

Burley boys gear up to repeat as 4A champs. SPORTS, D1



Sunday Times-News

November 25, 2007 \$1.50

STAY INFORMED

Community calendar for month of December.

DECEMBER EVENTS, E1-3

FORECLOSURE AUCTIONS

Real estate auctions for foreclosed properties.

HOW BAD WILL IT GET?

Mortgage failures could doom economy.

MONEY, B1

IN SHORT SUPPLY

Salvation Army has fewer bell ringers.



MAGIC VALLEY, CA

Good Morning

High: 43
Low: 24

Mostly cloudy. Details: D8

MagickValley.com

IRAQ Returnees find a capital transformed

By Sadaran Raghavan
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqis are returning to their homeland by the hundreds each day, by bus, car and plane, encouraged by weeks of decreased violence, an increased security or compelled by visa and residency restrictions in neighboring countries and the depletion of their savings.

Those returning make up only a tiny fraction of the 2.2 million Iraqis who have fled Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. But they represent the largest number of returnees since February 2006, when sectarian violence began to rise dramatically, speeding the exodus from Iraq.

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Upon returning, many find a Baghdad they no longer recognize, a city altered by blast walls and sectarian rifts. Under the improved security, Iraqis are gingerly testing how far their new liberties

Please see IRAQ, Page A4



An Iraqi girl attends a ceremony to mark the reopening of central Baghdad's Abu Nawras street for traffic, Saturday. The street was reopened for traffic following an improved security situation in the Iraqi capital.

PAYING THEIR WAY



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A treadmill run a day keeps Magic Valley employees healthy, and employers reaping the benefits

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

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A 24-hour exercise room is available to anyone who wants to use it. And once a year, he can take advantage of a free health screening — the reason, the city Parks and Recreation director said, he's been able to stay on top of possible skin cancers from his years in the sun.

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Paying to smoke

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The city pays most of the insurance premiums for its employees, personally, said administrator Susan Harris said. The share employees handle can vary within a 10-percent range, depending on whether they participate in an annual "wellness" screening and whether they smoke.

The first version of the screening plan appeared in 1989, Harris said, and most employees seem to take it as

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given that if they smoke, they'll have to pay more.

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Several city employees agreed, and said that the city employs few smokers these days. Linda Bowen, the secretary for the fire department, said the department currently employs no smokers. Several firefighters have quit smoking in recent years.

"I think primarily they're more concerned about their health than they are with dollar signs," Bowen said.

Bowyer said maybe two of 17 employees in his department smoke, and he hasn't heard any complaints from them. As a non-smoker, he doesn't mind the premium incentive — the "hail," he said, just isn't a good one to start.

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The 'hot' trend

From a national standpoint, the city is far from alone.

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Please see HEALTH, Page A3



A Los Angeles County fire helicopter drops water on a wildfire in Malibu, Calif., on Saturday.

Ablaze again

Wind-driven wildfires strike Malibu; dozens of homes destroyed in wealthy enclave

By Robert Jablon
Associated Press writer

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All the homes that were destroyed were in the fire's initial morning surge before the winds slowed and firefighters gained a foothold.

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Please see FIRES, Page A4

Kimberly family raises reptiles for education, fun

By Melissa Davila
Times-News writer

KIMBERLY — McKayla Lambert strokes the baby rat in her hand.

"Do you want me to tell it?" she asks her father. He tells her to wait — they'll feed the corn snake later — so she hands off the rodent and scampers away.

The scene is a common one at the Lambert's Kimberly home. McKayla, 11, and her elder, 14-year-old Karlee,

spend their evenings caring for their collection of animals, including rat-eating snakes.

And it's more than a hobby. Much of the girls' lives revolve around their otherworldly friends.

The lizard lifestyle

The Lamberts started six years ago when a reptile exhibit at the Boys and Girls Club excited McKayla; then 5. The girls convinced their parents, Ron

and Beth, to let them raise the animals as pets. Since then, they've collected snakes, frogs, lizards and other critters.

"It's almost easier to list the animals they don't own. Leopard geckos, toads and guinea pigs inhabit Karlee's room. In McKayla's, corn snakes, walking stick insects and tarantulas live. The living room houses a garter snake, and the basement is filled with rodent cages, which hold rats, hamsters and ger-

INSIDE:

Animal companions Meet more Magic Valley critters and their owners in "The pet pages," today's special edition of Family Life.

See page F1.

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At-Home Directory	E17	Classified	E420	Amble	E9	Movies	E17	Sports	E1
Auction Block	E16	Crossword	E18	Magical Valley	E11	Nation	E5, C67	Sudoku	E15
Bridge	E18	Dear Abby	E5	My Calendar	E25	Obituary	E2	Weather	E8
Calendar	A2	Horoscope	E4	Money	B1-4	Opinion	E67	World	E5, B8

LOOKIN' FOR NO. 2

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Times-News

MagicValley.com

MAGIC VALLEY, C1

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By Sudarsan Raghuvaran
The Washington Post

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Times-News writer

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And it's more than a hobby. Much of the girls' lives revolve around their slithering friends.

The lizard streak

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At the Boyer Canyon	D17	Castells	E20	Arroyo	E9	Novels	C7	Sports	D1
Highway	E18	Crossword	E18	News	E1	Notes	A5, C2	E15	E15
Bridge	E18	Dear Abby	F5	My Obit	C5	Obit	C5	Weather	B8
Calendar	A2	Horoscope	F4	Money	B1-4	Opinion	B6-7	World	B5, B8

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS		
Today	Tonight	Monday
Variable to mostly cloudy	Moistly cloudy	Breezy and partly cloudy
High 43	Low 24	45 / 28

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Scattered clouds. Highs, lower 40s.
Tonight: Cool with fair to partly cloudy skies. Lows, upper teens.
Tomorrow: Sunny skies. Highs, 40s.

Complete weather report: See page B8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

A chill food fundraiser to benefit Meals on Wheels, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, corner of Eighth and I streets, Rupert. Free-will donation for Thrivent Financial for Lutheran match), 436-3413.

FAMILY

Thankful for Thanksgiving, family invited to join Rosetta staff, residents and their families for refreshments and entertainment, 3 p.m., Rosetta Assisted Living, 1919 Hilland Ave., Burley, 677-5451.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

The Ninth Annual Caring and Sharing Christmas Festival, noon to 5 p.m., Rupert Civic Center, 505 Seventh St., open to the public, 436-8135.

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

THREE-DAY PLANNER

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Nov. 28 — Moton with Rhythm Studio Salsa Night, with dancing, dinner and free salsa lesson with admission, 8 p.m. to midnight, Pandora's, Twin Falls, \$10 (buffet and drinks not included), \$22 for one (buffet and drinks included) or \$40 per couple (buffet and drinks), 404-3804.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Nov. 29 — Mini-Cassia Festival of Trees Gala, with prizes, drawings, entertainment, dinner and beautiful décor, 6 p.m., 7 p.m. hour and no-host bar, 6 to 8:30 p.m. silent auction, 7:30 p.m. dinner and 8 p.m. entertainment by The Taffetas, in the gymnasium, College of Southern Idaho Mini-Cassia Center, (formerly Burley High School), 1600 Parke Ave., Burley, \$35, formal dress, 678-4786 or 654-2770.

BUSINESS

Nov. 28 — Job Search Workshop, offered by the Department of Labor; learn tips on interviewing, writing resumes, completing applications and identifying skills and interests, 8:30 a.m., 420 Falls Ave., no cost, 735-2500.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Nov. 27 — The last Mystery Book Club meeting of 2007, with discussion of "The Two Minute Rule" by Robert Crals, hosted by Twin Falls Public Library, 5:30 p.m., in the TFPL Program Room, 201 Fourth Ave. E., no cost, open to the public, 733-2964; ext. 109 or jhills@lib.tfid.org.

Nov. 28 — Twin Falls County Democrats Central Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Gertie's Brick Oven Cookery, 602 Second Ave. S., Twin Falls, open to the public, 420-1663.

FESTIVALS AND FAIRS

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HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Nov. 28 — Deadline for entry to gingerbread house decorating contest, sponsored by Saga Mountain Grill in Albion with three age categories: 12 years old and under, 13-17 years, and adults (monetary prizes for 1st and 2nd places in each category, 251 W. North St., Albion, 673-6696).

HOME AND GARDEN

Nov. 27, 28 — Finally Home! classes, to help address many issues potential homeowners face, 6 to 10 p.m., CSI, \$10 per student (refundable at end of class), 733-9554, ext. 2287 to pre-register.

MORNING BRIEFING

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

The Magic Valley's history as seen through the lens of photographers, then and now ...



The New Orpheum opened on Oct. 31, 1921, with a three-day showing of the movie 'Through the Back Door,' starring Mary Pickford. The theater had moved from its original spot on Shoshone Street to its current place on Main Avenue. The brand new theater boasted seating for 900 people. Costs for seating were 25 cents for the balcony and 30 cents for the main floor. The Orpheum had an eight-piece orchestra to play for silent films or live theater. In 1927, John Phillip Sousa and his orchestra played there.



1927

COMING THIS WEEK



Vintage jewelry

These old bangles can be new again.

MONDAY IN IMAGE



Fall photos

Some of our readers' best shots of autumn scenes.

TUESDAY IN COUNTRY ROADS



Slow food

Letting the weekend do the work.

WEDNESDAY IN FOOD & HOME



Their name is mud?

The College of Southern Idaho's ceramics department puts on its 'Magic Mud' solo.

THURSDAY IN TALENT



The face of Christ

Local artist paints portraits of Jesus during religious services.

SATURDAY IN RELIGION



The drum dilemma

How families cope with kids' garage bands.

SUNDAY IN FAMILY LIFE

AROUND THE WORLD

LEBANON

Lebanese PM tries to reassure country as president leaves office

BEIRUT — Prime Minister Fuad Saniora assured his country Saturday that the military was in control of the streets while lawmakers struggled to overcome a political crisis that has left the country without a president. The army made clear it will stay out of politics, emerging as the country's best hope for stability.

Beirut remained calm Saturday, and shops opened for business following a tumultuous day that intensi-

fied fears of street violence between supporters of Saniora's U.S.-backed government and the opposition led by the Shiite militant group Hezbollah and backed by Syria and Iran.

After months of trying, the two rival camps were unable to agree on a compromise candidate to succeed pro-Syria President Emile Lahoud who stepped down Friday night, leaving a political vacuum.

In his first comments since Lahoud left office, Saniora defended his government, saying it will continue to function according to the constitution. In the absence of a president, Saniora's cabinet, which the opposition considers illegitimate, takes executive

power under the constitution.

IRAQ

U.S. military says Iran-backed Shites behind recent violence

BAGHDAD — Four members of an Iranian-backed Shiite cell confessed to bombing a public market in central Baghdad, a U.S. spokesman said Saturday. He also blamed Shites for recent attacks on U.S. bases, raising fears that a three-month truce by the most feared Shiite militia may be at an end.

The blast Friday in the al-Ghazal port market killed at least 15 people, wounded 56

and shattered a growing sense of public confidence that has emerged following a sharp decline in the bombings and shootings that once rattled the Iraqi capital daily.

During overnight raids, U.S. and Iraqi soldiers arrested four members of an unidentified Shiite "special groups cell," who confessed to the bombing, U.S. spokesman Rear Adm. Gregory Smith told reporters.

"Based on subsequent confessions, forensics and other intelligence, the bombing was the work of an Iranian-backed special groups cell operating here in Baghdad," Smith said, adding that he was not accusing Iran itself of ordering the blast.

— The Associated Press

Snowpack Levels

Location	Water	Snow	Percent of Normal
Seaman	72%	13%	13%
Big Wood	71%	11%	11%
Big Lost	43%	6%	6%
Big Lost	57%	9%	9%
Little Lost	66%	11%	11%
Herron Park/Fulton	61%	11%	11%
Upper Snake Drain	74%	12%	12%
Galley	61%	11%	11%
Salmon Falls	22%	2%	2%

Date as of Nov. 24

A comparison of basin snowpack, as the day, with a 30-year average.

An indicator of the water available for the basin snowpack, which varies in density.

IDAHO LOTTERY

Game	Prize	Amount
5/31	1st Prize	\$1,000,000
5/31	2nd Prize	\$100,000
5/31	3rd Prize	\$10,000
5/31	4th Prize	\$1,000
5/31	5th Prize	\$100
5/31	6th Prize	\$10
5/31	7th Prize	\$1

Times-News

PEPPER 735-3340
ENGIN 735-3207
MAIL DELIVERY 735-3377
CLASSIFIED 735-3377
ADVERTISING 735-3377
REPRINTS 735-3377
PHOTOCOPIES 735-3377
NEWS SERVICE 735-3377
POSTAGE 735-3377
TERMS 735-3377
CONTACT 735-3377

Health

Continued from page A1

Department of Management at Boise State University, said such penalties — and wellness programs in general — are "hot" right now in response to rising costs.

"Wellness programs have been very productive because for every dollar you spend on them, you get \$5 back in terms of better employee health," Kaupins said.

And that's an attractive return for employers looking to fight costs. Programs that depend more on employee actions are still rare. But they're appearing more often across the nation, he said, and their controversial aspects can be blunted by having employees in on the planning.

"Nothing like this should be forced down employee throats, in my opinion," Kaupins said.

Changing coverage

Few, if any, employers in the area follow the city's lead in regard to the smoking penalty. But quite a few,

including the *Times-News*, use wellness screenings and exercise programs to involve employees in managing their own health.

ConAgra Foods, for example, offers free health screenings for employees and pays for mail-order drugs for chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Spokeswoman Melissa Baron said growing costs prompted the company to provide more incentives for preventative care. The company plans to study the changes next year to determine the effect on its bottom line.

The Twin Falls School District has a wellness Web site that pits its schools against each other to lose the most weight. The district gives prizes to the winners, spokeswoman Lisa O'Leary said, and uses the site to post health tips and discounts at area gyms and the city pool.

The four-year-old wellness program could theoretically reduce premium rates for the district, O'Leary said. But the district's rates are actually a little higher, she said,

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due to the fact that district employees use their benefits more often than the norm.

St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center measures results in a different way: money saved by avoiding an outbreak of flu or other diseases brought in by employees. Employee health nurse Jane Slickers said the hospital offers a number of services for employees, from flu shots to nicotine patches. The hospital will ban smoking outdoors on its grounds on Jan. 1, she said.

"It's still a huge expense for us," Slickers said of health insurance costs. But in a medical environment, where one episode of pneumonia could hammer both patients and employees, such benefits can be vital.

"The costs, as well as the devastating effects, are much less."

The hospital is studying adopting premium penalties. But there are some convincing arguments against them, Slickers said. Tests for cholesterol and other risk factors can get expensive, she said, and some people are genetically disposed to have low cholesterol. That's aside from the issue of whether employees would support the idea.

"It's a difficult thing," Slickers said, adding that she hasn't sat in on recent discussions. "You have to be really careful about what you're doing."

Nate Poppino can be reached at 735-3237 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

Employee Benefits

We offer:

- Health • Dental • Vision
- Disability • Cafeteria Plans
- Health Savings Plans
- Retirement Plans

denise
Siren INSURANCE

1637 Addison Avenue East • 734-3342

It's the Cold Season

BLUE CROSS PPO

+

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

Physicians

Immediate Care Center

Open 8:00am-7:00pm • 7 days a week
Across From CSI on Falls Avenue

736-7422

Family

Continued from page A1

research the animals they acquire, making sure they provide the best care possible. The cages are clean, and the animals are handled regularly.

Caring for their pets is hardly a chore for the girls. They're wild about the creatures. McKayla's room is filled with magazine pictures of reptiles. The girls have scrapbooks of photos outlining their herpetological history — the first time McKayla held a snake, Karlee at a reptile exhibit, a snake bite on McKayla's finger.

Given the chance, they'll rattle off endless facts about their charges. Snakes have six rows of teeth, two penises and an air tube in their mouth that they can move out of the way while eating, the sisters say, talking excitedly over each other. They can digest a baby rat within 24 hours and shed their skin about every six weeks, depending on their size.

Their parents laugh at their daughters' enthusiasm. "They're not normal girls," Beth says.

The dangerous downside

The hobby isn't without dangers. McKayla has been bit several times, and Karlee passed out after one of the constrictors squeezed her neck in June during a reptile exhibit for the Herrett Center for Arts and Science.

It happened in a second, Karlee says. The snake, displayed around her neck, stretched out in an attempt to reach another perch and constricted for stability. Almost instantly, Karlee was unconscious.

"She was there, she coughed a couple of times, and she was down on the floor," Beth says.

"It was pretty exciting," Karlee adds.

The incident didn't faze the family — dangers come with the territory — but they make sure no snakes are wrapped around their necks while they're alone.

Lessons in respect

Not only the reptiles benefit from the sisters' devotion, Ron says the pets provide more entertainment than television. The family doesn't have cable and never will, he says.

Educating others about their reptiles has also taught the girls life skills. McKayla and Karlee frequently volunteer for the Herrett Center's on-location reptile exhibits, requiring them to research their pets extensively and practice public speaking.

The girls demonstrate a respect for life not common for children their age. They treat all their animals with great care, whether they're snakes or the rats meant to be the snakes' meals. It's an attitude not always shared by others. Through the Herrett Center, the Lamberts have encountered mistreated reptiles whose original owners were unprepared to care for them properly. One pet owner fed his snake dog food. Another ripped out his snake's eyes with duct tape while trying to help it shed its skin.

"They just don't do the research," Beth says.

But the Lamberts do. They take responsibility for every aspect of their reptiles' care,

breeding their own feeder rats to ensure the snakes get the best nutrition. The girls handle the rodents from the time they're born, cuddling them, playing with them and stuffing them down their shirts. They name most of them.

When it's time to feed the snakes, however, they know what they have to do.

"That's the hardest part," Beth says. "You still get attached."

The girls don't seem as bothered. McKayla explains matter-of-factly the best way to kill a baby rat: Put your finger at the base of the rat's head and press sharply on the neck, a process called cervical dissection. You can also put it in the refrigerator and let it die of hypothermia.

Not the freezer, though, Beth adds. It'll freeze solid and won't stick as easily. In a neat freezer, dead rats are neatly arranged in plastic bags.

It's important to kill the rats before feeding them to the snakes, Beth says. A live rat

can injure or even kill a snake while fighting for its life.

