said after the game, 'Today it was Jabar's day.'"

When we need key plays he makes them. Even if he had to run, whatever it takes to get into position to win the halldgame, that's what he's going to do when he's out there."

Run? That's what happened in the 17-13 win over Chicago on Nov. 26. With the game tied at 10 in the fourth quarter, Brady took off on a third- and 9 from the Bears 14, getting a first

down by dodging the fearsome Brian Urlacher, last year's defensive player of the year and an All-Pro this season. Then he threw a 2-yard TD pass to Watson for the go-ahead score.

Against the Jets on Sunday, it was as much his mastery of the offense as his skills as a passer or runner that won the game.

"As a quarterback you always like it when the defense is off-balance," he said. "I think we got into a situation where we were forcing them to get their stuff called and lined up the right way or else they were going to have a hard time stopping us. I think, at times, we really forced the issue on them."

Said modestly, of course, with little hint that few other quarterbacks can get a defense off-balance the way Brady can.

"He's the field general," Watson says. "He never sits down when we're off the field and he's always rallying the troops. He's a fiery guy and a great competitor. He was locked in from the beginning. He lets us hear it when we don't do stuff right, but it's constructive and we know he just wants to win. When I was in college, he was out there winning Super Bowls, so there's no quarterback I'd rather have."

Especially in the playoffs. The Pro Bowl? Who cares.

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Saddam still being heard at war crimes trial

By Lauren Freyer
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein had been dead nine days but his voice resounded through the courtroom Monday as he and his cousin "Chemical Ali" discussed killing thousands of Kurds in the 1980s, according to audiotapes played at their war crimes trial.

Saddam's physical presence was gone — his chair in the white metal pen where the defendants sit was empty — but his aura still hung over the proceedings against his former regime members.

The trial reopened for the first time since Dec. 21 and a little more than a week since Saddam was hanged for the killing of 148 Shiites after an assassination attempt in the town of Dujjail in 1992.

Meanwhile, new video of Saddam's corpse shortly after the hanging was posted on the Internet. It showed a gaping wound on Saddam's neck, with his head unnaturally twisted at a 90 degree angle to his right.

The video appeared to have been taken with a camera phone, like the graphic video of the hanging which defied guards taunting Saddam in the final moments of his life. The court's first order of business Monday was to dismiss all charges against Saddam. His co-defendant — including his cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali" — remain in the dock for allegedly killing 180,000 Kurds in the 1980s as Iraq fought a protracted war with Iran.

Prosecutor Munqith al-Farooq aired graphic video during Monday's court session of scores of bodies in Iraq and in piles on the street, overlaid with a voice purported to be that of al-Majid saying, "I will hit them with chemical weapons."

"Damn the international community if they say anything. I will strike them all with chemical weapons," the voice continued.

Another audiotape had a voice identified as Saddam's warning, "These weapons are only used at night." He also reassured colleagues that the weapons "kill by the thousands."

"It will force them out of their homes without water or food. It makes them evacuate their homes naked," the voice said.

In court, al-Majid described the video as "painful," but said it showed the work of Iranian troops, not Iraqis. As for the audio, al-Majid did not deny the voices were his and Saddam's.



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, left, stands with his new Vice President Jorge Rodriguez, as the outgoing Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel watches from behind, at the swearing ceremony of new ministers in Caracas, Monday.

Chavez to nationalize companies in move toward 'socialist republic'

By Ian James
Associated Press writer

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez announced plans Monday to nationalize Venezuela's electrical and telecommunications companies and amend the constitution as he moves to transform his country into a socialist state.

"All of that which was privatized, let it be nationalized," Chavez said in a televised speech, referring to "all of those sectors in an area so important and strategic for all of us as electricity."

"The nation should recover its ownership of strategic sectors," he added after swearing in a new Cabinet.

Chavez also said he wanted a constitutional amendment to eliminate the autonomy of the Central Bank.

"We're moving toward a socialist republic of Venezuela, and that requires a deep reform of our national

constitution," Chavez said.

Before Chavez was re-elected by a wide margin last month, he promised to take a more radical turn toward socialism. Monday's announcement appeared likely to affect Electricidad de Caracas, owned by Arlington, Virginia-based AES Corp., and C.A. Nacional Telefonos de Venezuela, known as CANTV, the country's largest publicly traded company.

Chavez also said he would soon ask the National Assembly, which is solidly controlled by his allies, to approve a law giving him powers to approve such changes by decree.

Chavez said that lucrative oil projects in the Orinoco River basin involving foreign oil companies should be under national ownership. He didn't spell out whether that meant a complete nationalization, but said any vestiges of private control over the energy sector should be

undone.

"I'm referring to how international companies have control and power over all those processes of improving the heavy crudes of the Orinoco belt — no — that should become the property of the nation," Chavez said.

In the oil sector, it didn't appear Chavez was nailing out all private investment. Since last year, his government has been in talks with foreign investors on forming "mixed companies" with a majority stake held by the state to upgrade heavy crude in the Orinoco.

Such joint ventures have already been formed in other parts of the country.

Chavez threatened last August to nationalize CANTV, a Caracas-based former state firm that was privatized in 1991, unless it adjusted its pension payments to current minimum-wage levels, which have been repeatedly increased by his government.

German court sentences Moroccan to 15 years for aiding Sept. 11 attackers

By Simon Usher
Associated Press writer

HAMBURG, Germany — A Moroccan man convicted of aiding three of the four suicide pilots who committed the Sept. 11 attacks was sentenced Monday to the maximum of 15 years in prison for his role in the terrorist plot.

A German federal appeals court convicted Mouin el Motassadeq in November of knowingly helping the hijackers and sent the case to a state court in Hamburg for sentencing.

"Anyone who helped in this has earned stiff punishment," presiding Judge Carsten Beckmann said after announcing Monday's verdict. Defense lawyers said they would appeal.

Shortly before the verdict was announced, the 32-year-old defendant exchanged emotionally charged words with an American whose mother died on one of the two planes that crashed into the World Trade Center.

Dominic Puppolo Jr. fought back tears and held up pictures of his mother, Sonia Morales Puppolo, an American Airlines flight attendant, as he joined prosecutors in calling for the maximum penalty. He urged the judges to consider the "human and emotional cost" of the 2001 attacks. The American man is a co-plaintiff in the case under the German court system.

When the court granted El Motassadeq a final chance to speak, the slightly built, bearded man turned to Puppolo to say, "I understand your suffering. ... The

"Anyone who helped in this (Sept. 11 attacks) has earned stiff punishment."

— presiding Judge Carsten Beckmann

same thing is being done to me, my kids, my parents, my family — my future is ruined."

Puppolo said he forgave el Motassadeq, and reminded him that he will one day be free.

"You have a chance to rebuild your life and be back with your family. Others don't," Puppolo said. "Your life is not over, but my

is." The federal appeals court had ruled that the Hamburg judges wrongly acquitted el Motassadeq in 2005 of direct involvement in the attack even though the Hamburg court sentenced him to seven years in prison for belonging to a terrorist group.

The appeals court convicted el Motassadeq as an accessory to the murder of the 246 passengers and crew members aboard the four jetliners used in the attacks, and ordered the state court to set a new sentence.

El Motassadeq's attorneys said they intended to challenge the sentence before a federal appeals court. They have already appealed the conviction to the Federal Constitutional Court, arguing that the court failed properly to hear evidence from other terror suspects. It is unclear whether that court, Germany's highest, will consider the complaint.

Defense lawyer Ladislav Anisic said they might also appeal to the European Court of Justice.



El Motassadeq

Democrats warn they may deny money for sending new troops to Iraq

By David Ego
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — In a blunt challenge to President Bush, the leader of the Senate's new Democratic majority said Monday he will "look at everything" within his power to wind down the war in Iraq, short of cutting off funding for troops already deployed.

"I think we've got to tell the president what he's doing as wrong. We've got to start bringing our folks home," said Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, in remarks that portend a struggle if, as expected, Bush announces plans later this week for an increase in troop strength of 20,000.

Meanwhile, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy said one option under consideration would be for Congress to vote on denying the use of funds for

Where they stand

MONEY FOR TROOPS: Congressional Democrats said Monday they may try to block funds for short-term troop buildup in Iraq. **BUSH SPEECH:** The president is expected to call for an increase of about 20,000 troops in Iraq in an address to the nation at 7 p.m. **SENATE IDEAS:** One Democrat has suggested legislation to limit the number of troops, while others have discussed a nonbinding measure calling off Bush to withdraw troops. Few have talked about holding a fresh vote on authorizing the war.

such an increase in the U.S. deployment. Several officials said the Massachusetts Democrat was hoping lawmakers could register their views before any increase in troops was implemented.

More broadly, Reid signaled that Bush's expected call for an additional \$100 billion for the war would receive close scrutiny from newly empowered Democrats.

"We have a platform we didn't have before. Leader

Industry-funded beverage studies promote own product, study contends

The Associated Press

Does milk lower blood pressure? Does juice prevent heart disease? Beverage studies were four to eight times more likely to reach sweet conclusions than other studies, a new industry-funded study is focusing the bill, a new report contends.

Its authors claim to have done the first systematic analysis of such studies published from 1999 through 2003 in hundreds of journals around the world.

"We found evidence that's strongly suggestive of bias," said Dr. David Ludwig, an obesity specialist at Children's Hospital

Boston who led the work, which was published Monday in the online science journal PLoS Medicine. The consumer advocacy group Center for Science in the Public Interest also participated.

"I don't blame researchers for the problem. I think most are highly ethical and dedicated to science. The problem is that when government underfunds nutrition research, industry money becomes hard to resist," he said.

Van Halen, R.E.M. headline newest Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class

By Joe Miltich
Associated Press writer

CLEVELAND — Van Halen made a "jump" into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday, along with Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five — the first rap act to be inducted into the hall — and R.E.M., the Ronettes and Pat Smith.

A panel of 600 industry figures selected the five acts to be inducted at the annual ceremony to be held March 12 in New York. To be eligible, artists must have issued a first single or album at least 25 years before nomination.

"R.E.M. and myself in particular are really terrible at looking backward," R.E.M.'s lead singer Michael Stipe told The Associated Press via phone from London. "We kind of as a

band continually look forward so it's really fantastic that someone, especially the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, are looking backward to recognize the work that we've done."

"I'm just really honored that they thought of us," he added.

Van Halen was the 1980s hard rock quartet led by guitarist Eddie Van Halen, outrageous lead vocalist David Lee Roth, and later, rocker Sammy Hagar, that put out hits such as "Jump" and "Dreams."

Eddie Van Halen stood out with his blistering guitar solos, his feud with Roth led to Hagar's run with the band, which produced hits into the 1990s.

Rock's new royalty inductees to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame 2007.



Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five Led innovative act in hip-hop's formative years; "The Message" was the first rap to be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. America.

Pat Smith "The Godmother of Punk" came out of the 70s with a blend of cerebral, raggedy emotional music.

Van Halen 1980s hard rock quartet that put out hits such as "Jump" and "Dreams."

R.E.M. Indie rock band that broke through to mass success in early 90s with Pat Smear and "Losing My Religion."

The Ronettes This beehive girl group achieved success in the 60s with Phil Spector and "Be My Baby."

Message" was like a letter from urban America. Grandmaster Flash was considered a pioneer in many DJ techniques.

With beehive hairdos and dark eyeliner, the 1960s girl group the Ronettes (Estelle Bennett, Ronnie Spector, Nedra Talley) achieved their greatest success with producer Phil Spector and his "wall of sound" style. Spector, who is awaiting a March 5 murder trial in the 2003 shooting death of actress Lana Clarkson, co-wrote the trio's biggest hit, "Be My Baby," and was married to its lead singer, Ronnie Spector. The Rock Hall will also honor Ahmet Ertegun, the founder of Atlantic Records, who was a crucial figure in the careers of artists such as Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin and the Rolling Stones and one of the leading figures to help create the rock hall.

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TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom 2 bath, 1.586 sq. ft. Great location. 451 Trotter. Approx \$159,500 make offer. Call Suzie Richardson Canyonside Realty 208-420-3765 or suzie@ezzerichardson.com

304 Investments
DRACO INVESTMENT CORP
 CASH for Deeds of Trust, Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts. Call today for a free, no-obligation quote (208)733-3821

401 School Instruction
MESSAGE TRAINING
 Spring Semester Technician Program (Medium Massage) 108 hours Starts Feb 9 12 week course. Fridays 7:00am Sats. 10am-3:00pm Therapist Program 500-650 hours Pathology Mon. 6:30-9:30pm Tues. 6:30-9:30pm Twin Falls Institute of Holistic Studies. Established in 1995. Call 208-328-4870

TIMES-NEWS
 The Times-News is currently looking for independent route Carriers

Sign On Bonus
BUHL MOTOR ROUTES
 1 to hour - 20 miles 2 hours - 45 miles

SHOSHONE TOWN ROUTES
 \$350-\$400 every 4 weeks

SHOSHONE MOTOR ROUTES
 3 to hours - 70 miles. \$1,200 every 4 weeks. If you live in these areas and are interested in being a newspaper carrier. Please contact Kathy Harman 735-3348

301 Business Opportunities
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
COMMERCIAL
 600,000 bushel grain storage ag facility, scullies, RR, siding, warehouse.
BURLEY
 Brink, 3125 sq. ft., commercial, on Overland, \$59,000
GOODING - Bean, grain, trincate storage process and facility. Full investment. Good investment.

302 Open House
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
 Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding time share and real estate scams, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20588 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7060.

Homes For Sale
HOME INSPECTIONS
 3000+ since 1993 For buyers & sellers Bill Baker 328-5115
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New Name • New Look • New Features • More Listings



Click the Magic Valley HomeSeller button on our homepage magicvalley.com.

802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS Masonry style house (2000-sq ft) formal living/dining, bsm, fenced yard, new style. Call 208-244-8042.

802 Unfurnished Homes

BUHL 2 bdrm home w/appliances & garage near city park. Natural gas heat and newer w/h. Call 208-328-0674.

802 Unfurnished Homes

FILER 3 bdrm, mtg home, energy efficient 1 acre, beautiful area, rls, 829-2836 or 264-2834.

802 Unfurnished Homes

SHOSHONE nice 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, nice location, 5650 + 1", last \$200 clearing or less 264-2834.

802 Unfurnished Homes

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm, 15891 Filer Ave East \$425 + dep. No pets, water, yard care provided. Call 208-734-6230.

802 Unfurnished Homes

TWIN FALLS clean 2 bdrm, central air, some tile, no pets, \$595 4-dp, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath. Call 208-734-6230.

803 Furnished Apts. And Duplex

KIMBERLY lg 1 bdrm, basement, central air, no smoking, pets, \$450 utilities incl. Free cable. 423-4020

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

TWIN FALLS 4 1/2 bedrooms, 4 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, 2nd floor apt. Call 208-244-8042.

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage. \$750 + dep. No pet smoking. Call 208-316-0435

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm, 1 bath, clean large 1 bdrm, 1 bath, tile, water, sewer, garbage incl. \$475 + \$300 dep. Call 208-731-0919.

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

LAUREL PARK 176 Maurice St. Twin Falls 734-4195. One bedroom apt. Rent based on income. Housing Assistance Available. For information and application call Sandra or Janet 208-734-4195. Equal Opportunity Housing

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

BUHL \$99 Move In Special. Excellent 2 bed room units available immediately. Spacious plan with individual patios/balconies. Gas heat, central air, W/D hook ups and central laundry area. Key Meadows. Call 423-3740

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

CASTLEFORD 1 bdrm, available now. Rent based on income. Equal Opportunity Housing. 208-543-8833

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

HAGERMAN 1 bdrm, unfurnished apt. \$325 + \$325 security deposit. No pets. Tenant responsible for power, phone, TV. Call 208-734-0747 for appointment.