When it's finally dinner time for Nemo, an albino corn snake, McKayla presses on the baby rat's neck. It takes about 30 seconds for it to stop fighting.

"Did you get him?" Ron asks.

"He's still dying," McKayla says.

It's still twitching when she puts it in Nemo's cage. The girls point out how the snake homes in on his prey, expands his jaw and swallows it whole.

Within moments, the baby rat is a lump in the snake's belly.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 735-3234 or at melissa.davlin@lee.net.

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LIFE + FINANCIAL

Fires

Continued from page A1

Fifteen helicopters and 15 airplanes, including a retardant-dropping DC-10 jumbo jet, attacked from the air while 1,700 firefighters battled flames on the ground. Six firefighters suffered minor injuries.

"Last homes can be rebuilt, but lost lives can't," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose district includes Malibu. "We're grateful there were no deaths."

Helicopters lowered hoses into pools and the nearby Pacific to refill their tanks for water-dropping runs, and SuperScooper amphibious airplanes skimmed the ocean to reload.

Hundreds of firefighters and equipment from throughout the state had been positioned in Southern California for most of the week because of the predicted winds, which had been expected to blow most of the week but didn't arrive until late Friday.

Officials remained wary despite the decrease in wind speeds. The mayor said the fire "could have been far, far worse than it was" but still urged residents to "listen to

your radios, go outside and see which way the wind is blowing. Stay alert. Stay vigilant."

Freeman said 10,000 to 14,000 people fled the fire. The fire broke out along a dirt road off a paved highway, and there did not appear to be power lines in the area, Freeman said. Investigators were trying to determine the cause, he said.

"Everything is being investigated," Freeman said.

A hotspot flared for a time on several ridges behind Pepperdine University, but the campus did not appear to have been endangered. Helicopters used its broad oceanview lawn as a landing zone.

University officials told students to move to a campus shelter as a precaution, although the school remained largely empty because of the holiday weekend.

Another fire near Ramona in San Diego County was fully contained at 50 acres. A firefighter suffered a minor cut when an air tanker flying overhead dropped heavy retardant on a fire engine, breaking its windshield.

Power lines blown down by fierce winds caused last

month's 4,565-acre Canyon Fire in Malibu that destroyed six homes, two businesses and a church. That blaze was part of a siege of more than 15 Santa Ana-stoked wildfires that destroyed more than 2,000 homes, killed 14 people and blackened a total of 809 square miles between Los Angeles County and the U.S.-Mexico border.

Santa Ana, triggered by high pressure over the Great Basin, blow into Southern California from the north and northeast, racing down through the canyons and passes of the region's east-west mountain ranges and out to sea, pushing back the normal flow of moist ocean air.

Malibu, with homes tucked into deep and narrow canyons along 27 miles of coast on the southern foot of the Santa Monica Mountains, is prone to Santa Ana-driven wildfires. Among them was a 1993 blaze that destroyed 388 structures, including 268 homes, and killed three people.

Saturday's fire burned to the west of the portions of Malibu that burned in October.

Neighbors alerted one another, while authorities

drove through Corral Canyon, a neighborhood of about 350 homes, telling people to leave. Along some narrow roads, several homes

were reduced to embers while their neighbors were untouched. Meredith Lobel-Angel, 51, and her husband, Frank

Angel, 54, said they had 15 minutes to leave their split-level home and managed to take little other than some clothes and their laptops.

Iraq

Continued from page A1

allow them to go. But they are also facing many barriers, geographical and psychological, hardened by violence and mistrust.

Days after she returned from Syria, 23-year-old Melal al-Zubaidi and a friend went to the market on a pleasant night to eat ice cream. It was a short walk, yet unthinkable only a month ago for a woman in the capital. Still, her parents were nervous, and Zubaidi wore a head scarf and an ankle-length skirt to avoid angering Islamic extremists.

The Zubaidis, a Shiite Muslim family, have yet to pass another boundary. When they fled Iraq five months ago, a Sunni family took over their large house in Dora, a sprawling neighborhood in southern Baghdad. When the Zubaidis returned this month, they were too scared to ask the new occupants to leave. So they rented a small apartment in Mashat, a mostly Shiite district.

"Security is better," said Melal al-Zubaidi, who has a degree in engineering. "But we still have fear inside ourselves."

Over the past two months, the level of nearly every type of violence — car bombings, assassinations, suicide attacks — has dropped from earlier this year. The downturn is a result of a confluence of factors: This year, 30,000 U.S. military reinforcements were funneled into Baghdad and other areas, Sunni tribes and insurgents turned against the al-Qaida in Iraq insurgent group and partnered with U.S. forces to patrol neighborhoods and towns. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, seeking to improve his movement's image, ordered his Mahdi Army militia to freeze operations.

U.N. refugee officials estimate that 45,000 Iraqis returned from Syria last month, while Iraqi officials say 1,000 are arriving each day. "The returns find a capital that offers greater freedom of movement. Shops are open

later in many neighborhoods, and curfews have been reduced.

But those freedoms still come with constraints. Weddings, accompanied by honking cars and lively bands, are reappearing on the streets, but they still end before darkness falls. Visits to relatives and friends across Baghdad are more possible but still hinge on which group or sect controls each neighborhood. Some stores are selling alcohol, but fundamentalists watch for those who breach their codes.

Lusay Hashimi, 31, returned to his house in Dora with his wife and three young children last month after fleeing to Syria nine months ago. Since then, 11 other relatives who also had left for Syria — Sunnis like him — have come back too.

Hashimi no longer sees bodies in the street when he opens his front door. Sunni extremists no longer man checkpoints to search his vehicle for alcohol or signs of collaboration with the government or the Americans. Roads are being paved, and municipal workers are sprucing up parks and traffic circles. His patch of Dora is now a fortress, surrounded by tall blast walls that separate entire blocks.

"It's totally secured," said Hashimi, who was an intelligence officer during the government of Saddam Hussein. But a few days ago, he drove across the main highway to another section of Dora. He felt a familiar fear: "You've lost there. You don't know who controls the area, Sunni or Shia. American soldiers or Iraqi security forces. It's still chaotic."

He never drives on side streets, afraid of the unknown.

On a recent day, he wanted to visit a Shiite friend in Amal, a district controlled by the Mahdi Army, whom he had not seen in a year. But his friend advised him not to come. Hashimi felt relief. "I'm afraid to go to Shiite areas," he said.

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Sunday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

General Admission Prices: Adults \$4

Seniors (60 and over): \$3 – except Thursday Seniors' Day FREE
Children 12 and under: \$1 – except Saturday Children's Day FREE

Sunday Family: Free with the Times-News coupon

All who attend this year's Festival of Trees will receive free admission to special Planetarium movie presentations at the Herrett Center during Festival week. Generously donated by the Herrett Center for Arts & Science

Thursday Entertainment Schedule		5:00 pm		Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers	
10:00 am	Twin Falls Christian Academy Elementary Choir	5:30 pm	Burt Fluth Vocal Soloist	6:00 pm	Rocky Top Cloggers Directed by Shannon Edwards & Halley Everton
	Directed by Christy Lipskoch	6:30 pm	Rocky Top Cloggers Directed by Shannon Edwards & Halley Everton	7:00 pm	Middle Eastern Dancers of the Magic Valley
11:30 am	Twin Falls Christian Academy High School Choir	7:30 pm	Middle Eastern Dancers of the Magic Valley		
	Directed by Christy Lipskoch				
12 noon	Clover Trinity Lutheran School				
	Vocal & Chime Choirs				
12:30 pm	Clover Trinity Lutheran School				
	Vocal & Chime Choirs				
1:00 pm	Kimberly Elementary 4th Grade & Honor Choir				
	Directed by Misty Kalbfliesch & Roberta Beck				
1:30 pm	Kimberly Elementary 4th Grade & Honor Choir				
	Directed by Misty Kalbfliesch & Roberta Beck				
2:00 pm	Immanuel Lutheran Elementary Choir K-4				
	Directed by Cherry Willie				
2:30 pm	Immanuel Lutheran Bell Choir & Soloists				
	Directed by Cherry Willie				
3:00 pm	Magic Valley Christian High School				
	Directed by Diane Davis				
6:30 pm	Hot Country Fiddlers Lena & Gracie Stukenholz				
	& Bill Butler on guitar				
7:00 pm	Extreme Dance				

Saturday Entertainment Schedule		9:30 am		Peer Energy Gymnastics	
10:00 am	Peer Energy Gymnastics <td>10:00 am</td> <td>Julie's Jazzworks <td>10:30 am</td> <td>Julie's Jazzworks </td></td>	10:00 am	Julie's Jazzworks <td>10:30 am</td> <td>Julie's Jazzworks </td>	10:30 am	Julie's Jazzworks
	Directed by LeAnn Gonzales <td>11:00 am</td> <td>The Dance Center & The Top Tappers <td>11:30 am</td> <td>The Dance Center & The Top Tappers </td></td>	11:00 am	The Dance Center & The Top Tappers <td>11:30 am</td> <td>The Dance Center & The Top Tappers </td>	11:30 am	The Dance Center & The Top Tappers
11:30 am	The Dance Center & The Top Tappers <td>12 noon</td> <td>The Dance Center & The Top Tappers <td>12:30 pm</td> <td>Sanjuria International Martial Arts with Sheppard Reale </td></td>	12 noon	The Dance Center & The Top Tappers <td>12:30 pm</td> <td>Sanjuria International Martial Arts with Sheppard Reale </td>	12:30 pm	Sanjuria International Martial Arts with Sheppard Reale
	Directed by Misty Kalbfliesch & Roberta Beck <td>1:00 pm</td> <td>Robert Stuart Bel Canto Girls Choir <td>1:30 pm</td> <td>Intermountain Martial Arts </td></td>	1:00 pm	Robert Stuart Bel Canto Girls Choir <td>1:30 pm</td> <td>Intermountain Martial Arts </td>	1:30 pm	Intermountain Martial Arts
2:00 pm	Intermountain Martial Arts <td>2:00 pm</td> <td>Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers <td>2:30 pm</td> <td>Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers </td></td>	2:00 pm	Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers <td>2:30 pm</td> <td>Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers </td>	2:30 pm	Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers
	Directed by Diane Davis <td>3:00 pm</td> <td>Magic Valley Eagles Cheerleading <td>3:30 pm</td> <td>Magic Valley Eagles Cheerleading </td></td>	3:00 pm	Magic Valley Eagles Cheerleading <td>3:30 pm</td> <td>Magic Valley Eagles Cheerleading </td>	3:30 pm	Magic Valley Eagles Cheerleading
3:30 pm	Magic Valley Eagles Cheerleading <td>4:00 pm</td> <td>Jennifer Tanner vocal soloist <td>4:30 pm</td> <td>LDS Institute Choir </td></td>	4:00 pm	Jennifer Tanner vocal soloist <td>4:30 pm</td> <td>LDS Institute Choir </td>	4:30 pm	LDS Institute Choir
4:00 pm	Jennifer Tanner vocal soloist <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
4:30 pm	LDS Institute Choir <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
	Directed by Doug Christen <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
5:00 pm	Mauldins Dance Academy <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
5:30 pm	Mauldins Dance Academy <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
6:00 pm	Planet Cheer <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				
	Directed by Amanda Shaw <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>				

Friday Entertainment Schedule		10:00 am		Immanuel Lutheran Pre-K & Kindergarten	
10:00 am	Immanuel Lutheran Pre-K & Kindergarten	10:30 am	Hansen Elementary Choir & Hansen High School Choir	11:00 am	Oregon Trail Honor Choir
	Directed by Verne Sherretts		Directed by Janice Hanby		Directed by Sherry Cowger
10:30 am	Hansen Elementary Choir & Hansen High School Choir	12 noon	Hagerman Schools Music Department	1:00 pm	Popplewell Elementary Honor Choir
	Directed by Janice Hanby		Directed by Mr. Jason Bear		Directed by Kathy LaGrone
11:00 am	Oregon Trail Honor Choir	1:30 pm	First Baptist Preschool	3:30 pm	CSI Madrigal Ensemble A Capella vocal group
	Directed by Sherry Cowger		Directed by Serena Jenkins Clark	4:00 pm	Harrison/Perrine Honors Choir
12 noon	Hagerman Schools Music Department	4:30 pm	Directed by Martha Dickenson & Gayle McDonald	6:30 pm	Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers
	Directed by Mr. Jason Bear				
1:00 pm	Popplewell Elementary Honor Choir				
	Directed by Kathy LaGrone				
1:30 pm	First Baptist Preschool				
3:30 pm	CSI Madrigal Ensemble A Capella vocal group				
	Directed by Serena Jenkins Clark				
4:00 pm	Harrison/Perrine Honors Choir				
	Directed by Martha Dickenson & Gayle McDonald				
6:30 pm	Nielson's School of Dance Stargazers				

Sunday Entertainment Schedule		1:30 pm <th colspan="2">Nikki Hyde Vocal Soloist</th>		Nikki Hyde Vocal Soloist	
1:30 pm	Nikki Hyde Vocal Soloist	2:00 pm	Maria Garrett & Friends	2:30 pm	Rylie Baker Vocal Soloist
	Directed by Doug Christen	3:00 pm	Aaron Martz Vocal Soloist	3:30 pm	Emily Eldredge Vocalist
2:00 pm	Maria Garrett & Friends				
2:30 pm	Rylie Baker Vocal Soloist				
3:00 pm	Aaron Martz Vocal Soloist				
3:30 pm	Emily Eldredge Vocalist				

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Nation's retailers post a robust start to the holiday season, research group says

By Anne D'Innocenzo
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The nation's retailers had a robust start to the holiday shopping season, according to a research group announced Saturday by a national research group that tracks sales at retail outlets across the country.

According to ShopperTrak RCT Corp., which tracks sales at more than 50,000 retail outlets, total sales rose 8.3 percent to about \$10.3 billion on Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, compared with \$9.5 billion on the same day a year ago. ShopperTrak had expected an increase of no more than 4 percent to 5 percent.

"This is a really strong number. ... You can't have a good season unless it starts well," said Bill Martin, co-founder of ShopperTrak, citing strength across all regions. "It's very encouraging. When you look at September and October, shoppers weren't in the stores."

In a separate statement released Saturday, J.C. Penney Co. reported "strong performance across all merchandise categories," including fine jewelry, outerwear, and young men's and children's assortments. But the department store chain cautioned, "While we are encouraged by our strong start, it is still early in the holiday season, and we are mindful of the headwinds consumers are facing."

J.C. Penney, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and other major retailers are expected to report same-store results for November on Dec. 6. Same-store sales are those at stores opened at least a year and are considered a key indicator of a retailer's strength.

The upbeat reports were encouraging since merchants have been struggling with anemic sales in recent months, as shoppers, particularly in the middle and lower-income brackets, were becoming more frugal amid higher gas and food prices and an escalating credit crunch.

In an apparent sign of desperation, the nation's stores ushered in the official start of the holiday shopping season on Friday with expanded hours, including midnight

openings, and a blitz of early morning specials that were more generous than a year ago. J.C. Penney and Kohl's Corp. opened at 4 a.m., an hour earlier than a year ago.

The strategy appears to have worked, as shoppers jammed stores in record numbers for early morning deals on Friday, Martin noted

that judging by the strong figures on Friday, stores were able to sustain strong sales throughout the day. He said he's counting on strong traffic throughout the weekend as many stores, including Macy's Inc., are continuing with special deals.

While Black Friday — so named because it was tradi-

tionally when shopping made stores profitable — starts holiday shopping, it is not considered a bellwether for the season. However, merchants see Black Friday as setting an important tone to the overall season: What consumers see that day influences where they will shop for the rest of the year.

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FBI to help with search for missing wife of former Illinois police sergeant

CHICAGO (AP) — The FBI will join the search for the wife of a former suburban police sergeant, whom authorities have called a suspect in her disappearance nearly a month ago, a spokesman for the federal agency said Saturday.

The FBI's involvement comes at the request of the Illinois State Police, which is leading the investigation into the disappearance of Stacy Peterson, 23, from the couple's home.

The case has led prosecutors to re-examine the 2004 death of Drew Peterson's third wife, Kathleen Savio. Authorities have said her death may have been a homicide staged to look like an accidental drowning.

Savio's body was exhumed for a new autopsy. The state's attorney's office said it could be a couple weeks before investigators "have results from tests on her remains. Peterson, 33, who has not been called a suspect in Savio's case, has denied any wrongdoing in her death and has proclaimed his innocence in Stacy Peterson's disappearance.

He has said he believed his 23-year-old wife left him for another man.

FBI spokesman Ross Rice said the agency has no reason to believe federal laws were broken, which would give it jurisdiction. But it has agreed to help in the case, he said.

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Grizzly bear search planned for Idaho, Montana

By Keith Kilder
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Officials with two federal and two state agencies plan to search a 5,000-square-mile area for grizzly bears in north-central Idaho and western Montana next summer, using motion-sensitive cameras and special fur grabbers. The \$60,000 search, which still must be funded, comes after a black bear hunter from

Tennessee mistakenly killed a grizzly bear in September in rugged north-central Idaho territory near Kelly Creek about three miles from the Montana border. The last previous confirmed sighting of a grizzly in the area was in 1946. But after the young, 450-pound male grizzly was killed on Sept. 3, officials began wondering if more grizzly bears had returned to the area.

"We don't know," said Steve

Nadeau, large carnivore coordinator for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. "We don't think there are very many bears up there, otherwise we'd be getting more observations that are verifiable."

In addition to Idaho Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will take part in the survey if the money

is approved, a prospect Nadeau said was likely.

"The project is basically a go next year," he said.

Chris Servehn, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's grizzly bear recovery coordinator, said he has requested money from the Wildlife Service and Forest Service for the survey.

"I have no information as yet on actual 2008 funding for this survey but I am hoping to

make it happen," he told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

The last time the area underwent an extensive survey for grizzlies was in 1991 and 1992, Nadeau said. The proposed survey would likely start in May if snow levels allowed access, he said, and last through September.

Fur would be obtained from barbed wire and back scratchers placed in key locations. DNA from such fur can

test scientists whether the animal is a grizzly and whether it's male or female.

"They'll be distributed through the northern part of the ecosystem where this bear was killed, with an attempt to capture DNA from additional grizzlies, if there are any," Nadeau said. "They'll be placed in good habitat and probably along a grid format to stratify the habitat in some fashion."

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Overstock sale from 11-1-07 thru 12-15-07

Off's Corner Inc.

Est. 1947

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REG. 449.99
NOW **\$299**
Complete

Edible Pillows on Sale at Swensen's!

At Swensen's we've finally discovered a way to combine our two most beloved activities - eating and sleeping. Here's how it works: You run down to Swensen's and stock up on giant bags of Western Family cereal. You swap out all of the pillows in your house for said bags of cereal (just throw on a pillow case, and you'll never know the difference). Then, whenever you wake up hungry in the middle of the night, simply tear off the end of your pillow and chow down on the pre-sweetened goodness inside - without ever leaving the comfort of your own bed. Don't miss this chance to try our innovative edible pillow concept. Or, if you're worried about crumbs in your bed, simply enjoy some amazing prices on cold cereal.

LAST CALL FOR BOX TOPS

This year's box tops competition - where the school with the most box tops will receive an additional \$500 from Swensen's - will officially end at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 3rd. So be sure to return your collected box tops to any Swensen's location by then.



Snack-Size APPLES

Granny Smith
Braeburn
Golden Delicious
Red Delicious

99¢ lb.



Boneless Beef CHUCK ROAST

\$2.39 lb.



Western Family Asst. 28-32 oz. BAGGED CEREAL

5 for \$10



Western Family Gallon 1%, 2% OR SKIM MILK

\$2.79 ea. Limit 4

SWENSEN'S GROCERIES



Western Family 15 oz. ASSORTED CHILI

69¢ ea.



Western Family CAKE MIX

88¢ ea.

Assorted 12 pk. COKE

3 for \$12

Aquafina 16.9 oz. 24 pack WATER

2 for \$9

Mt. Olympus 128 oz. WATER

89¢ ea.

Western Family 64 oz. TOMATO/ VEG. JUICE

\$2.39 ea.

Western Family 64 oz. ASST. CRAN JUICE

\$1.99 ea.

Western Family 24 oz. BEEF STEW 3 for \$5

Chef Boyardee CANNED PASTA 5 for \$5

Western Family 15 oz. Assorted CANNED BEANS 59¢

Western Family 16 oz. SALAD DRESSINGS \$1.39

Select POST CEREALS 4 for \$10

American Beauty 12 oz. NOODLES 5 for \$5

Kraft-4-Pack MACARONI & CHEESE 2 for \$2

Top Ramen 3 oz. NOODLES 10 for \$1

Purina Mainstay 17.6 lb. DOG FOOD 2 for \$10

Arm & Hammer Assorted DETERGENT 2 for \$9

Western Family 8 Roll PAPER TOWELS or Western Family 24 Roll BATH TISSUE \$5.99 ea.

Honest Pride 20 oz. WHITE/WHEAT BREAD

3 for \$5

Assorted CHEEZIT, DORITOS or RUFFLES

2 for \$5

Oberon 16 oz. SUMMER SAUSAGE

\$5.99 ea.

Western Family 6 ct. FRUIT SNACKS

5 for \$5

Planters 16 oz. DRY ROASTED PEANUTS

2 for \$6

PRODUCE



D'Anjou/Bartlett PEARS

99¢ lb.



Large Navel ORANGES

2 lbs. for 88¢



5 lb. box SATSUMA TANGERINES

\$6.99 ea.



Iceberg LETTUCE

69¢ ea.



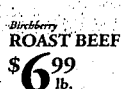
8 oz. Whole/Steak MUSHROOMS

2 for \$3



Green CABBAGE

2 lbs. \$1 for



Birchberry ROAST BEEF

\$6.99 lb.



Cranberry Delight SALAD

\$3.99 lb.

Whole FRENCH BREAD SANDWICH

\$6.49 ea.

Pepper Jack CHEESE

\$5.49 lb.

FREEZER & COOLER



Family Pak PORK LOIN CHOPS

\$1.49 lb.



Western Family 18 count EGGS

2 for \$4

Pork Bone-In SIRLOIN ROAST

99¢ lb.

Boneless Beef CHUCK STEAK

\$2.59 lb.

Boneless Beef Petite SIRLOIN STEAK

\$2.79 lb.

Bar-S 3 lb. Polish SMOKED SAUSAGE

\$1.99

Western Family Assorted 1/2 Gallon ICE CREAM

2 for \$5

Western Family 12 oz. Frozen ORANGE JUICE

2 for \$3

Lala Drinkable 9 oz. YOGURT

99¢

Western Family PREMIUM PIZZA

2 for \$5

BELOW COST SPECIAL

Fresh Atlantic SALMON FILETS

\$3.99 lb.

Boneless Beef STEW MEAT

\$3.49 lb.

Falls Brand Boneless Pork Boston BUTT ROAST

\$1.39 lb.

Falls Brand 2 lb. pkg. WIENERS & FRANKS

\$3.29 ea.



Western Family 20 lb. DOG FOOD

\$3.88

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\$4.49

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Hertz

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'07 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW

XLT 4X4

- Power W-L-M
- Tilt, Cruise
- CD
- MP3
- Wheels
- Bed Liner

Hertz Gold Certified



Hertz Price \$24,995

One at this price #9519

'06 CHEVY 2500 CREW CAB

DIESEL

- Power W-L-M
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- CD
- Leather
- Heat Seats
- Leer Shell
- Tow Pkg.

Hertz Gold Certified



Hertz Price \$36,995

One at this price #9460

'08 TOYOTA CAMRY LE

ONLY 200 MILES

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- Power W-L-M
- Tilt, Cruise
- CD

Hertz Gold Certified



Hertz Price \$19,995

One at this price #785G

'07 CHEVY COBALT

- Power W-L-M
- Tilt, Cruise
- CD

Hertz Gold Certified



Hertz Price \$11,995

One at this price #721G

OPEN TODAY 11 AM TO 5 PM

CARS & TRUCKS

2007 FORD TAURUS
#744G, Power Seats, Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, , CD

\$9995

2004 CHEVY IMPALA
#783G, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, Cassette

\$10995

2005 SCION XB
#658G, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Sun Roof

\$12995

2007 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT
#850G, Power Seats, Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Rear Air

\$14995

2006 HONDA ODYSSEY
#865F, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Rear Air, Roof Rack

\$14995

2006 CHEVY IMPALA
#865F, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Cassette

\$14995

TRUCKS & SUVs

2006 CHEVY COLORADO LS CREW CAB
#842G, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Heat Seats

\$19995

2006 DODGE 2500 SLT CREW CAB DIESEL
#854G, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Wheels, Tow Pkg.

\$33995

2006 FORD F-250 XLT CREW CAB
#854G, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Heat Seats

\$29995

2006 TOYOTA 4Runner S
#854G, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Heat Seats, Running Boards

\$29995

2006 HONDA CR-V EX
#865F, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Tilt, Cruise, CD, Heat Seats

\$24995

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OPEN MONDAY 11 TO 5 PM SATURDAY TIL 7 PM



Going green

Manufacturers tout gifts friendly to environment

By Abigail Goldman
Los Angeles Times

What's the green approach to the holidays?

If you listen to the marketers, manufacturers and retailers, it's all about buying environmentally sensitive products — biodegradable cards, gift wrap made from wastepaper and glass objects d'art fashioned from old beer bottles.

Some critics are quick to assail the notion that you can go green by spending money, saying that this kind of eco-Christmas is more artificial than a plastic tree.

But others call the trend a way to ease consumers into a greener way of life.

"In a perfect world, the one we don't live in right now, there's something ironic about buying your way to green," said Deborah Barrow, founder of The Daily Green, a Hearst-owned online environmental guide. "But we live in this world, and this world has people who are heavily invested in a consumerist society and, yet, they're more and more interested in going green."

In a year with relatively modest expectations for holiday sales, that sounds like opportunity.

In a recent poll, nearly nine in 10 Americans identified themselves as "conscious consumers," according to the Conscious Consumer Report, produced by marketing agency EBMG.

About the same number said that if products were equal in price and quality, they were more likely to buy from companies that manufacture energy-efficient products, promote health and safety and commit to environmentally friendly practices, the pollsters found.

Those are good reasons for retailers to make sure their green is showing.

Home Depot on Wednesday offered tips for celebrating the holidays in green fashion, including improving a home before guests arrive, decorating it for the holidays and selecting the ideal gifts.

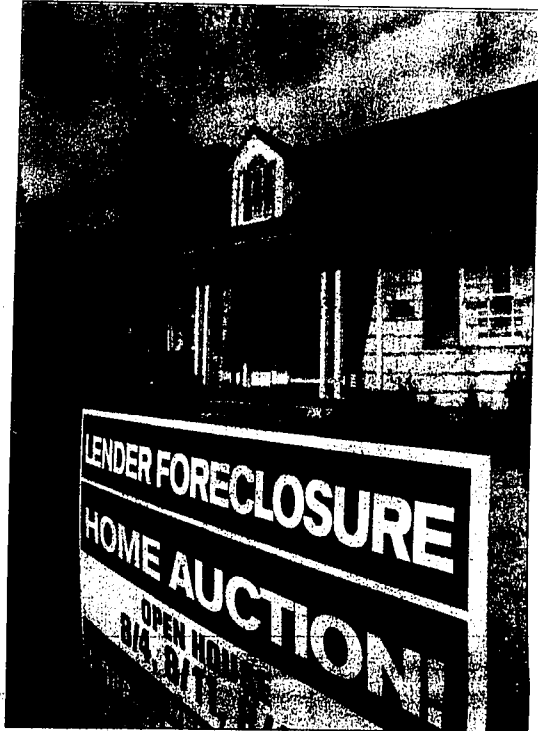
Oh, and just in case you need some gift ideas, Home Depot reminds consumers that it has an Eco Options line of environmentally friendly products.

Others also are getting in on the act.

Target Corp. devotes a section of its Web site to "eco-friendly" merchandise, though it's a year-round endeavor, the company says.

Please see GREEN, Page B4

How bad will it get?



A home is advertised for sale at a foreclosures auction in Pasadena, Calif. Some 2 million homeowners hold \$600 billion of subprime adjustable-rate mortgage loans, known as ARMs, that are due to reset at higher amounts during the next eight months. While not all these mortgages are in trouble, homeowners who default or fall behind on payments could cause an economic shock of a type never seen before.

New wave of mortgage failures could create a nightmare economic scenario

By Joe Del Bono
Associated Press writer

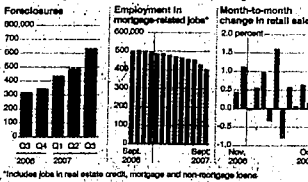
NEW YORK — When Domenico Colombo saw that his monthly mortgage payment was about to balloon by 30 percent, he had a clear picture of how bad it could get.

His payment was scheduled to surge by an extra \$1,500 in December. With his daughter headed to college next fall and tuition to be paid, he feared ending up like so many neighbors in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., who defaulted on their mortgages and whose homes are now in foreclosure and sporting "For Sale" signs.

Colombo did manage to renegotiate a new fixed interest

Symptoms of a slowdown

Fallout from the mortgage crisis has already included tens of billions in write-offs by large banks, widespread job losses in the financial sector and signs of a slowdown in consumer spending.



SOURCE: RealtyTrac; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Department of Commerce AP

rate loan with his bank, and now believes he'll be OK — but the future is less certain for the rest of us.

In the months ahead, millions of other adjustable-rate mortgages like Colombo's will reset, giving them a high-

er interest rate as required by the loan agreements and leaving many homeowners unable to make their payments. Soaring mortgage default rates this year already have shaken major financial institutions and the fallout from more of them, some experts say, could spread from those already battered banks into the general economy.

The worst-case scenario is anyone's guess, but some believe it could become very bad.

"We haven't faced a downturn like this since the Depression," said Bill Gross, chief investment officer of PIMCO, the world's biggest bond fund. He's not suggesting anything like those terri-

ble times — but, as an expert on the global credit crisis, he speaks with authority.

"Its effect on consumption, its effect on future lending attitudes, could bring us close to the zero line in terms of economic growth," he said. "It does keep me up at night."

Some 2 million homeowners hold \$600 billion of subprime adjustable-rate mortgages, known as ARMs, that are due to reset at higher amounts during the next eight months. Subprime loans are those made to people with poor credit. Not all these mortgages are in trouble, but homeowners who default or fall behind on payments

Please see MORTGAGE, Page B4

Wary Wall Street awaits a big batch of economic data

GDP, home sales, inflation and spending reports due this week

By Madeline Reed
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — November has been a nerve-wracking month for Wall Street, and investors are hoping this week's readings on economic growth, home sales and inflation don't meet their worst fears.

The Dow Jones Industrial average is on pace to post the biggest monthly loss since September 2002. Sentiment

certainly has shifted since early October, when the over-riding belief on Wall Street was that the credit crisis was largely over.

Since then, dozens of financial institutions have revealed huge losses on risky mortgages — even Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, government-sponsored entities that private lenders rely on to buy their mortgages in hard times.

Meanwhile, the credit mar-

kets remain very squeezed, so the companies that depend on them have several tough quarters ahead as they overhaul their investment strategies and wait for the housing market to bottom out.

Last week, the blue-chip index shed 1.49 percent; the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.24 percent; the Nasdaq composite index slid 1.54 percent.

The only chances for a December rally, it seems, are another interest rate cut from the Federal Reserve, or data showing businesses and consumers are more resilient than investors believe.

The National Association of Realtors reports Wednesday on October's existing home sales, and Thursday, the Department of Commerce reports on October's new home sales. Both are expected to show declines from September.

Wall Street is hoping other data released this week, including the Commerce Department's report on the third-quarter gross domestic product, will show a recovery in growth. Analysts also are watching for reports on the Fed's policy stance.

Financial snapshot

Interest rates	WEEKS AGO	WEEK AGO	YEAR AGO
Average 30-year fixed mortgage rate	6.91%	6.91%	6.84%
10-year Treasury note	4.62%	4.62%	4.62%
91-day Treasury Bill Yield	3.22%	3.37%	5.05%
10-year Treasury Inflation-Protected Security Yield	4.00%	4.14%	4.28%

Commodities	Commodities Research	WEEKS AGO	WEEK AGO	YEAR AGO
Oil	354.29	349.43	308.97	
Gold	1,240.70	1,240.70	1,240.70	
Silver	14.70	14.70	14.70	
Natural Gas	4.70	4.70	4.70	
Stocks				
Dow Jones Industrial Average	11,459.74	11,459.74	11,459.74	
S&P 500	1,400.99	1,400.99	1,400.99	
Nasdaq Composite	2,800.99	2,800.99	2,800.99	

Market values as of 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. All values in U.S. dollars. © 2007 Reuters. All rights reserved.

YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

NAIFA members

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, Southern Idaho members David Hruza, Craig Dahl, Bill Hall and Laura Drake attended the National Convention held in Washington D.C. in September. NAIFA's 118th annual Convention and Career Conference brought 2,000 members together to discuss the latest legislative and regulatory issues. Industry trends and insurance product development.

The event featured educational workshops from more than a dozen prominent speakers and the NAIFA Expo, one of the largest exhibits of financial services and products in the nation. NAIFA members and their senators and representatives to discuss the key issues facing the life insurance and financial services industry.

David Hruza, President of NAIFA - Southern Idaho, has a full service agency, Hruza Insurance Agency, located at 801 South Rupert, He has been serving Rupert and the surrounding area for the past six years.



Hruza

Kraig Dahl, National Committee person of NAIFA - Southern Idaho, is a Beneficial Insurance Services agent. His offices are located 252 Deere St. in Twin Falls. He has been licensed since 1969.



Dahl

Bill Hall, National Committee person for NAIFA Idaho, owns Hall & Associates located at 112 South Lincoln in Jerome and has been in business for 18 years.

Laura Drake, Executive Secretary of NAIFA - Southern Idaho, operates Laura Drake Insurance and Financial Services located at 1201 Falls Ave. E., Ste. 16 in Twin Falls.

Jensen Jewelers employees

Jensen Jewelers announced the graduation of Crystal Datasandro and Paul Hefner, of Jensen Jewelers in the Magic Valley Mall, and Andy Bamping, of Jensen Ringmakers, from the prestigious "Certified Professional Jeweler" program. They completed the 11-week course and have received certification. The course involves extensive training in all product areas of the jewelry industry, including diamonds, gem-

stone stones, watches, and all facets of jewelry making.

Randy Suter

Randy Suter recently accepted a position with Farmers National Bank as commercial loan officer at their Shoshone Street office in Twin Falls.



Suter

A native of Jerome, Suter attended Jerome High School and later graduated from I.S.U. with a B.B.A. degree. He has worked many years in the Magic Valley in agriculture and banking. He currently resides in Jerome with his wife Cheryl. His sons, Casey and Kelly are attending the University of Idaho.

Mary Shaw

Mary Shaw, realtor of Prudential Idaho Homes and Properties has received two awards for the third quarters of 2007 by the Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., a



Shaw

Prudential Financial, Inc. company as top placement in the state of Idaho. She won third place for Top 3 Sales Professional in Idaho for Residential Gross Commission Income and third place for Residential Units. She was also awarded Outstanding Sales Performance exceeding Bonus Program Certificate of Achievement for the third quarter from Prudential Idaho Homes and Properties.

Shaw is a native of Twin Falls and is active in the community serving on Valley House Board, Twin Falls Chamber Board and

past-President of Twin Falls Rotary Club.

Frank Eckrote, Rose Ann Eckrote and Miranda Henning

The Eckrote Team of Prudential Idaho Homes and Properties has received awards for the first, second and third quarters of 2007 by the Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., a



Frank Eckrote



Rose Ann Eckrote

Henning

Prudential Financial, Inc. company as top placement in the state of Idaho. The Eckrote Team received first quarter awards for third place in Residential Gross Commission Income. The awards recognize residential sales professional teams who exemplified great sales measures in residential gross commission income and closed residential units in each quarter.

The Eckrote Team consists of Frank Eckrote, Rose Ann Eckrote and Miranda Henning. Frank is a Relocation Specialist and specializes in residential and commercial sales. Rose Ann is an Associate Broker, a Relocation Specialist, a Fine Homes Specialist and holds the GRI designation. Henning is a realtor and spe-

cializes in residential sales.