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

HAZELTON 1 bdrm, apt. \$375 month + \$350 dep and utilities. Call 208-536-4611

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

JEROME Casa Del Prado Apts 1 bdrm for immediate move in. Friendly assisted. Please contact Cindy 208-324-0572

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

JEROME Links Apts, accepting applications. Units available, all apts smoking, W/D hook-up, AC, high speed internet, cable, garage, IHA accepted. Contact Cindy 208-324-0572

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

JEROME Prestwick Apts over 62 handicap covered or disabled. 1 bdrm, 2 bath, 1 1/2 car garage, AC, incl. patio, AC, incl. AC, high speed internet, cable, garage, IHA accepted. Contact Cindy 208-324-0572

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

JEROME upstairs apt. 2 bdrm, 1 bath, apts. include car & trash. pad. \$390 + dep. 731-0547 or 543-8258

804 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

JEROME 225 W. 6th St. Brand New 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 story 1 1/2 car garage. Call \$700/month + deposit. H30 Properties

812 Farms/Ranches/Dairies

Idaho Water Rights We buy water rights that don't qualify for CREP. 410-0438

812 Farms/Ranches/Dairies

JEROME 240 South Lincoln, 3000 sq ft, 2000 sq ft, pool, parking, 1.000.500. Call 208-420-0799 John

812 Farms/Ranches/Dairies

WHO can help you sell your property? Call 733-0931 ext. 2. www.magicvalley.com

812 Farms/Ranches/Dairies

Mobile Homes **BUHL** 1973 24x48 mobile home that has been remodeled. Needs to be moved. \$495 + dep. Call 733-0433-8343

812 Farms/Ranches/Dairies

Mobile Homes **HANSEN** 973 Nashua 14x56, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 431-6684 days or 208-473-5588 evenings

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Mobile Homes **JEROME** 1992 Georion 2 1/2 mobile home, 1800 sq ft. Very good cond. Call 733-0931 ext. 2

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Mobile Homes **WANTED** GILLY or NICE mobiles. Call Joyce 212-6554

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Mobile Homes

Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex. WENDELL. Now accepting applications for 2 bdrm apartments. Clean & moderate. Convenient location. Stocked, laundry rm. on premises & rent based on income. Rancho Vista Apts. Wendell 536-2844

Rooms For Rent. TWIN FALLS MOTEL. Clean and well kept. Quiet, clean, affordable. 733-8620.

Mobile Homes. EDEN 2 bedroom, all appliances, \$350 month + \$200 deposit. \$145 required. No pets. 208-825-5231

EDEN 3 small bedrooms, all appliances, wood stove, 5375 mo. + \$200 deposit. Includes water & garbage. Must have references. No pets. Call 208-825-5231

JEROME 2 bedroom 1 bath, very private location. \$425 month + deposit. 539-2918

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, VWD, wood clean and quiet. No pets. \$380 + dep. Apts. trailer space. \$1500 + dep. 735-8477

Office And Retail Rentals. TWIN FALLS new office. 1500 Eastland Dr. 2,200 sq ft. Call 208-733-2323

TWIN FALLS Office/Retail Storage. 292-6400 sq ft. Several Locations. Hammett Management. 208-734-4339

TWIN FALLS small business space. 600 sq ft office with 1,000 sq ft shop. \$655 mo. dep. 2283 Wright Ave. 208-736-6246

Commercial Property. Offices, Shop, Warehouse. 144, 12,600 sq ft. Twin Falls Rentals 734-4334

TWIN FALLS 900 sq ft office w/1600 sq ft. \$700 month. 208-734-4120

TWIN FALLS New 600 sq ft office w/1600 sq ft. \$700 month. 208-734-4120

JEROME Small office w/warehouse 700 truck scale, 5 car road ramp, southeast of town. Call 444-1730 from 404-3243

JEROME Storage/warehouse. Storage, offices and 2000 sq ft. 208-825-5231 or part. 208-200-1004

Roommates Wanted. TWIN FALLS new house with yard, interior, hot tub, pool table and other amenities. \$300 mo. incl. all util. 404-3243

Livestock/Poultry. BEEF for butcher. Etc. \$1.45 per pound hanging weight. Call 208-734-3170

COWS 3-year black & black white face cows. Due to start calving. Feb. 208-866-7154 or 539-7153.

COWS. Breed Longhorns for sale. Call 208-326-3679

TWIN FALLS LIVESTOCK COMMISSION COMPANY. Early consignment January 10th. 85 head of black aged stock cows. 10 head of red aged stock cows. 50 head mixed running aged stock. Stock cow sale starts at 12:00pm. 600 Railroad Ave. Twin Falls. 208-733-7474

HEIFERS (17) head. 1 Iron, no track. All first calf. Call weight. \$28.324-3251.

CONNECT WITH CUSTOMERS WHO NEED YOUR SERVICE. Advertise in the Business & Service Directory 733-9397 ext. 2

Horse and Tack. EQUINE. Paul Struchan Trimming. We can handle all your trimming needs. 30 years experience. Call 208-734-3978 or 208-338-3978

FREE Kittens, several. 2-3 months old, 1 good black, 1 good black & white, 1 black, very cute. 1st shots & dewormed. Call 208-808-4898.

FREE Guinea Pigs, 1 male, 1 female. Call 208-734-2755 for more information.

FREE Dutch puppies, 9 weeks old, 2 males, 1 black and tan, 1 black, very cute. 1st shots & dewormed. Call 208-808-4898.

FREE kittens, 2-3 months old, 1 good black, 1 good black & white, 1 black, very cute. 1st shots & dewormed. Call 208-808-4898.

FREE Lab cross puppies. Call for information. 208-324-1121

FREE Lab chocolette, 1 year old, female, friendly, shaved, good for a new home. Call 208-420-8152

FREE Mixed breed, 1 year old, short haired, sweetest little face! Great with kids, very full of love. Needs little love. Home due to circumstances. 735-5166 or 734-7068

FREE Mixed breed dog, female, spayed, 7-8 years old. Home trained. \$200-420-5182

FREE Red Bull mix puppy. Female, very good dog, needs a lot of attention. Very fun! Call 208-826-3100

FREE Stock dog, to spayed, home female, \$45. 9393 or 961-0449 for info.

GERMAN SHEPHERDS. Puppies & Rescue. All three available! Call for info. 208-734-4334

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1/9/07

3 Where Pago Pago is 4 Shatter 5 With no sweat 6 Froth cap 7 Ship's jail 8 Grass ground 9 Cook's formula 10 Lad and Alda 11 Fits perfectly 12 Mimic 13 Buttons of films 21 Equal scores 22 Discharged 24 Flipped 25 Eradicate 26 Rent again 28 Fine mist 30 Military middle 31 Rustic residence 32 Go too far 33 Kennedy or Turner 35 Lair 37 Frigten 38 Funnymen Benny

42 Caesar's date? 44 Stopped 45 Ancient calculator 46 Vacation destination 48 Vikinglike 50 Salesman's spiel

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THE ACES ON BRIDGE
 Bobby Wolff

"Nature meant there to be illusions for the wise as well as the foolish, so that the wise should not be made too unhappy by their wisdom."
 — Chamfort

This week's deals all come from the finals of the 1999 Bermuda Bowl World Championships. Today's is from the match between Norway and Indonesia.

In one room the Norwegians stole the pot with the East-West cards, South having passed initially (the textbook action maybe, but one I heartily disagree with). Even though he backed in with spades, his partner simply assumed he had less and sold out to three diamonds. Plus 100 was a poor return here.

That left Egil Furunes for Norway in position to collect 420 for an 8-IMP pickup after the rather rustic auction shown below. On the top-club lead, Furunes won in dummy and played a trump at once. Henry Lasut as West for Indonesia took this, cashed a club, then deviously shifted to a diamond.

Declarer now played the correct technical line when he took the ace and drove out the remaining trump honor. This line wins whenever hearts behave or the club and diamond menaces are split — but not here, where the single menaces are in the same hand and the hearts are guarded by the other hand. There was thus no pressure in the ending, and four spades duly went one down. Four well-deserved IMPs went to Indonesia.

Last week from the bidding and early play that South could not hold more than one diamond. Declarer might not know yet if he needed a second trick from the diamonds, so West's playing the suit at trick four put him under immediate pressure.

NORTH		01-A
♠	5 3	
♥	K 9 6	
♦	A Q 7	
♣	A 9 8 7 4	

WEST		EAST	
♠	K 9 4	♠	A 8
♥	7 4	♥	J 10 8 2
♦	K J 2	♦	9 8 6 5 4 3
♣	K Q J 3 2	♣	5

SOUTH		NORTH	
♠	Q J 10 7 6 2	♠	A 8
♥	A Q 5 3	♥	J 10 8 2
♦	10	♦	9 8 6 5 4 3
♣	10 6	♣	5

Vulnerable: East-West
 Dealer: East

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 2 ♥ Pass 3 NT Pass
 4 ♠ All pass

Opening lead: Club king

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ K 9 6
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ A 9 8 7 4

South West North East
 1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ Pass
 1 NT 1 ♠ Pass
 ?

ANSWER: This sequence is natural and nonforcing. (Partner could always cuebid two hearts to create a force.) So you should expect partner to have no game interest and be 5-4 or 5-5 in spades and diamonds. Since even a 4-3 diamond fit may handle better than spades, passing looks to be the right action here.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbywolff@madpage.com.
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THE ACES ON BRIDGE
 Bobby Wolff

"Nature meant there to be illusions for the wise as well as the foolish, so that the wise should not be made too unhappy by their wisdom."
 — Chamfort

This week's deals all come from the finals of the 1999 Bermuda Bowl World Championships. Today's is from the match between Norway and Indonesia.

In one room the Norwegians stole the pot with the East-West cards, South having passed initially (the textbook action maybe, but one I heartily disagree with). Even though he backed in with spades, his partner simply assumed he had less and sold out to three diamonds. Plus 100 was a poor return here.

That left Egil Furunes for Norway in position to collect 420 for an 8-IMP pickup after the rather rustic auction shown below. On the top-club lead, Furunes won in dummy and played a trump at once. Henry Lasut as West for Indonesia took this, cashed a club, then deviously shifted to a diamond.

Declarer now played the correct technical line when he took the ace and drove out the remaining trump honor. This line wins whenever hearts behave or the club and diamond menaces are split — but not here, where the single menaces are in the same hand and the hearts are guarded by the other hand. There was thus no pressure in the ending, and four spades duly went one down. Four well-deserved IMPs went to Indonesia.

Last week from the bidding and early play that South could not hold more than one diamond. Declarer might not know yet if he needed a second trick from the diamonds, so West's playing the suit at trick four put him under immediate pressure.

NORTH		01-A
♠	5 3	
♥	K 9 6	
♦	A Q 7	
♣	A 9 8 7 4	

WEST		EAST	
♠	K 9 4	♠	A 8
♥	7 4	♥	J 10 8 2
♦	K J 2	♦	9 8 6 5 4 3
♣	K Q J 3 2	♣	5

SOUTH		NORTH	
♠	Q J 10 7 6 2	♠	A 8
♥	A Q 5 3	♥	J 10 8 2
♦	10	♦	9 8 6 5 4 3
♣	10 6	♣	5

Vulnerable: East-West
 Dealer: East

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
 2 ♥ Pass 3 NT Pass
 4 ♠ All pass

Opening lead: Club king

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:
 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ K 9 6
 ♦ A Q 7
 ♣ A 9 8 7 4

South West North East
 1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ Pass
 1 NT 1 ♠ Pass
 ?

ANSWER: This sequence is natural and nonforcing. (Partner could always cuebid two hearts to create a force.) So you should expect partner to have no game interest and be 5-4 or 5-5 in spades and diamonds. Since even a 4-3 diamond fit may handle better than spades, passing looks to be the right action here.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbywolff@madpage.com.
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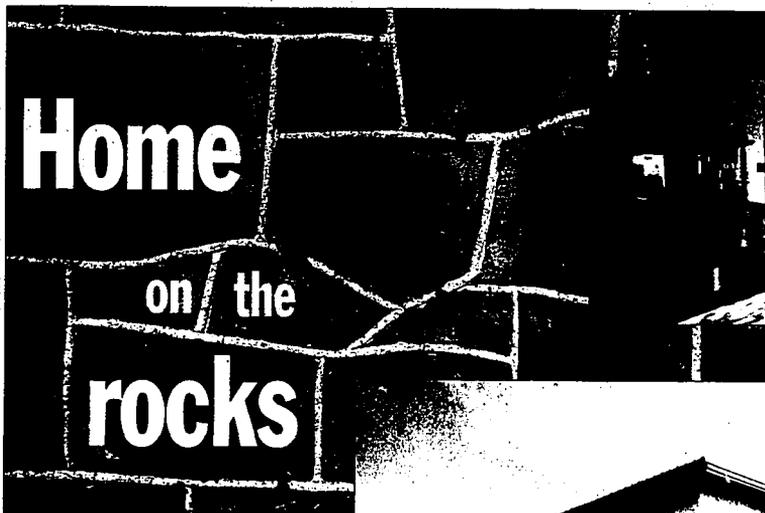
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INSIDE: Let your garden shine in the winter. D2



INSIDE: Comics, D2-3 | Horoscope, D2 | Dear Abby, D3



A family pet hangs out in the dining room as sunlight fills the room. The Hodgeses own several pieces of antique furniture to complement the old lava-rock home.

LEFT: Lava rocks fit tightly together in a random pattern on the southern wall of the Hodges home.

After generations, many of Magic Valley's lava-rock houses are still home

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

BUHL — Its walls are 16 inches thick, and when Fred Hodges' 1,300-square-foot lava-rock home north of Buhl turns 100 next year it may still be one of the most energy-efficient houses around.

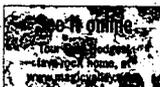
"It's quite comfortable, summer and winter," Hodges explained. "And there's not much you have to do to it." Basalt homes like Hodges' have not been built in Magic Valley since World War II, but there are still about 50 rock houses between Rupert and King Hill that are inhabited, according to Marian Posey-Wilson, an amateur Jerome County historian who has studied the history of lava-rock homes.

"They'll last forever if they were well built and well maintained — especially the mortar on the west side," she said.

In addition, there are a few dozen basalt barns and out-buildings still being used, including perhaps the most prominent lava-rock structure in south-central Idaho — the former Spanbauer Barn, now the floss event barn, east of Jerome.

"Most rock homes were built between 1903 and 1922, although a few structures such as a church in Burley were built as late as 1943," Posey-Wilson said.

Basalt became the building material of choice for some folks in Magic Valley's early days because it was free and readily available, and because



there were skilled stonemasons available who could work with lava rock.

"We sure haven't run out of rock, but there's nobody left who really knows how to build with it," Posey-Wilson said.

There were just a handful of such artisans — some of them veterans of building Milner Dam and the Minidoka Project, others who were former hardrock miners from the Wood River Valley.

At best, basalt is challenging to work with. It's heavy — nearly half again as heavy as brick — with sharp edges. And unlike brick and wood, there's no uniformity to it.

A modest-size rock house would require upwards of 1,000 tons of basalt — all of which had to be hauled by wagon or horse-drawn sledge to the construction site.

"I don't think there were any quarries, as such," Posey-Wilson said. "People just found an outcrop and worked from there."

Few rock houses had foundations: the basalt was simply fitted on top of the bedrock.

"I know of one house, though, where they had a ramp down into the basement so they could park the car," she said.

Virginia Ricketts, another Jerome County amateur historian, lives in the same rock



The lava-rock home of Penny and Fred Hodges, outside of Buhl, stands out against the Magic Valley sky it has rested under for a century.



house in Jerome in which her husband, Clair, grew up.

"In the summer, the house stays cool during the day, and in winter, it retains heat," she explained. Sort of the same thermodynamics as a lava-rock cave, where the original Magic Valley residents lived.

Basalt houses weren't framed with wood; they were built from the bottom up, so

all four walls had to interconnect for strength. According to Posey-Wilson, that meant that all the walls had to be built at the same time.

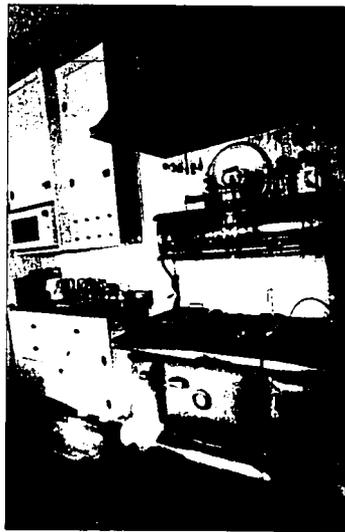
Spaces for windows and doors couldn't easily be cut out of solid basalt, so the builder had to assemble the walls just right — something akin to a jigsaw puzzle.