Tawni Wooten and Mandi Riddle

The Wooten/Riddle Team of Prudential Idaho Homes and Properties has received awards for the first, second and third quarters in 2007 by the Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., a



Wooten



Riddle

Prudential Financial, Inc. company, as top placement in the state of Idaho. The Wooten/Riddle Team received a first quarter award for second place in Residential Gross Commission Income and Residential Units. For second quarter, they received second place in Residential Gross Commission Income and Residential Units. They were also awarded second place in Residential Units for the third quarter. The awards recognize their teams' contribution to Prudential's high standing within the Real Estate Community.

The Wooten/Riddle team consists of Tawni Wooten and Mandi Riddle, a mother-daughter team who have worked together for two of their four years in the industry. Wooten is an Associate Broker for Prudential Idaho Homes and Properties and holds the GRI designation. They specialize in commercial, development, farm, residential and new construction.

MILESTONES

CHIROPRACTIC CENTER



Soulsby Chiropractic Life Center in Burley has openings for new patients. From left are Matthew W. McReynolds, Stephanie Inarez, Peggy Soulsby and H. Eugene Soulsby.

Matthew Wayne McReynolds has joined the staff at Soulsby Chiropractic Life Center, 1246 Oakley Ave. in Burley. McReynolds has a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from University of Wyoming and a Doctor of Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. He has completed one year of clinical internship and was the recipient of the Clinical Intern Award for Excellence in clinical skills and patient care. He is originally from Twin Falls where he worked as a chemist. He is married and has two children. Soulsby Chiropractic Life Center is currently accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment: 678-3893.

Proposed
Friedman Memorial Replacement Airport
Environmental Impact Statement

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007
Open house session from 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
A question and answer session will begin at 11:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007
Open house session from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
A question and answer session will begin at 11:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY CAMPUS
1050 Fox Acres Road
Hayden, ID 83333
(208) 753-3481

The same information will be presented at both meetings.
For more information: www.eisports.net/um-016

PAK 'N' SHIP BUSINESS CENTER

Holiday Hours
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Nov. 26 - Dec. 23

Gift Wrapping • Packing • Shipping

412 W. Addison Ave., Twin Falls
208-734-1007

The Papoose Club's 17th Annual Holiday Bazaar

A juried arts and crafts show with 60 artists, soap, cookies, wreaths, rubber stamps, face painting, & Santa!

Saturday, December 1st, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 2nd, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Starts on Sunday at 11:30 pm (don't be late!)

Hemingway Elementary School
111 8th Street West, Ketchikan, Alaska

Proceeds benefit children's youth organizations in our area. For more information call 726-6642 or visit papooseclub.org

How to Control Your Medicare Budget

Budgeting for your Medicare health care expenses might be easier if you had a SecureHorizons MedicareDirect™ plan.

This Medicare Advantage Private Fee-For-Service plan helps you limit expenses like:

- Monthly premiums — many of our plans have no monthly health plan premium.
- Copays — our copays are predictable for such things as physician visits, hospital stays and ambulance service.
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And with SecureHorizons MedicareDirect™ plans, there are no networks to navigate or referrals to obtain when you seek treatment. If this sounds appealing, then call now to find out more.

Or come to a free informational meeting.

Tuesday Nov. 27
11:30 AM FREE LUNCH
Carino's Italian Grill
1921 Blue Lakes Blvd North
Twin Falls

To reserve your spot, or to make arrangements for special needs accommodations, please call:
RSVP 1-208-412-9244
1-800-387-1074

Roy Young
SecureHorizons ICA Idaho

We want YOUR BUSINESS news

To submit contributions to the YourBusiness section, send information and photographs to Photos/News Business Editor Joshua Palmer at jpalmer@magivalley.com or call 735-3231.

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* A Medicare Advantage Private Fee-For-Service plan works differently than a Medicare supplement plan. Your doctor or hospital must agree to accept the plan's terms and conditions prior to providing health care services to you, with the exception of emergencies. If your doctor or hospital does not agree to accept our payment terms and conditions, they may not provide health care services to you, except in an emergency. Providers can find the plan's terms and conditions on our Web site: www.securehorizons.com

The above Medicare Advantage Private Fee-For-Service plan is offered by United HealthCare Insurance Company, or an affiliate company, a Medicare Advantage Organization with a Medicare contract. Limitations, exclusions, and coverages will apply. Benefits vary by state and county. A sales representative will be present with information and applications.

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YOUR BUSINESS

NAPA IN BURLEY



NAPA Auto Parts held a ribbon cutting recently to commemorate the grand opening of its new larger location, 501 Overland Ave. in Burley. Owners, Brian and Debra Barlow, have owned the business since 2001 and have recently expanded their sales area and their parking lot. The parts store has existed as Pettingill's Auto Parts since 1973, then as Pettingill's NAPA auto parts since 1979. The NAPA store has been a NAPA 5 Star Excellence Winner for the past two years and has now connected and expanded into the former Snake River Computer Store. The new addition adds about 2,800 square feet and all of the parking moves to the south side of the building (into part of the Stokes parking lot) where the new entrance and sales area are located. It closes the entrance and parking on the west side. The business can be reached by calling 878-8311. Pictured, center with scissors, are owners Brian and Debra Barlow.

EXTRA MILE AWARD



Ron and Sandee Choate and staff of Choate's Restaurant won the November Jerome Chamber of Commerce Extra Mile Award.



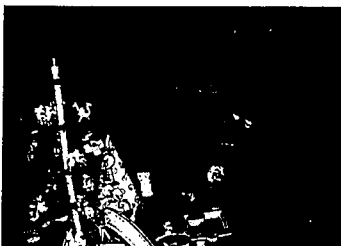
Magic Valley Counseling and Elk Creek Cabin and Retreat Center located at 1002 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls held a ribbon cutting recently with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors. They provide professional counseling to the Magic Valley. Their facilities at their Elk Creek Cabin and Retreat Center provide their clients with comfortable settings. For more information: 734-7714. Pictured cutting ribbon is Laurie Geron.

JEROME MOVE



Springs Wireless recently moved to Jerome in the plaza next to Wal-Mart on South Lincoln. The Jerome Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Club celebrated by hosting a grand opening ribbon cutting and open house.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Dave Westfall and Shauna Kraus do some holiday shopping during the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours at Mary Lou's Flower Cart. The event featured a tour of the business including the greenhouses where they have poinsettias and fresh Christmas trees for the holidays as well as a large variety of gift items. The business is located at 1550 Oriental Ave. in Burley and can be reached by calling 878-3568.

IDAHO TECHCONNECT



A grand opening ribbon cutting was held Nov. 14 for Idaho TechConnect, located at 104 W. Main St. in Jerome. The Jerome and Twin Falls Chamber Ambassadors Club hosted the event.

RIBBON CUTTING



Wired and Wireless cut the red ribbon at a ribbon cutting along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors recently. They are located at 132 Main Ave. S., Ste. 2, Twin Falls. They provide cellular phone service to the Magic Valley. Patrons can enjoy a coffee bar while they wait. For more information: 736-4626. Pictured from left, Daxxy Arth, brother; Nick and William Arth, co-owners.

SALOON OPENS



Jaridge, Nev., has begun its winter season with the opening of the Red Dog Saloon. Beverly Sanders began the season recently with a spaghetti feed followed by a Sunday Night Football buffalo and venison chili feed. Residents were happy to see ranchers from outlying areas come and join in the camaraderie in Jaridge. With the gas station, motel, and market open all winter, Jaridge is hoping to see snowmobilers come and have an exciting time in one of the top 10 snowmobiling areas in the world.

WESTERRA OFFICES



Westerra Real Estate recently moved to their new offices on South Lincoln. The Jerome Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Club celebrated by hosting a grand opening ribbon cutting and open house.

Here's My Card
Clip & Save

Publish your business card in the Times-News for only \$65.63 per time with discounts available for multiple insertions. You can run them just once, or as many days as you want. Your ad will be a stand-alone ad so the customers can clip and save it.

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The Savings are CLEAR

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735-2244

Wall Street

Continued from page B1

Economists are mixed in their forecasts of Wednesday's durable goods report, but on average they anticipate an October uptick in orders of 0.3 percent after a September decline of 1.7 percent.

Economists also expect the Conference Board's November Index on consumer confidence to hold at its October level, which was a two-year low.

And they see Friday's personal spending report showing a rise of 0.3 percent, and core personal consumption expenditures — an inflation measure — is anticipated to come in at 1.8 percent, within the Fed's comfort range.

The market is pricing in a high chance of a Fed rate cut, but it's not guaranteed. The central bank, which meets next on Dec. 11, said the decision to go ahead with a quarter-point cut on Oct. 31 was a close call. A falling dollar and surging oil prices

The market is pricing in a high chance of a Fed rate cut, but it's not guaranteed.

continue to threaten higher inflation, even as policy makers expect growth to slow into next year.

Earnings scheduled for next week include Canadian banks such as Bank of Montreal, the National Bank of Canada, and Toronto Dominion Bank, and big-name consumer brands like Dell Inc., Staples Inc. and Sears Holdings Corp.

The Dow is still up 4.15 percent on the year, but had been up more than 13 percent year-to-date in early October. The Nasdaq is up 7.51 percent, while the S&P is up 1.58 percent.

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Mortgage

Continued from page B1

could cause an economic shock of a type never seen before.

Some of the nation's leading economic minds lay out a scenario that is frightening. Not only would the next wave of the mortgage crisis force people out of their homes, it might also spiral throughout the economy.

The already severe housing slump would be exacerbated by even more empty homes on the market, causing prices to plunge by up to 40 percent in one-hot real estate spots such as California, Nevada and Florida. Investors like Chicago's Neumann Homes, which filed for bankruptcy protection this month, could go under. The top 10 global banks in mortgage-backed securities loans into exotic locales such as collateralized debt obligations, or CDOs, could suffer far greater write-offs than the \$75 billion already taken this year.

Massive job losses would curtail consumer spending that makes up two-thirds of the economy. The Labor Department estimates almost 100,000 financial services jobs related to credit and lending in the U.S. have already been lost, from local bank loan officers to traders in mortgage-backed securities. Thousands of Americans who work in the housing industry could find themselves on the dole. And that would affect dealers, retailers and others dependent on consumer checks.

Based on historical models, zero growth in the U.S. gross domestic product would take the current unemployment rate to 6.4 percent. That would wipe out about 3 million jobs from the economy, according to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and Economic Policy Institute.

By comparison, in the last big downturn between 2001-03, some 2 million jobs were lost, according to the Labor Department. The dot-com bust early this decade decimated the technology sector, while the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks hurt the transportation and airline industries. Economists said the country was officially in recession from March to November of 2001, but the aftermath stretched to 2003.

There is increasing evidence that another downturn has begun.

Borrowers who took out loans in the first six months of this year are already falling behind on their payments faster than those who took out loans in 2006, according to a report from Arlington, Va.-based investment bank Friedman, Billings, Ramsey. That's making it even harder for would-be buyers to get new mortgages — a frightening prospect for home builders with projects going begging on the market and for homeowners desperate to unload property to avoid defaulting on their loans.

Meanwhile, the number of U.S. homes in foreclosure is expected to keep soaring after more than doubling during the third quarter from a year earlier, to 446,726 homes nationwide, according to Irvine, Calif.-based RealtyTrac Inc. That's one foreclosure filing for every 196 households in the nation, a 34 percent jump from just three months earlier.

Such data suggests more Americans could lose their homes than ever before, and those in peril are people who never thought they'd wind up in a mortgage payoff. They come from a broad swath — teachers, pharmacists, and civil servants who were lured by enticing mortgage terms.

Some homebuyers gambled on interest-only loans. The mortgages, which allowed buyers to pay just interest at a low rate for two years, were too good to pass up. But with that initial term now expiring, many homeowners find they can't make the payments. The hopes that went along with those mortgages — that they'd be able to refinance because the equity in their homes would appreciate — have been dashed as home prices skidded across the country.

"It's been said a lot of people have been using their homes as ATM machines,"

said Thomas Lawler, a former official at mortgage lender Fannie Mae who is now a private housing and finance consultant. "The risk has a lot of tentacles."

This example illustrates the distress many homeowners are in or will find themselves in: A subprime adjustable-rate mortgage on a \$400,000 home could have payments of just \$2,200 a month, with borrowers paying 6.5 percent interest only. When the teaser period expires, that payment becomes \$4,000, with the homeowner paying 12 percent and now having to come up with principal as well as interest.

Minneapolis resident Chad Raskovich found himself in a such a situation. He hoped — it turned out, in vain — to gain more equity in his home and that a strong record of payments would enable him to secure a better loan later on.

"It's not just me, it's a lot of people I know. The housing market in the Twin Cities has dramatically changed for the worse in the years since I purchased my home. Now we're just looking for a solution," he said.

Colombo, who lives in the planned community of Weston just outside Ft. Lauderdale, said the reset on his home would have "destroyed" his financial situation. He went to Mortgage Legal Center, one of hundreds of debt counselors trying to bail out desperate homeowners, to work with his lender.

"But many people in my neighborhood didn't get help, and some have literally just walked away from their homes," said Colombo. "There are over 133,000 homes on the market in Broward-Miami-Dade counties, and some of them were actually abandoned. People in this situation don't like to talk about it, and end up getting hurt because they don't."

Many Americans are unaware that a borrower defaulting on a loan can have an impact on everyone else's well-being and that of the nation. After all, the amount of mortgages due to reset is just a fraction of the United States' \$14 trillion economy.

But the series of plunges that Wall Street has suffered in past months prove that no

one is immune when mortgages turn sour.

Today's financial system is interconnected: Mortgages are sold to investment firms, which then slice them up and package them as securities based on risk. Then hedge and pension funds buy up such investments.

When home prices kept rising, these were lucrative assets to own. But the ongoing collapse in housing prices has set off a chain reaction: Lenders are tightening their standards, borrowers are having a harder time refinancing loans and the securities that underpin them are in jeopardy.

This has resulted in more than \$500 billion of potentially worthless paper on the balance sheets of the biggest global banks — losses that could spill into the huge pension and mutual funds that also invest in these securities and that the average worker or investor expects to depend on.

There's more pain left for Wall Street: "We're nowhere close to the end of the collapse," said Mark Patterson, chairman and co-founder of MatlinPatterson Global Advisors, a hedge fund that specializes in distressed funds.

"I just assumed banks could stomach these kind of losses," said Wendy Tabbot, an advertising executive when asked about the subprime crisis outside of a Charles Schwab branch in New York. "I guess you don't really pay attention to things until your forced to. ... You put out of your mind the worst things that can happen."

The subprime wreckage could dwarf the nation's last big banking crisis — the failure of more than 1,000 savings and loans in the 1980s. The biggest difference is that problems with S&Ls were largely contained, and the government was able to rescue them through a \$125 billion bailout.

But this situation is far more widespread, which some experts say makes it more difficult to rein in.

"What really makes this a doomsday scenario is where would you even start with a bailout?" housing consultant Lawler asked.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., key member of Senate finance and banking committees, said borrowers are

the ones who need relief. The playbook to bail out the economy would not be applied to the banks and mortgage originators, but money could be funneled through non-profit organizations to homeowners that need help, he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"There is a worst-case scenario because housing is the linchpin of our economy, and if more foreclosures make prices go down, that creates more foreclosures, and creates a vicious cycle," Schumer said. "You add that to the other weakness in the economy — on one end is the home sector and the other is the financial sector — and it could create a real problem."

He also believes Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke should do more to help the economy. Bernanke has said in recent comments he has no direct plans to bail out the mortgage industry, but to instead offer relief through cheap interest rates and further liquidity injections into the banking system.

There's also been talk of letting government-backed lenders like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac buy mortgages of as much as \$1 million from lenders, pay the government a fee for guaranteeing them and then turn them into securities to be sold to investors. This would extend the government's support, and its exposure, to the mortgage market to help alleviate stress.

Either way, the impact of a fresh round of subprime losses remains of paramount concern to economists — especially since there's still a certainty about how it would ripple through the U.S. economy.

"We all know that more hits from these subprime losses are coming, but are having a devil of a time figuring out how it will happen or how to stop it," said Lawler, who was once chief economist for Fannie Mae.

"We've never been in this situation before."

Green

Continued from page B1

That's similar to Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s green site, which highlights the world's largest retailer's own environmentally sensitive products.

Barneys New York's new catalog, titled "Have a Green Holiday," offers gift cards saying, "Green is Groovy," "Join the Green Revolution" and "Save the Planet."

The upscale retailer also sells a variety of pricey products that incorporate organic materials or come with the promise to donate unspecified amounts to groups such as the National Resources Defense Council.

But if none of that appeals to consumers, Barneys also highlights an \$89 leather tote bag tanned without chemicals and emblazoned in French with "I am the Earth. I love myself and I respect myself."

All that is rubbing some people the wrong way. "It's cynical on the part of the manufacturers and the people who want to sell this stuff," said Andrew Szasz, a sociology professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and author of the new book "Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed From Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves."

"In a world where people

want to continue to aspire to middle-class consumption patterns, but they are also wanting to feel like they are responsible citizens who care about social and environment issues, how do they reconcile that? They go shopping for something that declares itself to be ecologically friendly."

Instead, the best way to be ecologically friendly is to give — and buy — less, said Debra Amador, co-founder of the Web site Buy(Less)Crap.

The site, launched in April and targeted at the "cause-sumer," features flashy takeoffs on Gap Inc.'s Red Campaign under the heading, "Shopping Is Not a Solution. Buy (Less). Give (More)."

The group advocates giving directly to charities rather than buying products that purport to do so and asking retailers and manufacturers for specifics about how much they donate to the causes they say they support.

"We're not anti-shopping," Amador said. "Through this campaign, we've been connected to so many people, and they're not tree-hugging, Birkenstock-wearing, granola-eating activists. They're mainstream Americans who understand that we consume too much."

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Australian PM John Howard, a staunch Bush ally, defeated in election

By Robyn Sullivan
Associated Press writer

SYDNEY, Australia — Conservative Prime Minister John Howard, one of the Bush administration's staunchest allies, suffered a humiliating election defeat Saturday at the hands of an opposition leader who has vowed to pull troops out of Iraq.

Labor leader Kevin Rudd, a Chinese-speaking former diplomat, has also promised to sign the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, leaving the U.S. as the only industrialized country not to have joined it.

Howard, who reshaped his country's image abroad with unwavering support for the war in Iraq, dominated Australian politics for more than a decade but failed to read the signs that voters had grown tired of his rule.

Adding to the sting of his party's decisive defeat, offi-

cial results showed Howard was likely to lose his parliamentary seat altogether. Only one other sitting prime minister has lost his district in the 106-year history of Australia's federal government.