"There's no question that building rock houses was an art," she said.

In their heyday, new lava-rock homes would cost between \$1,500 and \$3,000.

"It's remarkable, considering all the work involved."

The coming of the railroad eventually made wood — hard to get and prohibitively expensive when the Twin Falls



This old stove that Fred Hodges fixed up fits perfectly in the kitchen that he and his wife, Penny, customized to fit their vision of an old home suitable for modern living.

tract was first settled — cheap enough for most homeowners to afford. "And by the (1920s), most of

the builders were getting older," Posey-Wilson said. "They didn't want to work as hard."

Many of the secrets of basalt home construction — like how to strike an outcrop of rock to make it split the way the builder wanted — died with the stonemasons.

They were hardscrabble men, adept at making the most of what little they had to work with.

"I think there was a certain amount of revenge, to tell you the truth," Posey-Wilson said. "Using the rocks they'd picked out of the fields to do something constructive with."



In their living room, Fred and Penny Hodges talk about their love for their home. The couple has spent a lot of time remodeling the historic home.

The interior of the Spanbauer Barn, now known as the floss event barn, east of Jerome. It's arguably the most prominent lava-rock structure in Magic Valley.

Times-News features writer Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223 or scrump@magicvalley.com.

COUNTRY ROADS

Show off with winter landscaping

By Joel M. Lerner
Special to The Washington Post

Question: I want to design a garden with showy, flowering winter plants. Can you make some suggestions?

Answer: Here are some plants that offer winter interest:

Heavily berrying female hollies become ornate as they ripen in winter.

Vernal witch hazels (*Hamamelis vernalis*) grow eight to 12 feet. Chinese varieties (*H. mollis*) grow about 10 to 15 feet.

They are shade tolerant and most have yellow flowers; some bloom red. A hybrid called Arnold promise (*H. x intermedia*) has fragrant flowers. These witch hazels have magnificent fall leaf color and winter blooms.

Winter-flowering jasmine has yellow flowers that open intermittently from January into March.

Its square stems stay green all winter. Its arching habit makes it perfect to plant on sunny slopes or to cascade over walls. Cut to the ground in spring to renew every five to seven years.

Hellebores are winter-flowering evergreen perennials 12 to 18 inches tall. Commonly available are many new hybrids (*Helleborus x hybridus*) and bearsfoot (*H. foetidus*). Blooming and hold-

Winter jasmine's arching habit makes it perfect to plant on sunny slopes or to cascade over walls.



Photo by GORDON LUMLEY/AMERICA'S WASHINGTON POST
Paperbark maple has outstanding cinnamon-red, peeling bark.

ing flowers from February to April, the greenish-white bearsfoot and hybrid hellebores, which range from purple-maroon through pink to white, will show through late winter snow.

Some early-blooming bulbs in February and March, before



Winter-flowering jasmine has yellow flowers that open intermittently from January into March. Its square stems stay green all winter.

the leaves are on the trees, are blue and white glory-of-the-

snow (*Chionodoxa*), yellow winter aconite (*Eranthis*) and bluebell (*Hyacinthoides*), which can be blue, lavender, pink or white.

They'll return for years. Squirrels and rabbits do not eat them. However, slugs can defoliate and eat the flowers of winter aconites, so when growth begins, use a slug control containing iron phosphate.

This will not harm humans, pets, wildlife, other non-target organisms or the environment. Agriculture Department scientists recently showed that caffeine kills and repels slugs. Try spreading coffee grounds around winter aconites as they emerge.

Here are woody plants

whose bark offers ornamental characteristics:

• Paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) has outstanding cinnamon-red, peeling bark. A bonus is that it's clean, and disease- and insect-resistant. It grows 20 to 25 feet tall.

• Kousa dogwood has maroon fall foliage. In winter the browns and almost white, light tans of the lacy bark are beautiful. It's shade tolerant, disease resistant and grows 20 to 30 feet tall.

• Redosier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) becomes ornamental in winter as it loses its leaves.

The long straight stems of these seven- to 10-foot shrubs turn an outstanding blood red that holds all winter.

Younger stems produce best color, so cut back in spring.

Joel Lerner is author of "Anyone Can Landscape" (Ball 2001). Contact him through his Web site, www.gardenlerner.com.

Witch hazels have magnificent fall leaf color and winter blooms.



Charcoal compost

By Scott Alar
Special to The Washington Post

Question: Wood ash can be used in the garden, but what about a combination of wood ash and charcoal from my smoker? Can this be applied to the compost pile?

Answer: It depends on what kind of charcoal you used. In its purest form, charcoal is nothing more than wood that has been baked in a kiln, and the ash that it produces may be used the same way as wood ash. Charcoal briquettes may have other ingredients in them such as starch, sodium nitrate and borax, but the quantities are rather small and unlikely to create a problem for plants. Wood ash should be used sparingly in compost piles. Excessive amounts can slow the composting process.

Saving pots

The Washington Post

Most clay pots will crack if left outdoors in winter. Dump old soil onto garden beds or the compost pile. Scrub the pots with a stiff brush dipped in a bleach solution, then rinse, dry and store the containers in a shed, garage or basement.

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Lawmakers open session hoping for early dismissal

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE, Idaho — Lawmakers convened the 2007 Legislature at noon Monday, hoping for a speedy session despite the specter of some issues that could become stumbling blocks.

House and Senate leaders are aiming to conclude by mid-March, in time to exit the Capitol building so a planned \$130 million renovation and expansion can start as scheduled in April.

Last year's session ran 93 days, the longest in Idaho history, as unresolved property tax and water issues kept politicians in Boise until April 11.

This year, lawmakers say they're optimistic they can be out much sooner — even

though there's a new governor. C.L. "Buck" Otter, an all-new House leadership team including Speaker Lawrence Donney, R-Midvale, and 22 brand-new legislators whom voters sent to Boise in the Nov. 7 election.



"We don't know what all of us are going to propose and what is going to join up the committees," said Rep. Frank Henderson, R-Post Falls. "But I think with all of the attention that's being paid to getting out of here early, it'll probably happen." Still, there are a few points of

friction that have emerged: For instance, minority Democrats say they'll fight "tooth and nail" against an industry-led proposal to repeal personal property taxes — about \$108 million annually — that are levied on business equipment to pay for local government services.

Many counties would be hurt if the tax were to be eliminated, said House Minority Leader Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum.

And Otter, even though he didn't mention it in his State of the State speech Monday, continues to stick by a campaign pledge to oppose the \$45 million addition of two underground wings on the 100-year-old Capitol.

In his \$2.84 billion budget proposal unveiled Monday morning, he told lawmakers he's not finished with

the matter. "The governor recommends that the scope of the Capitol restoration project be revised," Otter wrote. "Other project elements, including the underground extensions, would be held in abeyance."

Lawmakers including Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, said they thought the issue would be resolved: Bonds for the project have been sold, contracts issued and the work is under way.

More than two-dozen lawmakers, including many of the 22 new legislators, spent the first 3 1/2 hours of their day in a so-called "Law School for Legislators."

It was a refresher course in which state officials held a briefing on the nuances of Idaho open meeting laws, public records, ethics in govern-

ment — and their inevitable relationships with the lobbyists who populate "Lobby Lane." That's an area on the Capitol's fourth floor where special interests try to sway lawmakers on issues from property taxes and community colleges to incentives for drivers to tank up on bio-fuel.

Secretary of State Ben Yursa noted there are new proposed changes to lobbying laws that were just updated last year. "It's always a work in progress," he said. "I think we need some refinements in who is and who isn't covered by the executive branch lobbyist law. We'll see if we can't make some improvements."

In the Senate, leaders spent part of the day reorganizing committee assignments. That was necessitated by Otter's appointment of former

Rep. Shirley McKeague, R-Meridian, to fill Sen. Gerry Sweet's Senate seat that he vacated to take a job with newly elected U.S. Rep. Bill Sali, R-Idaho.

McKeague bumped Sen. John Anderson, R-Boise, from the Local Government and Taxation Committee, and was named to replace Sweet on the Judiciary and Rules Committee. Meanwhile, Sen. Jim Hammond, R-Post Falls, was named to replace Sweet on the Senate Finance Committee.

The House also still has some committee reshuffling to do, once Otter names a replacement for McKeague and for former Rep. Bill Deal, R-Nampa, whom the new governor in December named to head the state Department of Insurance.

New lawmaker excited about taking his seat in Idaho House

By Renee Wells
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Cassia County's newest legislator says he is excited about the changes he is facing as he takes the oath of office for the Idaho House of Representatives.

Fred Wood, who was elected to fill the seat vacated by retiring House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, is not new to public service. But admits the Legislature is different than the Fish and Game Commission, where he served for a number of years. "I wanted to get more involved in public service," Wood said during a recent interview. "I think it is everyone's civic duty to serve in some way."

His desire to serve is not driven by a particular agenda, Wood said.

Wood has been named to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee and the House Resource Committee. His presence on JEAC will give Cassia County continued representation there, as Rep. Scott Bedke, R-Oakley, leaves the committee

to join the House leadership ranks.

The appointment to the Resources Committee is right up Wood's alley, having served for years as an Idaho Fish and Game regional commissioner. It gives him an opportunity to stay involved in issues that brought him to public service in Idaho.

Wood said Idaho State University's plan to seek funding for a study of whether Idaho should have a medical school is interesting, but not immediately crucial. "Medicine is changing dramatically," said Wood, a physician. "Medical education has changed also. We need to look at where we're allocating funds and where does the long-term and short-term emphasis need to be. What we need right now is funding for more nurses in the state."

Being elected to represent District 27 is an awesome responsibility, Woods said.

"You have to represent all the people in all aspects and you can never please all the people all the time. You can try, but can't do a good job."

Watershed	% of total	% season
Salmon	101%	46%
Big Wood	96%	44%
Little Wood	86%	38%
Big Lost	82%	36%
Little Lost	87%	40%
Hawley Fork/Teton	88%	40%
Upper Snake Basin	106%	42%
Oakley	116%	51%
Salmon Falls	97%	43%

Snowpack Levels

As of Jan. 8
A comparison of snow pack on this day with 30 year average.
** % of total of snow pack for the entire snow season which starts in spring

LATE AFTERNOON FLIGHT



Birds take flight Monday afternoon while basking in the light shortly before sunset near Twin Falls. Today's forecast for the Magic Valley is clear skies with a high of 41.

N. Pointe neighbors voice concerns about development

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — After hearing a number of concerns Monday from North Pointe residents, the City Council mulled plans late into the evening for a new hospital and new commercial development.

Neighbors were concerned about entrances off the future Cheney Drive West into the future St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, a \$120-million-plus hospital to be built

on the northeast corner of Pole Line Road and Grandview Drive. They'd rather see entrances on the west and east ends of the hospital — Grandview Drive and the future Park View Drive, respectively — instead of off Cheney Drive West to the south, which will border their neighborhood.

"All we're trying to do is maintain the sanctity of our neighborhood," said Karl Lessey, representing the North Pointe Homeowners' Association. He said what is "convenient to them (the

Read more online

See www.magicvalley.com later today and Wednesday's Times-News to read more about Monday night's City Council meeting, what council members decided and comments from developers and residents of the North Pointe subdivision.

Pointe Park, a 15.4-acre property located west of Wendell Street and north of Cheney Drive West.

"It encourages traffic," said Liz Niccum, a resident of the North Pointe subdivision. "It encourages crime."

Traffic was also a big concern for Niccum's neighbors, Barbara Ludd and Charlotte Defoche, who said sale signs will be going up in their yards

around town. "If Cheney Drive West becomes a four- or five-lane thoroughfare, it's going to be a real zoo," Defoche said.

hospital) is highly inconvenient for our neighborhood." They were also concerned about 24-hour businesses going up in the future North

Barber as skilled in storytelling as styling

By Laurie Welch
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Orvis Dilworth's customers get more than a little off the top and sides when they sit down in his barber's chair — they get a lifetime's worth of stories, all told with a glint in the eye of a straight-man's face.

"I'm just a kid," said 87-year-old Dilworth when asked his age.

Dilworth started cutting hair in 1942 during World War II.

"People would ask me how I could stand to use the hand-clippers like that and I told them I used to milk 30 head of cows every day." Dilworth said "I have strong hands."

During a furlough in Mini-Cassia, he met his wife-to-be, Florence Winward, as she stood in the balcony of a church.

"When I walked in, there was this voice that came from above. There was 20 girls up there, and she was the only



In his spare time, 87-year-old Burley barber Orvis Dilworth sharpens saw blades, chisels and knives.

one that said anything," Dilworth said.

They later went out for ice cream and met again when he returned on an emergency furlough.

"When I got home, I had to go see this girl (Florence) again," Dilworth said. "I asked her to marry me and she said, 'Oh pooh, I don't even know

you.'"

After corresponding with Florence, her mother eventually loaded her up on a bus and shipped her out to Dilworth in Sacramento, and they have been together happily ever since. After spending several years in Mountain Home, the couple settled in Mini-Cassia.

With 65 years' experience, he says he can cut just about any type of hairstyle, including the strangest request he ever received — to carve a lady's leg in a sideburn.

Dilworth said he has no plans to retire and still goes into the shop Tuesday through Saturday each week.

"Except when I'm sick," he said. "And I take every Monday off because that's the barber's holiday."

In between customers, he stays busy making hand-crafted knives and sharpening various cutting tools brought in to him like chisels, saw blades, dog grooming shears and hoof trimmers.

He must be on to something, because the spy man shows no signs of slowing down. "I have to stay busy," he said as he hustled around waiting for his next customer. "That customer will no doubt settle back into the barber's chair, order up a cut and wait for the ride to begin."

Wendell residents upset about possible change

Public speaks out over street rename

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

WENDELL — During a special meeting last week, the Wendell City Council unveiled a possible scenario on how to make the city's streets easier to find.

The plan, drafted by Councilwoman Ilene Rounsefell, would only add directional indicators to streets running north-south through the city.

For instance, a current address along Shoshone Street, in the northwest quadrant of town, would be given a prefix of NW, to indicate that it would be north of Main Street and west of Idaho Street.

"The changes are not needed on the streets run-

ning east and west because they already have directional indicators," Public Works Director Pat Munyon said.

He said possible changes are warranted under the uniform naming system adopted by the state. It outlines street naming that makes it easier for emergency personnel and visitors not familiar with the area to find their way around town.

However, residents aren't so confident that changing street names would help anyone.

"The bottom line is some people walk out their back door and they're lost, resident Jim Ross said. Councilman Don Bunn read a letter drafted to the city by resident Gary Kelly, who could not attend the meeting. Kelly questioned the fiscal responsibility of

Please see STREETS, Page D4

OBITUARIES/IDAHO

Phronia Louis Gay Jones Baux

KIMBERLY—Phronia Louis Gay Jones Baux died Monday, Jan. 7, 2007.

Phronia was born at Blackfoot, Idaho, on Sept. 26, 1916. Parents were Albert and Louise Gay of Fort Hall, Indian Reservation. She attended school in Blackfoot. During the summers, she worked at the Bar C Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyo., as a cabin girl. She married Art Jones in 1933 in Kelly, Wyo. They lived and worked at the upper and lower Bar C Ranch until after World War II. They managed the Herb Ward ranch at the "Y" in Jackson until 1949. They then moved to Plenedale to manage the Stockman's Hotel Bar and Café. They had three children, William (Bill) "Sonny," Norma "Sis," and Charlotte. Art and Phronia were divorced in Las Vegas in 1964.



Phronia returned to Jackson to work at the Wort Hotel as a cocktail waitress. In the summer, she went to Phoenix, Ariz., to work as a salad chef for the Arizona Billmore Hotel. She met Phil Baux while in Phoenix and returned to Jackson, where they were married. Phronia assisted Phil in his Jackson business, the Pineson Sign Shop. She did lettering and painting on the signs that Phil built. She said their most famous sign was the "Vonder Lies Jackson Hole" sign at the top of Teton Pass, which is still there. Both

and Phronia were avid snowmobile riders. They were members of the Sourdough Snowmobile Club, where they helped for many years with the annual Jackson Hole "Vonder Lies" Snowmobile Rally. Phronia remained at their home in Jackson after Phil died. In her later years, she lived off and on with her daughters in Kimberly, Idaho, and Vail, Ariz. She is survived by Pauline, in Boise for a while last fall.