Rudd, 50, has promised to pull Australia's 550 combat troops from Iraq in a phased withdrawal, and to quickly sign Kyoto. Howard had rejected withdrawal plans for Australia's troops in Iraq, and refused to ratify the pact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Today the Australian people have decided that we as a nation will move forward," Rudd said in victory speech before hundreds of cheering supporters in his home state of Queensland. "To plan for the future, to prepare for the future, to embrace the future and together as Australians to unite and write a new page in our nation's history."

Australia is the latest coun-



Australia's new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, left, with his wife Thérèse Reia, and sons Nicolas, second from left, and Marcus give his acceptance speech following his victory in the 2007 federal election, in Brisbane, Australia, Saturday.

try to see elections turn out governments that contributed to the U.S. war in Iraq.

Poland's new prime minister, Donald Tusk, has vowed to take a firmer stand in relations with the United States. He said in his inaugural

Howard, 68, had stayed on to fight for a fifth term in office despite months of negative opinion poll numbers and appeals from some colleagues to quit. He took the blame for his government's defeat.

"I accept full responsibility for the Liberal Party campaign, and I therefore accept full responsibility for the coalition's defeat in this election campaign," Howard said in his concession speech in Sydney.

He said it appeared "very likely" he would lose his seat in Parliament to former television journalist Maxine McKew.

Rudd's Labor Party had more than 53 percent of the vote with over 75 percent of ballots counted, compared to 46.8 percent for Howard's coalition, according to the Australian Electoral Commission.

An Australian Broadcasting Corp. analysis showed that

Labor would get at least 81 places in the 150-seat lower house of Parliament — a clear majority.

Rudd, who was expected to be sworn in as prime minister in the coming week, had accused Howard of being out of touch with modern Australia and ill-prepared to deal with issues such as climate change and high-speed Internet.

Howard campaigned on his economic management, arguing that his government was mostly responsible for 17 years of unbroken economic growth, fueled by Chinese and Indian demand for Australian coal and other minerals. He contended that Rudd could not be trusted to maintain prosperity.

Few in Rudd's team have any federal government experience. They include a former rock star — one-time Midnight Oil singer Peter Garrett — and a number of former union officials.

High price of failure raises urgency of Mideast conference

By Karla Laub and Steven Gidlin
Associated Press writers

JERUSALEM — Next week's Mideast peace conference is unlikely to achieve a U.S. attempt to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because the price of failure has risen dramatically: radical Islamists could gain the upper hand in Palestinian areas and in an increasingly polarized Middle East.

"Perhaps because of these high stakes, the latest bid to partition the Holy Land and end a century of conflict is receiving unprecedented international support, with more than 45 nations to attend the summit at Annapolis, Md."

There may be no better time for relaunching peace talks. Beleaguered leaders are hungry for achievement, most Israelis and Palestinians long for a negotiated settlement, and moderate Arab nations appear ready to provide key backing to offset the growing influence of Iran — a reality highlighted by Saudi Arabia's decision to send its foreign minister to Annapolis.

But the region's old demons are threatening new hope. Israel's prime minister is hawking to his hawkish coalition partners, the Palestinian president controls only part of his territory and extremists on both sides hold the power to torpedo any progress.

The two-day summit at Annapolis brings together Israelis and Palestinians in a U.S. effort to heal what former President Clinton once compared to an abscessed tooth that only hurts more with time.

"At stake is not just Palestinian statehood, but the survival of moderate forces in the Middle East and beyond."

"In this big picture, resolving this dispute is of colossal importance," Mideast envoy Tony Blair said recently. "It is a signal of reconciliation across faiths and cultures. It removes the cause that extremists use above all else to try to ensure moderates within Islam."

The scope of the conference has been scaled back from trying to outline a peace deal to simply relaunching negotiations in hopes of reaching a settlement before President Bush leaves office in a year. But just getting the sides to talk again is an accomplishment, considering seven years of diplomatic deadlock and fighting that killed 4,400 Palestinians and 1,100 Israelis.

The bitterness of those years is evident in low expectations.

"We are not in the era of hope," said 45-year-old Israeli civil servant Rivka Cohen. "We are now in the era of 'so long as it doesn't get worse.'"

Qassem Abu Khaled, 46, who lost his West Bank carpentry business because of Israeli travel restrictions, said he has doubts about the talks. "If they were to change we would have seen signals like freezing settlement construction or removing checkpoints. But

"We are not in the era of hope. We are now in the era of so long as it doesn't get worse."

— Rivka Cohen, a 45-year-old Israeli civil servant

all we see is more building and more restrictions," he said.

Such pessimism has been reinforced by the troubled conference preparations. Including failure to write a joint declaration to be presented there. These challenges pale in comparison to what lies ahead, such as drawing borders and dividing Jerusalem.

Past summits already outlined the contours of a solution: a Palestinian state based roughly on pre-1967 Mideast War frontiers, shared control of Jerusalem and recognition of the needs of Palestinian refugees.

The biggest question, it seems, is not whether a deal can be reached, but whether it can be implemented.

Israel has reason to fear a handover of the West Bank to the Palestinians. Hamas overran Gaza following Israel's 2005 withdrawal from that territory — and then fired

missiles at Israeli targets.

Palestinians fear that Israel's expanding settlements and separation barrier justify deep into Palestinian territory have swallowed up so much land that statehood is slipping away.

Another obstacle to a deal is the weakness of both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, whose hands are tied by right-wing coalition partners, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who lost Gaza to Hamas and has difficulty retaining militants in the West Bank.

Israelis and Palestinians long for charismatic leaders of the past — like Yasser Arafat or Ariel Sharon — and fear the buttoned-up Abbas and the cool-headed Olmert won't inspire the popular backing necessary to push through a deal.

"You are asking way too much of mere mortals who are prisoners rather than masters of their own political

houses," said Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. Mideast negotiator.

Olmert may soon have to choose between two hawkish coalition partners and pursuing peace. For now, it appears he wants both — which may explain his reticence to meet key Palestinian demands such as an immediate settlement freeze. If he reaches a peace accord, early elections are likely.

For Abbas, the biggest challenge is Hamas. It and its Iranian partners are poised to capitalize on failure. In case of success, Hamas could try to derail talks by stepping up attacks on Israel, which in turn would likely force Israel to reoccupy Gaza.

A bipartisan group of prominent former U.S. policymakers recently urged Bush to rethink the strategy of marginalizing Hamas and another Hamas backers, Syria.

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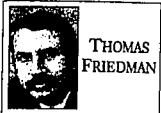
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America needs higher gas tax

If you want to see America thrive by becoming the most energy productive economy in the world — a title that now belongs to Japan, which doesn't have a drop of oil in its soil — you want a gasoline tax



THOMAS FRIEDMAN

of us pleaded for a "patriot tax" on a gallon of \$3 or more gasoline to diminish the transfers of wealth we were making to the very countries who were industriously financing the ideologies of intolerance that were killing Americans and in order to spur innovation in energy efficiency by U.S. manufacturers.

But George Bush and Dick Cheney had a better idea. And the Democrats went along for the ride. They were all going to let the market work and not let our government shape that market — like OPEC does.

You'd think that one person, just one, running for Congress or the Senate would take a fling and say: "Oh, what the heck. I'm going to lose anyway. Why not tell the truth? I'll support a gasoline tax."

Not one. Everyone just runs away from the "I-word" and watches our wealth run away to Russia, Venezuela and Iran.

I can't believe that someone could not win the following debate:

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE: "My Democratic opponent, true to form, wants to raise your taxes. Yes, now he wants to raise your taxes at the gasoline pump by \$1 a gallon. Another tax-and-spend liberal who wants to get into your pocket."

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE: "Yes, my opponent is right. I do favor a gasoline tax phased in over 12 months. But let's get one thing straight: My opponent and I are both for a tax. I just prefer that my taxes go

to the U.S. Treasury, and he's ready to see his go to the Russian, Venezuelan, Saudi and Iranian treasuries. His tax finances people who hate us. Mine would offset some of our payroll taxes, pay down our deficit, strengthen our dollar, stimulate energy efficiency and shore up Social Security. It's called win-win-win-win-win for America. My opponent's strategy is sit back, let the market work and watch America lose, lose, lose, lose. If you can't win that debate, you don't belong in politics.

"Think about it," says Phil Verleger, an energy economist. "We could have replaced the current payroll tax with a gasoline tax. Middle-class consumers would have seen increased take-home pay of between 6 and 9 percent, even though they would have had to pay more at the pump. A stronger foundation for future economic growth would have been laid by keeping more oil revenue here, and we might not now be facing a recession."

As a higher gas tax discouraged oil consumption, the Harvard University economist and former Bush adviser N. Gregory Mankiw has argued: "the price of oil would fall in world markets. As a result, the price of gas to (U.S.) consumers would rise by less than the increase in the tax. So the tax would in effect be paid by Saudi Arabia and Venezuela."

But U.S. consumers would have known that, with a higher gasoline tax locked in for good, pump prices would never be going back to the old days, adds Verleger, so they would have a much stronger incentive to switch to more fuel-efficient vehicles and Detroit would have had to make

more hybrids to survive. This would have put Detroit five years ahead of where it is now. "It's called the America wins program," said Verleger, "instead of the petro-states win program."

We simply cannot go on being as dumb as we wanna be. If you hate the war in Iraq, then you want a gasoline tax so you can argue that we can pull out of there without remaining dependent on an even more unstable region. If you want to see us negotiate with Iran, not bomb it, you want a gasoline tax that will give us some real leverage by helping to reduce the income of the ayatollahs.

If you're a conservative and you believed that the Iraq war was necessary to drive reform in the Middle East, but the war has failed to do that and we need "Plan B" for the same objective, you want a gasoline tax that will reduce the flow of wealth to petro-state leaders who will never change if all they have to do is drill well holes rather than educate and empower their people.

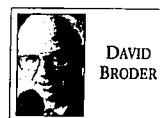
If you want to see America thrive by becoming the most energy productive economy in the world — a title that now belongs to Japan, which doesn't have a drop of oil in its soil — you want a gasoline tax, which will only spur U.S. innovation in energy efficiency.

President Bush squandered a historic opportunity to put America on a radical, different energy course after 9/11. But considering how few Democrats or Republicans are ready to tell the people the truth on this issue, maybe we have the president we deserve. I refuse to believe that, but I'm starting to doubt myself.

Thomas Friedman is a columnist for the *New York Times*.

Looking at Obama through Steele

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama's rise in the top tier of the Democratic presidential race has been fueled by the voters' belief that he is a candid, forthright politician. "If hard truths could be the slogan for the restarted Obama campaign," says the current *New Yorker* magazine, in a laudatory article. In The Washington Post's pull last week of Iowa caucus voters, Obama's lowest leader over Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Bill Richardson came when voters were rating candidates as honest and trustworthy.



DAVID BRODER

And now comes Shelby Steele, the Hoover Institution scholar and author of "The Content of Our Character," with a book-length essay arguing that Obama's public stance is essentially synthetic.

In "A Bound Man," Steele makes the case that Obama has adopted a "mask" familiar to many other African-Americans, designed to appease white America's fear of being thought racist by offering them the opportunity to embrace a nonthreatening black.

Steele writes that "the Sixties stigmatized white Americans with the racial sins of the past — with the bigotry and hypocrisy that countenanced slavery, segregation and white supremacy. Now, to win back moral authority, whites — and especially African-American institutions — must prove the negative: that they are not racist. In other words, white America has become a keen market for racial innocence."

Steele likens Obama's success to the fame and fortune won by Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby, Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods. But the earliest of the crossover heroes he calls "Ironic Negroes" was Sidney Poitier. And it reminded me that in his political biography of Obama, author David Mendell reported the reaction of a focus group of liberal, North Shore (Chicago area) female voters, middle-

aged and elderly, when shown a videotape of Obama speaking in his 2004 Senate campaign. Asked who Obama reminded them of, the answer was "Sidney Poitier." No wonder Hillary Clinton's pollster, Mark Penn, is worried by the Post's report that Obama has tied Clinton among female voters in Iowa.

But while all of the others mentioned by Steele were centerpieces of one kind or another, Obama is the first to carry the "masking" technique of the "Ironic Negro" into the realm of politics.

Steele contrasts Obama with "challenger" types such as Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, whose appeal was strictly within the black community, and who were seen as threats to the Democratic establishment. Steele, who shares with Obama the lineage of having a white mother and a black father, writes sympathetically of the cross-pressures that drove both sons to choose to live their lives as blacks while operating in largely white institutions.

"The problem here for Barack, of course, is that his racial identity commits him to a manipulation of the society he seeks to lead," Steele writes. "To 'be black,' he has to exaggerate black victimiza-

tion in America. ... Worse, his identity will pressure him to see black difficulties — achievement gaps, high illegitimacy rates, high crime rates, family collapse, and so on — in the old framework of racial oppression."

Obama, he says, dare not deviate from the liberal Democratic line lest black voters turn on him.

As a white reporter, I am not sure I can judge this argument. But I consulted an old and close friend of Obama's and this was her response: It is true, as Steele says, that Obama approaches whites with the expectation of a "core of decency" that will give him a warm response. But he is not exploiting any racial guilt feelings.

Second, she noted that Obama has said repeatedly that while blacks face racial issues of discrimination, they also have responsibility for their own lives. Parents must turn off the TV, he says, and talk to their children. Fathers must take responsibility for the children they bring into the world. That is definitely part of his message.

As to whether that message will separate Obama from the black voters he needs, his friend made a point supported by the latest Pew research: The black community is really two societies now, with a middle class whose values are far closer to those of middle-class whites than to those of the black underclass.

Obama, whose constituency is skewed to the middle class, may reflect those values better than Shelby Steele thinks.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Hoshaw a good man

In regard to the article Nov. 16 on the shooting of Mr. Hoshaw, affectionately known as Joe:

He was the victim! You made it sound like just another bad guy and it was OK he was shot. Guess what, Joe was very wrong!

Joe had his problems, everybody does. But Joe was getting his life turned around (way around!) Joe was helping lots of different people.

Ask the 100-year-old grandmother who Joe stopped and helped every day, or the lady who is having health problems and needed help once in a while, or the lady who helped raise Joe and was always there for Joe or her children and grandchildren, or the craft ladies he helped load and unload, set up and take down, or other people too numerous to mention myself included; he fixed my air conditioner, replaced a faucet, helped with my yard sale. I wanted to find a dog. Guess who found the perfect dog for me? Joe. Even a person who had met Joe one time was very upset with the article you had in the paper.

To Cass Friedman and Joe's aunt, shame on you both!

Too bad you could not spend your time to research where Joe worked and talk to his boss or co-workers, or maybe sometimes the family he lived with in Filer. Instead of looking up all the bad stuff you could find.

You should have talked to someone who loved and cared for Joe!

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Section of a bridge collapses in Bangladesh as cyclone victims rush for aid

By Pavel Rahman
Associated Press writer

KALAPARA, Bangladesh — A section of a bridge collapsed Saturday under the weight of thousands of hungry cyclone victims rushing toward a relief center in southwestern Bangladesh. At least one person died and dozens were injured, officials said.

Rescuers worked to remove concrete slabs from the collapsed 30-foot section to search for people feared crushed underneath, while frantic villagers gathered at the site on a river in Patuakhali district, one of the areas hit hardest by Tropical Cyclone Sidr earlier this month.

Dozens were injured and one person was killed, said Ashraful Zaman, an official at the local Disaster Management Control Room.

At least 12 of the victims were severely hurt, said local police officer Mohammad Yunus.

Zaman said the stampede across the 500-foot bridge was triggered by an offer of rice by a private group that had not alerted local officials of its plans.

Since the Nov. 15 cyclone hit southwestern Bangladesh, officials and relief agencies have struggled to get rice, drinking water and tents to remote villages since the storm left many roads blocked by fallen trees and other debris.

Authorities will distribute 33 pounds of rice per month to each of an estimated 2.5 million people left destitute by the storm, many in crowded relief camps, starting Dec. 1, said Tapan Chowdhury, the government's adviser on food and disaster management. The program will last at least four months, he said.

The U.S. Navy prepared Saturday to distribute food and medicine to cyclone survivors, an American official said.

The USS Kearsarge, carrying about 20 helicopters and relief supplies, was docked off the country's coast as naval officers made arrangements to deliver large aid packages possibly as early as Sunday to remote villages cut off by the storm.

The U.S. Navy delivered 3,000 gallons of drinking water to hard-hit Barisal district on Friday, U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Amy Vranpas said.

"We've been told that water was the most crucial," Vranpas said.

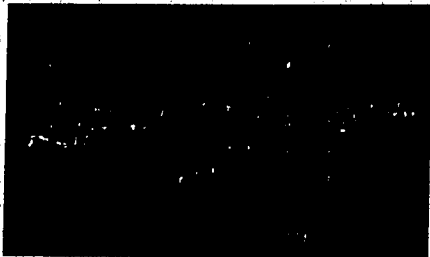
With many wells destroyed by the cyclone, there is a critical need for clean water supplies to prevent the spread of cholera and severe diarrhea.

U.S. medical teams have already distributed water purification tablets in the stricken zones to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases, said Geeta Pasi, the top U.S. diplomat in Dhaka.

The official death toll from

the cyclone stood at 3,199, said Maj. Maimun Uddin, a spokesman for the army, which is coordinating the relief and rescue work.

The Disaster Management Ministry said 1,724 people were missing and 20,108 people had been injured. It said the cyclone destroyed 458,804 houses and partially damaged another 665,529.



This photo, supplied by the U.S. Navy, shows Bangladeshis, devastated by the Nov. 15 cyclone, lining up to receive aid provided by boat in a hard to reach area of southern Bangladesh on Saturday as seen from a U.S. Marine Corps aid helicopter.



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INSIDE: Obituaries, C2-3 | Court news, C3 | Idaho, C4 | Mini-Cassia, C5 | Nation, C6-7

CHRISTMAS CHARITY SHORTFALL



Maria Gabiola stands by the donation center Saturday evening and waits to greet customers at Fred Meyer in Twin Falls. 'We're told not to ring the bell when there are no customers so as not to drive ourselves crazy,' says Gabiola, an employee of the Salvation Army for the holiday period between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

BELL RINGERS IN SHORT SUPPLY

By Cass Friedman
Times-News writer

Consumers flooded retailers on Black Friday and Saturday at average to above average levels. Some rushed passed Maria Gabiola in front of Fred Meyer, who schlepped back and forth like a tower guard dressed in a hood, ski pants and a red Salvation Army jacket. She rang a bell, wished customers happy holidays and thanked every fifth or 10th customer who dropped coins or a fold of currency into the red kettle. There's no shortage of goodwill here.

But Gabiola is one of 10 paid bell ringers. No one volunteered to ring bells this weekend of holiday retail rush. The Salvation Army, which has always relied on volunteers to ring bells from Thanksgiving to Christmas to afford Christmas food and presents for close to 200 Twin Falls families and provide other services throughout the year, is faced with a limited crisis.

Paid ringers ding-danged at eight positions while six donation kettles

remained unmanned and silent over the weekend. "They're having trouble," said Gabiola, who has been paid to ring bells seasonally since 1995.

It would be wrong to blame a decline in volunteerism on dwindling generosity. The job can be brutal — standing eight to 10 hours in the harsh winter elements.

Plus the Twin Falls area is notorious for stepping up its altruism when a neighbor's home burns down, a fel-

low goes broke, or when other hapless occurrences unfold. And you won't find customers unwilling to dish out change. At Gabiola's station, the squishing in of change and cash folds keeps the red kettle in near constant motion.

"Local generosity is so abundant, in fact, that since a new pair of bosses came from Tucson, Ariz., to replace an outgoing major three weeks ago, they have been 'amazed at the community support here,'" said Becky Bonnett, business manager for the Twin Falls Salvation Army. On Dec. 15 business leaders annually compete to see who can raise more donations.

But today as the Salvation Army continues to benefit from generous donations, the number of paid bell ringers and volunteers have dwindled.

"You don't raise as much money, so you don't have as much to carry you through," Bonnett said. "It's a shorter paycheck, you know. That's just the way it works."

But like a hapless neighbor who

refuses to play the victim, she adds, "We make do with what we've got. We pride ourselves on the integrity of our donor dollars and we make everything stretch to its full capacity."

Recently, the same problem sprouted the 2007 Twin Falls EGOP Walk. About 30 turned out for the event, while 100 to 300 walkers were anticipated. Most people simply sent checks.

As the morning hours tick by at Fred Meyer, parents commonly hand their cash to their children to stick in the box. The parents nod approvingly as their children stain on their tip toes to reach the waist-high coin drop. They are teaching their kids philanthropy. Finding a parent in this town of generous people who is teaching volunteerism can be a bit more difficult.

At the Salvation Army this year there are only two.

Cass Friedman can be reached at 735-3241 or cfriedman@magicvalley.com.

Bad checks add up to felony charges

T.F. man charged with 12 felony counts of issuing checks without funds

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

More than three months have passed since a man, who says he served in the U.S. Navy, angered some local small business owners after allegedly writing bad checks.

The man in question has since been charged with 12 felony counts of issuing checks without funds to a twin-name business in Twin Falls.

Twin Falls Police assert Patrick Levar Pryor, 21, who lives in Twin Falls but had a Hawaii driver's license, wrote 12 bad checks in late July to Costco Wholesale in Twin Falls totaling around \$2,400, court records show.

He appeared in court Nov. 20 where he was arraigned on the 12 felony counts, each carrying a maximum sentence of five years prison and/or a \$50,000 fine.

His preliminary hearing has been set for Friday in the Fifth Judicial District Court.

Police also allege Pryor wrote bad checks totaling more than \$10,000 to several other Twin Falls businesses.

"Not including the fact that Pryor purchased a car and two motorcycles with this same account knowing that there were no funds available," according to a police affidavit.

Those non-Costco purchases occurred in late July and early August, according to Times-News reports. Charges in connection to those checks were not leveled against Pryor.

They involved purchases such as furniture, stereo amps, motorcycles and a car.

The Costco purchases cited by police include items like eye glasses, food, gas, games and a membership to the store.

Pryor could not be reached Friday for comment since his phone number had been disconnected.

But in September he told the Times-News that the situations — at least with the exception of Costco Wholesale — involved "mistiming and misperception."

He also told the Times-News in September that he had returned the merchandise.

Through a grand jury subpoena police determined in mid-September that Pryor's checks were drawn from Navy Federal Credit in Merrifield, Va. — an account that was closed, July 11.

The Costco checks were written July 20 through July 29, court records show.

Law enforcement authorities assert Pryor knew he did not have funds credited to his bank account to cover his purchases, according to court records.

Andrea Gates can be reached at 735-3380, or Andrea.Gates@lee.net.

Permit problems Castleford resident upset at city's past enforcement

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Like a pesky weed, this is one problem the city of Castleford has had trouble getting rid of — that is, until Wednesday, when a permit was finally purchased for a fence to be built on property owned by Gary and Barbara Blick.

Concerned residents in May approached the City Council with complaints of unfair enforcement of city code. The city had just hired Darrell Edson to tackle such problems — overgrown weeds, trash accumulated on properties and people not purchasing building permits before taking on home improvement projects.

At the time, Ryan Blick said he felt unfairly singled

out. He had been told by Edson that he needed to buy a building permit for the fence he was replacing at his residence. Blick said he thought it wasn't right that Edson, or the city, would come after him before going after residents with messy properties.

During a May council meeting it was decided the city would not make Blick pay for the permit because the project was already started and Blick, who had at that time recently moved back to Castleford, claimed ignorance of permit requirements.

"At no time did the city inform the property owners that a permit was required, however, and some residents are still upset that the

Please see PERMIT, Page C3

A good time Hollister athlete reflects on Special Olympics

By John E. Swartz
Times-News correspondent

Savannah Henstock is probably more comfortable in the saddle, than almost any other place on earth.

"She got on her first horse when she was about three or four," said her mother Donna Henstock. "As long as she's riding across our fields out here, everything is right with the world."

Last month, the 23-year-old Hollister resident took her passion for riding and flew to Shanghai, China, to compete with the English Equestrian Team during the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, held Oct. 2-11.

She was one of seven Idaho athletes who participated in aquatics, bowling, cycling, golf, track and field and weightlifting competitions. Despite a little unpleasant weather and an uncooperative horse, Henstock won silver medals in both the team relay and individual in her third event, the figure-eight barrels; she was awarded a participant's ribbon.

"The first horse I had wouldn't take so I had to get a new one," Henstock said. "We had some typhoid rain



Savannah Henstock with her team won medals and participant's ribbon from during the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China, Oct. 2-11.

and I finished one event in the dark."

The state pays for each athlete to attend the Special Olympics, using money from donations and fundraisers.

But the opportunity to experience an event like the world games doesn't come easy.

"Athletes who are chosen to compete must take gold at

"... the best thing about Special Olympics is making new friends."

— Savannah Henstock.

state or blue ribbons at regional competitions. Henstock was awarded three blue ribbons in western style equitation at regional games held in Halley last year.

When not competing, athletes at the world games were given the chance to get a close look at Chinese culture.

"We did some paper origami and visited a family's home who showed us pictures of their family and how to make dumplings," Henstock said. "We had rice for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and I got tired of that."

This was only the second time in its 39-year history that the summer games were held outside the United States. The first Special Olympics World Games were held at Chicago's Soldier Field in 1968, with 1,000 athletes from 26 states and Canada.

Please see OLYMPICS, Page C3

Lila E. Dayley

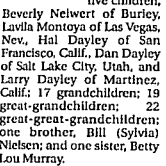
Col. Chad T. Hull

Fred B. Jones

BURLEY — Lila E. Dayley, a 91-year-old resident of Burley, passed away Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007, at Highland Estates Assisted Living.



her family whenever she could. Lila was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Arthur Dayley, who passed away in December 2000; her parents; three brothers; and four sisters.



She was active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints her entire life, serving in many positions in both the Primary and the Relief Society organizations. Lila was also an American representative for more than 25 years, becoming a member of the President's Club. She loved order and beauty, kept a neat home and enjoyed a large flower garden every year of zinnias, carnations and petunias.

She was a devoted mother and grandmother and enjoyed spending time with her family whenever she could. Lila was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Arthur Dayley, who passed away in December 2000; her parents; three brothers; and four sisters.

Alvin Wesley Larson

Alvin Wesley Larson, 89-year-old Twin Falls resident, passed away Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, at his home surrounded by his family.



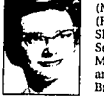
He was born Oct. 16, 1918, in Burley, Idaho, to Edward Larson and Clara Elizabeth Jones Larson. He was the oldest of four children. Most of his life was spent in Burley. He met Hazel Smith in 1938. They dated and married on June 14, 1941. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake LDS Temple on Dec. 2, 1942. Three children were born to this union, Cheryl Kay, John Edward and Douglas Wesley. He served 15 months in the United States Army during 1945 and 1946. After he was discharged, they lived and worked in Oakley until 1955 when they moved to Twin Falls. He found his niche in carpentry and was well known for his beautiful cabinetry and other things he built until ill health forced slowing down. He was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints, Twin Falls 1st Ward. Alvin is survived by his wife of 66-plus years; his sons, John (Chindy) Larson and Douglas Larson; six grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brothers, Edward (Wilma) Larson and Ross (Maxine) Larson; stepbrothers, Leonard (Pauline) Otley and Merlin (Norma) Otley; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Cheryl; sister, Geraldine Searle; and brother, Steve Otley.

The funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, at the Twin Falls 1st Ward LDS Chapel, 847 Westland Drive N., with Bishop Brent White conducting. Family will greet friends one hour prior to the service at the church. A graveside service will follow at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Marion Cemetery at Oakley. Friends desire, memorial contributions may be given to Primary Children's Hospital or First Choice Hospice in his name. Donations may be given to mortuary staff at the service or mailed to White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park," P.O. Box 845, Twin Falls, ID 83303 for forwarding.

Martha (Marty) Jane Wallace

SHOSHONE — Martha (Marty) Jane Wallace, 67, of Shoshone, Idaho, joined her Savior after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer.



She was born on May 27, 1940, to Lonnie and Martha Southern at their home on the Baseline Road in Blaine County. In 1958, she graduated from Halley High School and traveled to Denver, Colo., where she attended St. Luke's Nursing School. After receiving her diploma as a registered nurse, she returned to Idaho, where her patient and caring nature touched the hearts of many for 37 years. On April 2, 1984, she married the love of her life, Jerry Wallace, and moved to Shoshone, where they raised their three children. Mary was a loyal patron of the Shoshone school system. She held a position on the school board for many years and rarely missed a sporting event until she became too ill to attend. Many a player,

coach and referee knew and respected her skill as a statistician. She is survived by her husband, Jerry of Shoshone; children, Pam (Dave) McDonald of Boise, Jerri (Mitch) Hollon and Mike (Heather) Wallace of Shoshone; grandchildren, Sean, Kyle, Nick, Tracy, Megan Kate, Melanie, Chrissy and Aaron; and sister, Jackie Bressette of Twin Falls. She was preceded in death by her parents.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Symington, the staff of MST and the staff at Idaho Home Health and Hospice for their support and tender care. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, at Shoshone Baptist Church in Shoshone. Burial will be in the Shoshone Cemetery, in Shoshone. Family members and friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at Demary Funeral Service, Shoshone Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made in Marty's name to the Shoshone Education Foundation or Athletic Fund or the charity of their choice.

Retired Col. Chad T. Hull, 75, of Twin Falls, Idaho, died Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007, peacefully at his home in Provo, Utah.



Dad was born March 20, 1932, in Twin Falls, the son of Arvid and Thomas and Laura Juanita Hull. He attended Brigham Young University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. While at BYU, he was a member of the first ROTC graduating class of 1954, where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. While stationed at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, Calif., he continued his education at Sacramento State College through night school and earned a master's degree in public administration in 1959. Much of his Air Force career was spent in the Air Training Command, teaching navigation, nuclear weaponry and electronic warfare. He completed the Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, and the College of the Armed Forces and the Air War College.

During 1960-1969, he served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War. He was a member of the 12th Special Operations Squadron, also known as "Ranchhand - Agent Orange," where he served as lead navigator and targeting officer and successfully completed 165 missions. In 1973, Dad was transferred to the Directorate of

Procurement at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah, where he served as chief of each procurement division for five years. He proudly served his country for 24 years and retired from the Air Force in 1978.

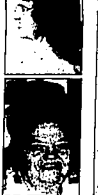
Over the next several years, Dad served as the executive officer for the Ogden Board of Realtors in Ogden, Utah, the Utah Association of Realtors in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Santa Cruz Board of Realtors in Santa Cruz, Calif. Dad loved the outdoors. Hunting was his life. He spent many years hunting elk, deer and pheasant in the mountains of Idaho, Utah and Colorado. The mountains of Colorado he especially loved.

On June 4, 1956, he married Jean Peters of Palo Alto, Calif. in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. They were married for 43 years until they divorced. They had three children. He married Hartene Meyer of San Diego, Calif. They later divorced. He is survived by his children, Tarni (Richard) Wilkinson, Shauna (Jerry) Larson and Chad T. Hull II (Amy); and nine wonderful grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Doyle (Dale) Hellewell of Twin Falls.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, W. Gene (Shirley) Hull of Twin Falls. The funeral will be held at noon Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the Utah Veterans Memorial Chapel, located at the Utah Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1711 S. Camp Williams Road in Bluffdale, Utah. Interment and military honors will follow. Friends may call from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the same location. Condolences may be sent to info@bergmortuary.com.

Karen Marlene Miller Santos

BURLEY — Karen Marlene Miller Santos, a 65-year-old resident of Burley, went to be with the Lord on Friday, Nov. 23, 2007. She passed away at the Burley Care Center following a short illness.



Karen was born on Oct. 19, 1942, in Halley, Idaho, the only child of Clarence Henry "Shorty" and Mary (Marian) Sheard Miller. Shortly after Karen's birth, they moved to Oakley, Idaho, where Karen began her education to Heyburn, where she finished her education at Minico High School graduating May 22, 1961.

Following graduation, Karen moved to Las Vegas, Nev., where she worked at different jobs until meeting her lifetime mate, Phil Santos, in the spring of 1975. They returned to Oakley in 1980 to Karen could be near her ailing mother. In 1988, they moved into Burley, after her mother was placed at the Burley Care Center.

Karen spent much of her time at the care center assisting with her mother and in helping entertain the other residents. She would have bingo nights and had a knack for entertaining everyone there. She would have a gift for all whether they won or lost. She was always willing to give of her time and talents and donated to the Helping Hands Mission and the Gentle Shepherd Alliance Church in Heyburn. It was at these places that she assisted Hazel Reeves and Edith Chugg, especially in donating, new clothing, groceries. She enjoyed many hobbies including writing poetry, making jewelry and floral arrangements. She also liked to play cards and games and listen to all kinds of music. She loved feeding and taking care of all the smys in the neighborhood. Karen never forgot the holidays and would give gifts for any occasion.

She is survived by her lifetime mate, Phil Santos of Burley, a dear friend she considered as her daughter, Brenda Prater, and a host of other friends. She was preceded in death by her parents. The family would like to thank the Paul Elementary School for their

kindness and for making the beautiful quilt that Karen thoroughly enjoyed.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, with Pastor Walt Thompson officiating.

HAILEY — Fred B. Jones, age 52, passed away Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, at Blaine Manor in Hailey after battling pancreatic cancer for the past two and one-half years.



He was born July 25, 1955, in Hailey, Idaho, the child of Albert and Fern Jones. Fred went through the 10th grade in Hailey, but later earned his GED and went on to college in Butte, Mont., earning a degree as a draftsman.

He was employed at Westinghouse and General Electric in Ohio and Indiana for several years. He then returned to Idaho for the last 10 years. Fred was happiest when he could be outdoors hunting and fishing. Among his favorite activities were fishing the Richfield Canal or hunting on Porcupine Creek and in the Salmon River area. Fred could catch fish when everyone else couldn't; one brother said, "When

fish saw Fred's smile they quivered." Fred made his own fishing flies and enjoyed making model aircraft; some were quite unique but operated as well as real aircraft. Fred liked music and played the trumpet in his high school band.

Survivors include his mother, Fern G. Jones of Hailey; his brothers, Bill of Everett, Wash., Hiram (Linda) of Lincoln, Calif., Jay of Twin Falls and Lee (Nancy) of Hailey; his half-sister, Nadine (Smoky) Hill of Twin Falls; and many nieces and nephews. Those preceding him in death were his father and two brothers.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, at the Wood River Chapel in Hailey. Kelly Young will be the speaker. Cremation preceded the service. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Hospice of the Wood River Valley, Box 4320, Ketchum, ID 83340, or the Blaine Manor, 706 S. Main, Hailey, ID 83333. Arrangements are under the care of Wood River Chapel (www.woodriverchapel.com) of Hailey.

The Bill Block Sr. Family wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation of all those involved with Bill's care. Also, thanks for all the cards, memorials, flowers, food and prayers. Your kindness will remain with us always. The Bill Block Family

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Celebrate the Lighting of The Holiday Memory Tree A Special Tree decorated in Memory of Loved Ones & Members of the Military that cannot be with us this Christmas Season. Saturday, December 1 - 5:00 p.m. SUNSET MEMORIAL PARK 2296 KIMBERLY ROAD, TWIN FALLS. Pastor Sam Fowler, Spokesman. Christmas Carols by Milton Barrus, Camille Cox, Jack VanBuren. Retirements Sponsored by White Mortuary, Reynolds Funeral Chapel & Sunset Memorial Park. This memorial service is for anyone in Twin Falls or surrounding communities whether or not you have used our services. A Luncheon will honor the name of your loved one. These bags will be displayed on the tree the same night as our tree lighting service. All friends, family and community are invited to attend this service. The tree will remain lit throughout December. There will be refreshments. Christmas carols and some words of comfort from Pastor Sam Fowler. If you would like to have a name on a Luminary Bag, please call 324-7777. Locations listed below. Between 9:00 and 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st.

Vertical text on the left margin: OBITUARIES

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

SERVICES

Kerry Lee Jones of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 2 p.m. today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. today at the funeral chapel.

Bud Fuller of Twin Falls, memorial service at 1 p.m. Monday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls; reception will follow at Garibaldi's Mexican Restaurant, 645 Filer Ave. in Twin Falls.