She is survived by her daughters, Norma Jean Aslett Butcher Falls and Charlotte Kinnell of Vail, Ariz.; son, William "Sonny" Jones and wife, Pauline of Boise, Idaho; grandchildren, David and Sharon Aslett of Kimberly, Debbie and E. Steinecker of Vail, Ariz.; Daughters, Donna and Lisa Widlock of St. Anthony, Ariz. and Marjio Leon, Tracie Leon, Sonny Ray Leon and Kathy Miller, all of Vail, Ariz.; Randy and Lisa Jones of Park City, Utah; and Bruce Jones of Boise, Idaho. She had numerous great-grandchildren. Phronia was the last of the Gay family of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, Idaho.

Phronia loved the Teton Mountains. A memorial service for Phronia will be held in Jackson Hole, Wyo., later this spring. Memorial contributions can be made in Phronia's name to the Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum, 105 N. Glenwood, P.O. Box 1005, Jackson, WY 83001.

Local arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park," in Twin Falls.

Feds won't list slickspot peppergrass as endangered

By Skanon Diney
Associated Press writer

BOISE — A plant that blooms with tiny white flowers in southwestern Idaho does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Monday.

The slickspot peppergrass grows almost exclusively in the Snake River Plain and the foothills in southwestern Idaho, with a separate population on the Owyhee Plateau.

The quality of some of the plant's known habitat has decreased, but the current plant population does not appear to be impacted by habitat degradation, the Fish and Wildlife Service said in a statement. Instead, the agency attributed less-rust plant population growth to a lack of spring rains, though new

plants are still being discovered.

"This decision follows an extensive review of existing and new scientific information and data," said Ben Lohofener, Pacific Region director for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

A lawyer for the environmental group seeking to protect the slickspot peppergrass said the group would fight the decision.

"To say that this plant population is stable is far from the truth as it could be," said Todd Tucci, senior staff attorney for Advocates for the West. The group represents Western Watersheds, a Hailley-based environmental group that sued the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004 after the agency withdrew a proposal to list the slickspot peppergrass under the Endangered Species Act.

The environmental group argued then that the Fish and Wildlife Service violated provisions of the law by not listing the plant after the agency determined the plant had a 64 percent to 82 percent chance of extinction in the next 100 years.

In 2005, U.S. District Court Magistrate Mike Williams ruled that the agency should reconsider the plant for listing.

Western Watersheds will return to court, Tucci said, either to file suit again or simply inform the judge that the federal government is violating the order.

"I have no doubt that when a cool-headed mind gets involved and looks at the facts of the case, we'll once again see that science has been stepped on by politics," he said.

Jeff Foss, field supervisor for the Snake River Fish and Wildlife office, said efforts will continue to conserve the plant and reduce threats to sagebrush-steppe habitat, where the plants grow at elevations ranging from 2,200 feet to 5,400 feet in six Idaho counties.

Meanwhile, Idaho's Republican congressional delegation and governor commended the latest decision.

"It speaks well of the state's conservation efforts, as well as the collaborative efforts of landowners, that the plant has been found to be out of danger," Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter said in a statement. "I stand ready to defend the Fish and Wildlife's sound conclusion, as well as our state's ability and determination to protect our resources on our own terms."

BOISE St. Luke's medical records going electronic

A major Idaho health care provider will be making the switch to electronic medical records, a spokeswoman for the company contracting with St. Luke's Health System said Monday.

St. Luke's, which has its main medical center in Boise but has campuses throughout southern Idaho, hopes to have 300 medical providers supplied with electronic records by fall, said Heather Caouette,

AROUND IDAHO

a spokeswoman for eClinicalWorks.

Proponents of the electronic records system say having records readily available can speed up decisions, and help doctors and nurses avoid errors that can cost lives. President Bush in 2004 said he wanted all Americans to have electronic medical records by 2014.

"Providing integrated, effective and timely access to patient information for physician practices and hospitals statewide is critical to providing seamless and efficient care across the continuum," said Greg Orr, administrative director at St. Luke's Internal Medicine.

"Providing integrated, effective and timely access to patient information for physician practices and hospitals statewide is critical to providing seamless and efficient care across the continuum," said Greg Orr, administrative director at St. Luke's Internal Medicine.

POTLATCH Weekend fire destroys part of fire department

A weekend fire at the Potlatch Rural Fire Department garage destroyed an ambulance, damaged seven other emergency vehicles, including three fire trucks, and scorched the inside of the building before snuffing itself out due to a lack of oxygen.

The fire caused about \$150,000 in damage.

"It's quite a miracle that the whole building didn't go up," said Kim Stubbs, the department's assistant ambulance chief.

The last person to leave the building left at around 6 p.m. Friday, and the damage wasn't discovered until late Saturday morning. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The garage doesn't have smoke detectors, Fire Chief Dale Coy said, because it's only used to house vehicles and no one is stationed in the building.

The department can still respond to fires, Coy said. It has borrowed an ambulance from the Moscow Fire Department temporarily, and the other vehicles — although blackened with soot — are still functional.

Kathie Jeannine Nelson Seamons

LAYTON, Utah — Kathie Jeannine Nelson Seamons passed peacefully in her husband's arms on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007, at her home in Layton, Utah.



Kathie was born Oct. 27, 1925, in San Francisco, Calif., the first child of Kathryn Dewey and Clifford Nelson. Kathie's positive influence was felt by all those who knew her. She lived by her motto, "Live well, laugh often, love much."

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; and her oldest daughter, Melonie. She is survived by her husband, Wayne; her children;

Jared (Hiffany), Leo (Helen), Tracy (Devlin), Clint (Beandie), Amanda (Eric), Tamra (Ashley) and Danielle (Mike); 17 grandchildren; one great-grandson; her two brothers, Cliff and Ed; four step-siblings; and her step-mother, Glenna.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the Angel Crossing LDS Ward Chapel, 505 S. 1000 W. in Layton, Utah, with a viewing prior to the funeral from 9 to 10:45 a.m. Interment will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Hagerman Valley Cemetery in Hagerman, Idaho. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.myers-mortuary.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers Mortuary in Layton, Utah.

Streets

Continued from page D3

spending city funds to rename streets when they could use the money elsewhere, like on snow removal and maintenance of streets.

"Put it a vote for residents of Wendell to decide," Kelly said.

No decisions were made at the meeting and the council is still exploring other possible name changes.

"There is a cost to making any changes, from the man hours and cost of replacing

signs to changing the map," said Bunn. "I question this expenditure because we haven't even seal coated the roads in two years. It is an ongoing discussion but right now I say leave it alone and just add directional indicators. My position isn't official and could lean the other way as discussion continues."

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

Bonita Jane Traugher Williams

SYRACUSE — Bonita Jane Traugher Williams, 42, passed away Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, at her home due to complications of a brain tumor.



She was born Feb. 29, 1964, in Dilport, Mont., to DeWette and Belva Mae Peterson Traugher. Bonita was raised in Idaho. She married Steven Williams on March 31, 1984, in Twin Falls, Idaho, and the marriage was later solemnized the Jordan River LDS temple. Their family has lived in Syracuse for 22 years. Bonita was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in Primary and the Young Women's athletic director. Bonita loved to read, watch her children in their sporting events and spending time with her family. She enjoyed

her job as a postal carrier.

Bonita is survived by her husband, Steven, and children, Devin, Zachary, Shelby, Jordan and Shante; her father, DeWayne Traugher, brothers, Rod and John; and sisters, Debbie Dally, Theresa Miller, Deane Zallinger and Beverly Buck. She was preceded in death by her mother, Belva.

She was loved by all who knew her and will be greatly missed. We look forward to being with her again as an eternal family.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the Syracuse 11th Ward, Chapel, 1660 W. 2228 S. Friends and family may call from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the Layton's Layton Mortuary, 1867 N. Fairfield Road, and from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the church. Interment will be at the Syracuse City Cemetery.