Ann O. Bardett of Rupert, memorial service at 7 p.m. Monday at the Rupert United Methodist Church (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

Wilbert "Bill" Samuel Williams of Yakima, Wash., graveside service at 2 p.m. Friday at the Filer Cemetery in Filer; visitation from noon to 1 p.m. Friday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Permit

Continued from page C1
city never forced the Blicks to get a permit. Max Mace, who attended a Nov. 7 planning and zoning meeting on the topic, is among them.

"(Ryan) knew he had to buy a permit, use a little common sense," Mace told the *Times-News*. "Anytime I have built anything on my property I had to submit a site plan and pay for the permit, and that was before they had a code enforcer."

Blick stands by his decision — and that of his grandparents, Gary and Barbara Blick, who own the property in question — to not pay the permit.

"I haven't received anything from the city telling me I had to get a permit," Blick said. "I thought this issue was a done deal."

The city also is standing behind its reasoning for not requiring the permit fee. Meeting minutes say the only

DEATH NOTICES

Floyd L. Mingo

HAZELTON — Floyd L. Mingo, 89, of Hazelton, died Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, at Cassia Regional Medical Center. A private family service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 26, at the Emerson LDS 1st and 2nd Ward Church, 127 S. 950 W. of Paul (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Thomas B. Durland

Thomas B. Durland, 84, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Nov. 23, 2007, at a Boise hospital. Arrangements will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Myrtle Schrenk

WENDELL — Myrtle "Meri" Schrenk, 80, of Wendell, died Saturday, Nov. 24, 2007, in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Demaray

Funeral Service, Wendell Chapel.

Joel E. Nejezchleba

DUJIL — Joel Edward "Porky" Nejezchleba, 82, of Buhl, died Saturday, Nov. 24, 2007, at his home. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, at the Buhl First Christian Church, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

Kevin Soltero Mendoza

RUPERT — Kevin Soltero Mendoza, infant son of Abraham and Ana Lilia Soltero Mendoza, was stillborn Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, at Cassia Regional Medical Center. A graveside service will be at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 26, at the Rupert Cemetery (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Olympics

Continued from page C1

Since then the games, which come around every two years and alternate between summer and winter venues, have grown to become one of the premier sporting events for thousands of athletes from 150 countries.

Henstock has already set her sights on competing in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, scheduled for Feb. 2-13, 2009, in Boise. Athletes from at least 85 countries are expected to attend.

"I do snowshoeing in the 50- and 100-meter race," she said. "But the best thing about Special Olympics is making new friends."

John E. Swayze may be reached at 326-7212 or swayze@aol.com.

The Blicks declined to comment as to why they decided to buy a permit. "I think that the residents of Castelford should be backing the city," Mace said. "They are trying to get back on their feet; we need to work together, not fight against each other."

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Lighting of the Memorial Christmas Tree

will offer each family an *Angel of Memories* ornament to hang on the tree with the name of their loved one inscribed.

This years memorial will be very special with stories and music. Refreshments will be served following the service. Anyone who has experienced a loss and is in need of support at this time of year is welcome to attend.

The Clingers and Parkes feel this is a way to return the goodwill and blessings that have been extended to them throughout the year. We feel very blessed to be a part of this great community and so we offer our *Angels Among Us* program to everyone, free of charge.

No matter the time of your loss, whether we served your family or not, please take this opportunity to remember the loved ones that have been lost and acknowledge them in a very special way. Please invite anyone you know who could benefit from the *Angels Among Us* memorial.

Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home
2551 Kimberly Road • 733-0011

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

NOV. 21 ARRAIGNMENTS:
Michael T. Abramovich, 36; issue a check without funds; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Nov. 30; \$10,000 bond.
Stephanie Schaeffer, 20; old/abet aggravated assault; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Nov. 30; no bond information.
Michelle L. Bowman, 28, Buhl; aggravated assault; no plea entered; private counsel; preliminary hearing Nov. 30; posted bond.
Taramona D. De La Cruz, 28, Twin Falls; possession of stolen property; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Jan. 22; \$1,000 bond.

NOV. 23 ARRAIGNMENTS:
Darin E. Crane, 32, Twin Falls; battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Jan. 22; \$500 bond.
Robert L. Meeks, 39, Twin Falls; provide false information to an officer; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Jan. 22; \$100 bond.
Malachi J. Palard, 18, Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Jan. 22; \$500 bond.
Joden D. Muus, 20, Twin Falls; two counts forgery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Nov. 30; \$10,000 bond.

Anita M. Taylor, 45, Twin Falls; three counts insufficient funds check; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Nov. 30; \$5,000 bond.
Dustin Van Engelen, 31; rape; no plea entered; private counsel; preliminary hearing Nov. 30; posted bond.
Karin L. Ekedeg, 45, Twin Falls; four counts grand theft; no plea entered; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing Nov. 30; no bond.
Ryan A. Porter, 18; domestic battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing Jan. 22; released on own recognizance.

Twin Falls County
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE SENTENCINGS
Javier Graclano, 41; Hailley; one

count driving under the influence; \$700 fine with \$450 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 90 days in jail with 87 suspended, credit for time served; driving privileges suspended for 180 days; 12 months probation; one count littering; \$150 fine with \$100 suspended; \$75.50 costs; six months probation.
Brent E. Nowell, 23, Twin Falls; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$150 fine with \$81.50 suspended; \$75.50 costs; three months probation.
Nathanael D. Steen, 37, Kimberly; one count unlawful bear bait; \$300 fine with \$200 suspended; \$83 costs; three months probation; one count littering; \$200 fine with \$100 suspended; \$75.50 costs; three months probation.
Wendy M. Marzilli, 30, Twin Falls; carry concealed weapon; \$500 fine with \$350 suspended; \$75.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 90 days in jail with 88 suspended, two days work detail; 12 months probation.

James E. Luffe, 41, Kimberly; one count burglary; amended to unlawful entry; \$300 fine with \$300 suspended; \$72.50 costs; 60 days in jail with 58 suspended, credit for time served; 12 months probation; one count attempted petty theft; \$300 fine with \$300 suspended; 60 days in jail with 58 suspended, credit for time served.

Randy L. Boyd, 50, Filer; driving under the influence; \$1,000 fine with \$700 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 180 days in jail with 120 suspended, credit for one day served; 40 days discretionary; driving privileges suspended for 180 days; 24 months probation.
Ian M. Hart, 25, Twin Falls; driving under the influence; \$700 fine with \$400 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 90 days in jail with 88 suspended, credit for one day served; one day work detail; driving privileges suspended for 180 days; six months probation.
Matthew K. Goetsch, 22, Buhl; driving under the influence; \$700 fine with \$400 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 90 days in jail with 88 suspended, credit for one day served; one day work detail; driving privileges suspended for 180 days; 12 months probation.

MISDEMEANOR SENTENCINGS
Christopher M. Oglo, 29, N. Charleston, S.C.; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$150 fine with \$81.50 suspended; \$75.50 costs; three months probation.
Brent E. Nowell, 23, Twin Falls; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; \$150 fine with \$81.50 suspended; \$75.50 costs; three months probation.
Nathanael D. Steen, 37, Kimberly; one count unlawful bear bait; \$300 fine with \$200 suspended; \$83 costs; three months probation; one count littering; \$200 fine with \$100 suspended; \$75.50 costs; three months probation.
Wendy M. Marzilli, 30, Twin Falls; carry concealed weapon; \$500 fine with \$350 suspended; \$75.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 90 days in jail with 88 suspended, two days work detail; 12 months probation.

James E. Luffe, 41, Kimberly; one count burglary; amended to unlawful entry; \$300 fine with \$300 suspended; \$72.50 costs; 60 days in jail with 58 suspended, credit for time served; 12 months probation; one count attempted petty theft; \$300 fine with \$300 suspended; 60 days in jail with 58 suspended, credit for time served.

Abused dog saves new owner from house fire

BOISE (AP) — Candace Jennings rescued Anna, an abused stray dog from the animal shelter.

During a Thanksgiving Day fire, Anna returned the favor — twice.

Anna, a blond heeler, nudged Jennings about 3:30 a.m., whining and howling. Jennings, who had fallen asleep on the couch, awoke to find her mobile home engulfed in flames.

"Anna woke me up," Jennings said. "I had an awful headache. The place was filled with smoke."

Jennings and Anna ran outside, but then Jennings remembered items she couldn't let burn.

"I'm a janitor in town," she told the *Idaho Statesman*. "I had everyone's keys in my backpack. I had to go back and get them."

She crawled back into her burning home in Idaho City, about 40 miles northeast of Boise. Anna followed her in, keeping close by her side.

But Jennings, an artist who has lived in the mountain town since 1975, said she became disoriented and was

quickly overcome by smoke. She tried to get back out but crawled in the wrong direction, heading toward the pantry instead of the door.

Anna showed the correct way.

"I couldn't find the door," said Jennings. "She pushed on me, she nudged me out the door."

The roof collapsed as Jennings, barefoot and wearing only pajamas, and Anna ran to some nearby trees in the 15 degree temperature. Jennings suffered burns to her feet and then frostbite.

Anna and two other dogs Jennings has were not injured.

"She's a hero," said Jennings as Anna ate an omelet at a restaurant on Friday.

Grant Hawk, owner of the trailer park, said an electrical problem might have started the fire in the mobile home, which he said is a total loss.

Rose Washam, an Idaho City resident, said Jennings' decision to try and retrieve the keys from the burning mobile home didn't surprise her.

"Candace always thinks of somebody else before she thinks of herself," said Washam. "She will go without so others can have. She's known as the town healer."

Friends are collecting clothes and other items for Jennings, and the Idaho City Hotel has offered her a room.

"Everything happens for a

reason," said Washam. "I guess we will find out the reason for this. Maybe it's time for us to give back to her."

See what's new online at Magickvalley.com

Avalanche danger higher after massive central Idaho wildfire

BOISE (AP) — A massive wildfire in central Idaho late last summer has opened up new backcountry ski slopes and changed the character of past favorites so much that an official is warning of increased avalanche danger.

"Do not expect these slopes to have similar conditions as in past years," said Janet Kellam, director of the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center. "It is a whole new ball game, and we anticipate an increase in avalanche danger in some burned areas."

Fire managers declared the Castle Rock Fire contained on Sept. 4, but not before the 78-square-mile blaze had forced the evacuations of more than 2,000 homes and caused 500 yards of a \$12 million Sun

Valley ski lodge atop Bald Mountain, prompting the company to run its existing snowmaking equipment to fend off flames.

Workers at the ski area do avalanche control to prevent snow from building up and causing dangerous situations during the ski season. But no such avalanche control is done in backcountry areas, meaning people heading onto those slopes must be aware of possible avalanche dangers.

In those backcountry areas, the Castle Rock Fire thinned timbered ridgelines that once sheltered slopes from wind-drifted snow, Kellam said. The timber on the slopes also helped anchor the snowpack.

Without that timber, Kellam said, the slopes are

more accessible to skiers and even snowmobilers, but they face a greater avalanche danger. Slopes containing sagebrush also burned, leaving those areas more prone to avalanche as well.

"The key is to stay alert, marvel at Mother Nature, have all the fun you can, but don't become complacent and assume we live in a manicured park," Kellam told the *Idaho Statesman*.

Besides avalanches, Kellam said other dangers include downed trees hidden just under the snow that can cause leg injuries on otherwise placid looking slopes.

"They may seem alluring, but be cautious," she said. "Don't let powder fever and new opportunities cloud your judgment."

"Do not expect these slopes to have similar conditions as in past years. It is a whole new ball game, and we anticipate an increase in avalanche danger in some burned areas."

— Janet Kellam, director of the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center

Coeur d'Alene compromises on street sledding

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — Trying to balance a small-town tradition with the realities of a growing population, the city council has shut down a decades-long tradition of street sledding by children on two streets.

However, officials decided to allow several other streets to remain open to sledders.

"It's so easy to be moving forward and forgetting about our past; forgetting about little things," said Councilman Woody McEvers. "We can still pretend we're a small town once in a while."

Sledding has been eliminated on Garden Avenue west of 11th Street, and on Fruitdale east of 15th. But street sledding is still allowed on Lost Avenue and Dollar to 14th Street, and on Boyd Avenue west of 11th Street.

Tim Martin, streets supervisor, said the city will put up permanent signs to warn drivers of sledders.

Councilman Al Hassell voted in favor of sledding on the two sections that remain open, and on closing the two other sections, at a meeting earlier this week. He said recent arrivals the city aren't aware of the street sledding areas.

"I'd hate to see a child injured because we allowed it," Hassell said, the *Coeur d'Alene Press* reported.

Councilman Mike Kennedy wanted all street sledding banned.

"As a parent of six young kids, I don't know that I'd feel comfortable putting them out in the middle of the street on icy roads," he said. Councilwoman Deanna

Goodlander said she remembered sledding in those areas as a child, and wondered if children would pay attention to the city council's decision.

"Those have been traditional sledding hills for a long time," she said. "And the kids are going to sled on them whether we say they can or not."



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Former Burley resident authors family history books

By Trena Tegan
For the Times-News

Over the Thanksgiving holiday many people spend time with family reminiscing and listening to stories about the "old days." These stories can be happy or sad, but all stories deserve to be told and remembered.

Melvin Banner, a former Burley resident, believes this about the stories of his family and those of his wife Charlene Baker Banner's family. Because of this he has written three novels relating the stories of his family and hers.

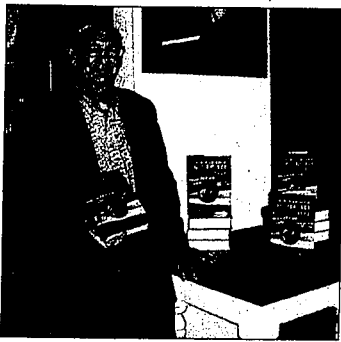
"These are wonderful stories and need to be told for them and their posterity," Melvin Banner says.

Melvin grew up in Burley and still has family in the area. He and Charlene were high school sweethearts, both graduating from Burley High School in 1951. They worked together on the three volumes of family history. Melvin doing the research and writing and Charlene doing most of the editing.

The first book, "Sea of Sage," was the biography of Melvin's grandmother, Harriet Kidd Banner. Melvin said he had been compelled to write it because he had heard the stories of her grubbing the sage from their 80-acre homestead in the Unity area south of Burley and the years of struggle she had as a Cassia County pioneer.

"The story had been written of Grandpa Banner," Melvin says. "But typical of history, the woman's life was enveloped in silence. I could not leave it silent."

Melvin says he knew very little about writing when he began the project. He found books in the public library on



Melvin Banner stands with copies of his latest book, "Partners in a Promise," at Book Plaza in Burley. A limited supply of the book is available at Book Plaza as well as at the Book Store in Rupert. The cost for the hardbound book, complete with photos and a detailed family history, is \$39.

how to write a biography and outlined them as if he was preparing for a college test. He would write, then reread and study, and write some more. Eight years later, "Sea of Sage" was produced.

The second book the couple completed, "Come After Us," was the result of five years of research and writing of the pioneer history of Melvin's mother's parents, Alma and Maria Silcock. They had moved from their pioneer home of Riverton, Utah, to Unity in the early 1920s after two of their sons were established on the Mindoka Project. They lived the balance of their lives there and were buried in the Burley cemetery. His grandparents had personally known the Prophet Joseph

Smith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His grandfather, Melvin's great-grandfather, had built Parley P. Pratt's Nauvoo home, and was one of the 14 main carpenters who built the Nauvoo LDS Temple. There are copies of both "Sea of Sage" and "Come After Us" at the Burley Public Library.

The third book, "Partners in a Promise," is the pioneer history of Charlene's family. It includes a biography of her grandparents, Henry and Augusta Stegen Baker. They came in 1913 from Hooper, Utah, to homestead in the Oakley Basin along with two brothers, a sister and her husband and a cousin. That move from Hooper was part of a greater migration of the

William and Esther Baker pioneer family whose descendants moved from Hooper to Mindoka and Cassia counties in the earliest years of irrigation. After some trying years in the Basin, the Bakers received the patents to their homesteads, immediately sold out, and moved — some to Rupert and some to Burley.

The balance of the book chronicles forefathers and mothers who emigrated from England and tells of the day-by-day adventure of crossing the ocean and plains to Utah.

Many of the Baker, Garner, Mitchell and Bean families and many more Cassia, Mindoka and Twin Falls County residents have their roots in the pioneer history of Hooper. "Partners in a Promise" is a story not unlike many pioneer families in Cassia and Mindoka Counties.

Melvin took great pains to ensure historical accuracy in his writing. In "Partners in a Promise" he enlisted the help of Kathleen Hedberg and Gary Schorzman, local historians for Cassia and Mindoka Counties.

After reading the book,

Hedberg said, "Once I started reading it I had trouble putting it down. I'm sure this book will be treasured by Henry and Augusta's family and friends and could be enjoyed by people outside the family."

Schorzman likewise said he enjoyed the book. "The time and energy put forth to put this history to paper will stand the test of time, in that this history, in my opinion, is outstanding."

As for taking credit for the project, Melvin says he was

simply the tool to relay the stories of others. Although he has literally spent years on the combined histories in the three works, he does not begrudge the time spent.

"It was a labor of love," he says.

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Holiday charities in Mini-Cassia

Parke View Care and Rehabilitation Center, 2303 Parke Ave. in Burley, will have a "Giving Tree" for its residents.

Members of the community are invited to come to the center and choose an ornament/tag off the tree in the lobby which will have a gift listed for one of the residents. Wrapped items should have the tag from the tree attached and should be returned to the center by Dec. 21 for distribution to the residents.

For more information: 677-3073.

Rosetta Assisted Living, 1919 Hilland Ave. in Burley, cares for people with Alzheimer's.

The center currently cares for 13 residents. Items that could be used by residents at the facility include lap blankets, handkerchiefs for two men and hair care accessories such as combs, barrettes, brushes and hand mirrors.

For more information: 677-5451.

Burley Care Center and Assisted Living, 1729 Miller Ave. in Burley, has submitted a wish list for some of its residents.

Items needed include coats, jackets, sweaters, sweat shirts and pants, for men and women in sizes medium, large and XL; ear muffs, socks and gloves for both men and women, nail polish, and art and craft supplies.

For more information: 678-9474.

Big River REACT 6052 is a

team of people that assist the community as needed for disasters and special events.

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Movement afoot to reduce e-mail printouts

By Abigail Goldman
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Stephanie Fessler doesn't date a hybrid car, compost her orange peels or bring her own reusable cloth bags to the supermarket.