Condolences to the family may be e-mailed to llm@indquistmortuary.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Lucy P. Eastman

TWINFALLS — Lucy Pauline "Tolly" Eastman, 74, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Lois I. Jorgensen

TWIN FALLS — Lois Irene Jorgensen, 76, of Twin Falls, died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at the Stony Creek Living Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

George R. Baker

HAGERMAN — George R. (Dick) Baker, 88, of Hagerman, died Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007, at his home.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Dorothy K. Sugg

BOISE — Dorothy K. Sugg,

91, of Boise and formerly of Glens Ferry, died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at a Meridian care home.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel.

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SERVICES

Faye Albin Rude of Twin Falls and formerly of Hiler, funeral at 10 a.m. today at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Arthur D. Haycock of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Unity LDS Ward Chapel, 275 S. 250 E. in Burley; friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the chapel (Payne Mortuary in Burley).

Joshua Jenner Beers, infant child of Ben and Melanie Beers of Gooding, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls; viewing from 1 to 2 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Kristy LeAnn Hood French of Arbon Valley and formerly of Heyburn, viewing will be held until today at her residence on Arbon Valley Road, Bannock Creek District; burial at 1 p.m. today at Bannock Creek Cemetery (Colonial Funeral Home in Pocatello).

Lund Edward Christensen of Heyburn, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Paul LDS 3rd Ward Chapel, 300 S. 500 W. in Heyburn; friends and family may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Hagerman Mortuary Chapel, 321 E. Main, and from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Thordis Rangen Matthesen of Twin Falls, funeral at 2 p.m.

Wednesday at White Mortuary, 136 Fourth Ave. E. in Twin Falls; friends and family may call from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the mortuary.

Dorothy Ellen Machacek of Buhl, celebration of life from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the fellowship hall at the Buhl First Christian Church (Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl).

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3268 Monday through Saturdays. Deadline is 5 p.m. for next day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m.

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Migration trend to West, Southeast continues

By Jim Sailer
Associated Press writer

ST. LOUIS — Americans continue to move to the West and Southeast and away from parts of the Northeast and Midwest, according to an analysis of migration trends by the nation's largest mover.

United Van Lines has been tracking moving trends since 1977. The study of 227,254 moves handled by the company in 2006 in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia was released Monday. It looked at all moves that involved either going to or leaving a state.

North Carolina had the highest inbound migration with 64 percent of moves going into the state. Oregon was second with 62.5 percent, followed by South Carolina (60.6), Nevada (59.9) and Idaho (59.3).

At the other end, Michigan and North Dakota tied for the most outbound migration. Nearly two-thirds of all moves in both states — 66 percent — were heading out. Other states with high outbound migration were New Jersey (60.9), New

Top 10 states for moving

By The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — United Van Lines tracks moving patterns in the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia to determine which ones people are moving to, and which ones people are moving away from. The company looked at more than 227,000 moves in 2006. The top 10 for inbound migration:

1. North Carolina (64.0 percent of moves were inbound).
2. Oregon (62.5).
3. South Carolina (60.6).

4. Nevada (59.9).
5. Idaho (59.3).
6. The: New Mexico and the District of Columbia (57.9).
8. Alabama (57.5).
9. Utah (56.0).
10. South Dakota (55.9).

The top 10 for outbound migration:

1. Tie: Michigan and North Dakota (66 percent of moves were outbound).
2. New Jersey (60.9).
4. New York (59.5).
5. Indiana (58.2).
6. Pennsylvania (57.0).
7. Louisiana (56.4).
8. Ohio (55.8).
9. Illinois (55.7).
10. Maryland (54.1).

Source: United Van Lines.

York (59.5) and Indiana (58.2).

Eight of the 10 winners in inbound migration were from the Southeast or West. The only exceptions were the District of Columbia, whose inbound migration of 57.9 percent tied for sixth, and South Dakota, 10th with an inbound migration of 55.9 percent.

One of the few Western states with outbound migration continued to be

California, though the outbound percentage (52.4) was the lowest in four years.

States with the biggest percentage of moves leaving the state were all from the East or Midwest except for Louisiana, still feeling the impact of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Louisiana had the seventh-highest outbound migration with 56.4 percent of shipments leaving the state.

Idaho justice criticizes judicial pay

By Alicia P.Q. Wittmeyer
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Despite an increase in judicial salaries last year, Idaho still does not offer enough compensation to attract the high-quality candidates the state should want to decide its cases, Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald Schroeder told lawmakers in his State of the Judiciary Address on Monday.

The Legislature boosted Idaho from 49th in the country to 47th in terms of state Supreme Court judicial compensation last year, Schroeder said. Trial court judges' salaries still sit at 47th.

At the same time, the state's caseback continues to balloon, he said. Schroeder, who will retire this summer after 38 years as an Idaho judge, said judges today face workloads that would have been "unthinkable" when he first took his seat.

As long as compensation fails to stay competitive, the pool of high-quality candidates for Idaho judgeships will continue to shrink, Schroeder said.

"The public expects judges to be intellectually superior, to isolate themselves from normal social contacts, to forgo normal business opportunities. The age and experience requirements ask lawyers in the prime of their experience to give up much more lucrative opportunities," he said. "Professional requirements,

caseloads and compensation, the reality of costly elections, after giving up other financial opportunities, are all taking their toll."

The current salary for Idaho's Supreme Court justices is \$110,500 a year, up from \$104,166 last year. The national average for state supreme court justices is \$137,074.

Magistrate and district judges face demanding work, and not just in terms of caseloads, Schroeder said. Their jobs often ask them to make difficult decisions that have tremendous effects on people's lives.

"They routinely must take a person's freedom, deprive a person of a livelihood because he or she cannot be licensed to drive, determine multimillion-dollar probates, wrestle for solutions for abused children, fashion sentences for juvenile offenders, attempting to guess the future consequences, and on and on," he said.

Court representatives will meet with chairs of the Judiciary Committee and the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee sometime early in the session to discuss court funding — including potential salary increases, said Paul Tobias, the state courts administrator for the Idaho Supreme Court.

Schroeder said the Legislature could help the courts carry their burden in other ways, too, such as supporting the expansion of new drug and mental-health court

systems. He said those have the potential to provide "incredible" savings by providing an alternative to prison for some offenders.

Finally, this year the Idaho Supreme Court will be looking at ways to put its law library to use as a learning resource for legal students in the state, Schroeder said. In the future, its learning program could even expand to create an apprentice system for undergraduates who want to learn more about the legal system, he said, or for law school students to study law at the highest level.

Idaho man missing at Oregon accident scene

THE DALLES, Ore. (AP) — A city councilman from Idaho was missing after stopping to help at the scene of a traffic accident. Authorities say he may have fallen or jumped into the John Day River to avoid a second accident.

John Dickinson, 62, of Moscow, Idaho, stopped his vehicle Sunday night behind a car that had crashed after swerving to avoid debris on an Interstate 84 bridge east of The Dalles, the Oregon State Police said.

Dickinson got out of his car, which another motorist then struck from behind. Dickinson couldn't be found at the scene, and state troopers said he may have fallen off the bridge or jumped the concrete railing, which is 3½ feet high.

Search crews on Monday failed to find Dickinson, who was recently named president of the Moscow City Council.

The river is more than 80 feet deep in the area and the surface water temperature is about 40 degrees, police said.

Two other people involved in the accident suffered minor injuries.

If Dickinson did jump over the guardrail, it would be the second such case on

Interstate 84 in less than two weeks.

On Dec. 29, Brian Bernier, 37, of Vancouver, Wash., stopped to help a crash victim about five miles east of Multnomah Falls. A passing truck forced him over the guardrail, where there was a 50-foot drop, according to an Oregon State Police report. Bernier died at the scene.

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The findings announced by Carl Walter, vice-president of United Van Lines, did not seek to determine reasons for the migration patterns. But Walters said the study is used by real estate firms, financial institutions and others for business planning and analysis.

In Missouri, 51.6 percent of moves were inbound. In Kansas, 50.5 percent of moves were inbound.

United Van Lines, based in suburban St. Louis, has about 30 percent of the market for moving household goods, the company said.

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