But two months ago, Fessler joined countless other business people in doing one environmental good deed daily. At the bottom of every e-mail she sends, she includes this message: "Save Trees. Print only when necessary."

"This is something I can contribute in my crazy busy life," said Fessler, 29, who works for a Los Angeles public relations company. "It reminds other people about environmental awareness and reminds me on a daily basis."

The trend took off last March, when the popular environmental Web site TreeHugger.com encouraged readers to add the don't-print plea to their

automatic e-mail signatures. Since then, the message has spread beyond the grana-and-Birkenstock crowd to the cubicle armies of corporate America. Architects, airline employees and even button-down accountants have gotten in the on act, as have companies such as media giant News Corp.

The parent of Fox Television offers employees a catchy admonition that riffs on the company's "Cool Change" environmental initiative: "Be cool, consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to."

At Bovis Lend Lease, a 10,000-person worldwide project management and construction company, so many employees began adopting the please-don't-print line that executives agreed to grant a sole exception to the company's rule against personalized e-mail signatures. And as many as 1,000 button-down accountants and consultants at

Deloitte & Touche have adopted some version of the line, one executive said.

"It's a testament to how cool green is that this particular message is appearing in so many business communications," said John Palfrey, the executive director for the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University Law School. Environmentalists say the don't-print message has genuine merit.

Despite 20th century predictions of a paperless office, Americans use enough 8-inch by 10-inch sheets every year to build a 10-foot-high wall that would stretch from New York to Tokyo and beyond, according to Greenprint Technologies, which sells software to eliminate unnecessary pages before printing.

At the same time, an estimated 97 billion e-mails whisk through cyberspace every day. Technology trackers say more e-mails invariably mean more printouts, if

for no other reason than that printing has become a habit. Last year, 53 percent of people surveyed told technology research company IDC that they print more because of e-mail.

That means more paper, and more energy to either shred or recycle it. The growing mountains of printed pages encouraged Michael Graham Richard, Treehugger.com's editor, to get behind the please-don't-print movement after he saw the auto-signature for the first time last winter.

"We all know that many people print e-mails for no good reason, wasting tons of paper," Richard wrote on the site last March. "Let's do something about it, dear reader ... Add the following lines to your e-mail signature: 'Eco-Tip: Printing e-mails is usually a waste. Make this tip go viral, add it to your e-mail signature.'"

To some, the various incarnations of "please don't print this" — personalized

with clever witticisms or written in bold green text alongside a picture of a tree — are a new, socially responsible form of viral marketing.

To others, the tips are an empty, greener-than-thou finger wag.

"You're saving a landfill by not using more paper — not saving the planet," said Jake Munsey, an executive at Fox

Cable Network's Fuel TV who has stopped using the copio. "I started thinking, 'What really is this going to change?'"

Richard scoffs at the notion that the simple suggestion is sanctimonious.

"The intent is not to be preachy, just offer a tip on how to save paper," he said.

Web auction popularity helps fuel growth in live auction industry

By Vicki Smith
Associated Press writer

WAYNESBURG, Pa. — His chant is rhythmic and rapid, a staccato string of numbers that quickly grows hypnotic as auctioneer Kevin Teets scans the audience, eyes darting between buyers on opposite sides of the room.

Perched in the front row is Dave Kauffman, who has come 220 miles from Marysville, Ohio, in search of vintage, remote-control model airplanes and accessories.

Within hours, Kauffman has so many planes and parts, to be resold at flea markets and online, that it takes five trips to load his hatchback at the Greene County Fairgrounds.

"I can tell from the first sale if it's going to be a good night," he said. "Tonight was a very good night."

Although auctioneers initially considered the Internet a threat, its growth and development of searchable Web sites like AuctionZip have contributed to a boom in the live-auction industry, with one-time rivals forming partnerships that produce bigger audiences for sellers, often by simulcasting live auctions on the Web.

Buyers emboldened by success on eBay and other sites are seeking live sales in search of lower prices — and the thrill of competing in person. Sales of goods and services at live auctions totaled \$257 billion in 2006, a surge of 7

On the Net

National Auctioneers Association:
http://www.auctioneers.org/
LiveAuctioneers.com:
http://www.liveauctioneers.com/
AuctionZip: http://www.auctionzip.com/
Auction Network: http://auctionnetwork.biz/
Bid4Assets:
http://www.bid4assets.com/
IronPlanet: http://www.ironplanet.com/
LiveAuctioneers:
http://www.liveauctioneers.com/

percent over 2005. A study for the Kansas-based National Auctioneers Association found residential real estate auctions have grown 39 percent since 2003, agricultural real estate grew 33 percent, and sales of commercial and industrial property surged 27 percent. Car auctions increased by 10.5 percent and charity auctions rose 16.5 percent.

"I don't know where the auction industry would be without the Internet," said Teets, of Fairmont, W.Va. He turned professional three years ago and made the top 12 at the 2007 bid-calling world championships in San Diego.

"The Internet has educated the buyers. It's educated the sellers. It's opened a lot of these small sales up," said Teets, 31, who works for Joe F. Pyle Auctions of Mount Morris, Pa.

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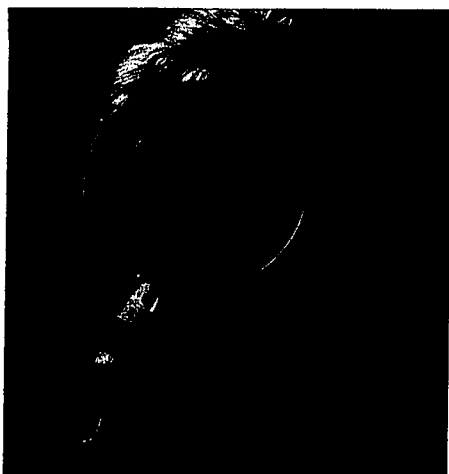
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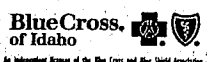


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WEDNESDAY, December 6, 8:00 am - 11:00 pm
Live Decorative

THURSDAY, December 6, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Live Decorative

FRIDAY, December 7, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Live Decorative

FRIDAY, December 7, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Live Decorative

More corn, but more critics

Iowa enjoys bumper crop but some say it's fueling higher prices in other areas

By Joel Achenbach
The Washington Post

NEVADA, Iowa — To say that corn is king around here is to come close to demoting it. In the last couple of weeks, the farmers of this state finished harvesting an astonishing 14 million acres of corn, which is more than a third of Iowa's surface. The yield: nearly 2 1/2 billion bushels. That's about 420 billion ears of corn, or about 225 trillion kernels.

A phone call to Tim Recker, president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association, found him in his combine, harvesting the last of a bumper crop. "I got 225-bushel corn that I'm doing right now, which is phenomenal," Recker said by telephone from a field near the town of Arlington. That's 225 bushels per acre. For a corn farmer, that's living in the tall cotton.

And yet, despite the fabulous harvest and the boom in ethanol made from corn, some farmers often sound bewildered and aggrieved. Corn, they say, has been getting a bad rap.

"You have to wear a flak jacket" said Bill Couser, who farms 5,000 acres here in the central Iowa town of Nevada (pronounced ne-VAI-da). "When we planted this crop, people said we were the villains of the winter crop."

This mundane plant, once arguably dull as dirt, its name useful as an adjective ("corny") to describe something kind of lame and hillbillyish, has become improbably controversial. The gist of the criticism: So much corn, doing so many things, serving as both food and fuel, and backed by billions of dollars in government subsidies, has been bad for America and the rest of the world.

Start with food prices. Corn and its derivatives are in thousands of items sold at a typical grocery store, and corn is trading on the market at about twice the price it was just a couple of years ago. There are ripple effects everywhere. More acres in corn mean fewer in soybeans, and soybean prices are also up. Soybean extracts are all over the grocery store, too.

Meanwhile, there are ethanol skeptics. They say production of ethanol has outpaced the infrastructure — flex-fuel cars, for example — for using it. A 51-cent-a-gallon federal subsidy to ethanol blenders helps keep the ethanol market commercially viable.

Environmentalists decry the impact on soil, waterways and wildlife of so much

acreage planted in vast tracts of a thirsty, fertilizer-hungry plant. Tens of thousands of acres in Iowa once set aside for conservation were plowed this year for corn. The Iowa landscape is a patchwork of corn and soybean monocultures, with about as much biodiversity as a bachelor's refrigerator.

Com, in the form of high-fructose corn syrup, is even accused of causing the national obesity epidemic. Recently Jean Ziegler, the United Nations expert on the "right to food," called the diversion of food crops to bio-fuels a "crime against humanity." The United Nations later distanced itself from those remarks. But they were already in the wind in corn country, where farmers, up to their eyeballs in corn, are wondering what exactly they have done wrong.

Gaining political support

In the town of Nevada, dead center in Iowa, you'll find Couser, a farmer, feedlot owner and ethanol entrepreneur. From many miles away, you can see rising from the fields of corn stubble the silo-like fermenting tanks of the new ethanol plant, Lincoln-way Energy, where Couser serves as chairman of the board. At the plant, corn mash makes glucose and ferments into alcohol.

"It's just an old still back in the woods. It's no different. It's just bigger," he says of the plant. "It's basically 200-proof corn whiskey."

A byproduct is a sawdust-like substance called dry distiller's grain with solubles — huge piles of which are in a warehouse at the distillery ready to be hauled off and fed to livestock somewhere in the Midwest. It's good feed, Couser said.

Last year, the federal government banned a gasoline additive, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), because it was polluting groundwater. Gasoline blenders needed another "oxygenate" and quickly turned to ethanol. Corn prices surged. American farmers planted 93 million acres of corn, up from 78 million a year ago — the largest crop by acreage since World War II.

The Energy Act of 2005 mandated the use of 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol a year by 2012, and that's just for starters.

"The president's goal is to have 35 billion gallons of bio-fuels by 2017, and we're currently at 6 billion gallons. That would mean a huge increase

in land for corn," says Jerry Schnoor, a University of Iowa professor of civil and environmental engineering. "The environmental constraints are just too great. It's too much nutrients, too much soil loss, too much pesticides. We don't have the land."

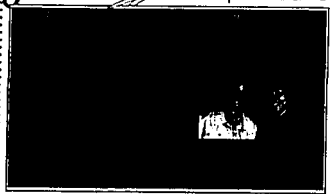
It's food, and it's fuel

Driving in his truck, Couser grew increasingly combative. He groused about "tree huggers." His way of farming is

sustainable, he says. On his feedlot, he uses an innovative system of waste disposal that state officials have praised. He owns lake property and says, "I want to make sure that when I go out in my water scooter, that that water's clean."

He made a mental calculation. "It's about 16 percent moisture," he said. Dry enough to harvest. "It's hard to believe you can put that in your tank, isn't it?"

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The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) Daily 7:30-9:45
August Rush (PG) Daily 7:30-9:45
Wed 4:30-7:10-9:45
Thu-Sat 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:45
Saw IV (R) Daily 8:15

Jerome Cinema 4
Harrison Ford Daily Open House
Daily 10:45-12:45
Historic Opheum

Beowulf (PG-13) Daily 7:15-9:45
Thu-Sat 12:45-4:30-7:15-9:45
The Day After Tomorrow (PG-13) Daily 7:30-9:45
Thu-Sat 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:45
Enchanted (PG) Daily 7:00-9:15
Thu-Sat 12:30-2:45-5:00-7:15-9:30
Fred Claus (PG) Daily 7:00-9:30
Thu-Sat 12:00-2:45-5:00-7:30

Odyssey 6
Mr. Woodcock (PG) Daily 7:00-9:15
Thu-Sat 12:15-2:30-4:45-7:00-9:15
30 Days of Night (R) Daily 7:00-9:30
Thu-Sat 12:30-3:30-5:00-7:30
Lions for Lambs (PG) Daily 7:15-9:30
Thu-Sat 12:30-2:45-5:00-7:15-9:30
The Mist (PG) Daily 7:00-9:30
Thu-Sat 12:00-2:00-4:00-6:00
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium (G) Daily 7:15-9:30
Thu-Sat 12:30-2:45-5:00-7:15-9:30
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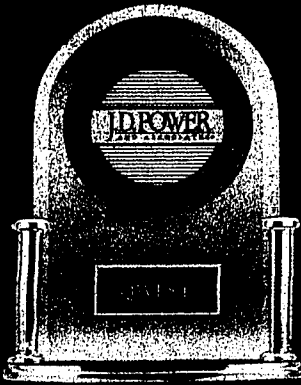
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INSIDE: King James scores triple-double against the Raptors, D2



INSIDE: Basketball, D2 | Scoreboard, D3 | College football, D4 | Your Sports, D5 | Travel, D6-7 | NFL & Weather, D8

Burley boys bet on Class 4A championship repeat

By Ryan Howe
For the Times-News

BURLEY — They've played together since elementary school. Between youth leagues, tournaments, summer camps and high school hoops, the Burley boys basketball team has been together through hundreds of games and countless practices.

Now as their senior season gets underway Wednesday at Blackfoot, the "Band of Brothers" will be making its final run.

"What better way to go out than with an encore to last year's Class 4A state title."

"Since we were little, we always wanted two [state championships], one our Junior year and one our senior year," said point guard

Colton Moon, last season's 4A All-Idaho Player of the Year. "One thing is our attitude. We can't come out thinking we're going to dominate everybody, because it's not going to work out that way. Everybody is going to play their best against us. We're going to have to show up and work hard."

Burley coach Jack Bagley insists he's just along for the ride and credits a dedicated group of parents for raising champions.

"The reason these boys are so good right now is because their parents started them together young," Bagley said. "And the boys love it, and that's what it takes to be successful."

It's not hard to pick Burley as the favorite in Class 4A this season. After all, the Bobcats return nine



players from last year's team that dominated with a 26-1 record en route to the state title.

Of those nine players, four are returning starters who averaged in double figure scoring: Moon (15.2 ppg), Ben Searle (13.4 ppg), Jordan Hosteen (10.5 ppg), and Kyle Hepworth (10.2 ppg). They dis-

manded opponents by 14.7 points per game. Of the Bobcats' 26 victories, 21 were by 10 points or more.

However, Burley lost shooting guard Casey Miller to graduation, who played Robin to Moon's Batman on the perimeter. He was Burley's tough-nosed, shut-down defender, guarding the opponent's best player each night. He was also Burley's quickest player and consistently made plays on fast breaks.

Senior Brad Caretta will step into the starting rotation in place of Miller.

"I'll bring the same momentum that Casey brought every night with his defense," Caretta said. "Filling Casey's shoes will be hard, but I can do it."

Please see **BURLEY**, Page D2



Burley guard Colton Moon charges into the arc against Skyview during last season's Class 4A championship game in Nampa.

Vandals lose to become worst in WAC Jackson leads Utah State in win

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Leon Jackson rushed for two touchdowns and passed for another Saturday to lead the Utah State Aggies past Idaho, 24-19, in a battle of last-place teams in the Western Athletic Conference.

Jackson threw for 118 yards and rushed for 11. His favorite target was receiver Kevin Robinson, who caught seven passes for 86 yards and a score.

Running back Derrvin Spight led the Aggies (2-9, 2-6 WAC) with 57 rushing yards.

I Brian Flowers had 127 rushing yards and a touchdown for Idaho (1-11, 0-8).

Vandal quarterback Nathan Enderie went 14-for-27 for 191 yards and threw three interceptions, but started the game by completing his first seven pass attempts.

That streak ended when James Brindley intercepted an Enderie pass early in the second quarter.

That was the first of four Idaho turnovers. The first — a Flowers first-quarter fumble — resulted in Jackson's first rushing TD.

Enderie's second interception followed Robinson's score and gave Utah State the ball back with 1:11 left in the second quarter. That led to a Jacob Actinonson field goal and a 17-10 USU lead at the half.

Jackson scored his second TD early in the third quarter to give the Aggies a 24-10 lead.

Tino Amancio connected on the second of two field goals on the day from 36 yards out to cut the USU lead to 24-13. Enderie then found Lee Smith in the end zone on a 14-yard score with 5:42 left in the game to make it 24-19.

Idaho then failed on a 2-point try, but UI receiver Eddie Williams came down with the Vandals' on-side kick attempt and UI drove to the Aggies' 24-yard line. However, the Vandals turned over the ball on downs with 1:44 left in the game.

2007 WOLVERTON CHALLENGE

Not pretty, but effective

Hansen's hustle, 23 points propel CSI to 8-0 record

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

Sometimes the shots fall and sometimes they don't.

Saturday night in the Wolverton Challenge finale against the North Dakota State College of Science, the shots at last when they needed to

for the No. 2 College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team.

After the Wildcats trimmed a second-half 30-point lead down to 10 at 73-63 with 6:59 left, the 8-0 Golden Eagles found the spark that was previously lacking, orchestrating a 28-9 game-ending run to top the Wildcats 101-67.

"I'm really glad we found a way to come back and get some hoops," sophomore guard Nick Hansen said.

Hansen drained six 3-pointers en route to scoring a game-high 23 points, including CSI's first two baskets.

The Golden Eagles ran out to a 51-26 halftime lead and extended their advantage to 59-29 before the Wildcats made their one big run of the game.

Spurred on by guard Jaden Voith's 20 points, the Wildcats were able to spread the CSI defense out and find lanes to the basket on dribble penetration.

"They did a good job of spreading us out so it was hard to guard across the floor," CSI head coach Barrett Peery said. "We'll do some things later in the season to adjust how we guard against that, but this early in the season, we're keeping it



College of Southern Idaho guard Kevin Galloway maintains control of the ball on an offensive drive as he looks to pass Saturday night in the men's victory over North Dakota State College of Science in Twin Falls.

Wolverton Challenge

Friday's scores

Women

Salt Lake CC 67, Yavapai 58
No. 10 CSI 103, Treasure Valley 68

Men

No. 11 Salt Lake CC 90, North Dakota State 83
No. 2 CSI 138, Chemekeeta 89

Today

Women

Salt Lake CC 75, Treasure Valley 56
No. 10 CSI 88, Yavapai 65

Men

No. 11 Salt Lake CC 99, Chemekeeta 52
No. 2 CSI 101, North Dakota State 71

Tournament awards

MVP: Art Parakhuski, CSI
All-tournament team: Andy Palmer, SLCC; Mitch Rice, Chemekeeta; Jaden Voith, North Dakota State; Joey Shaw, CSI; Nick Hansen, CSI.

Women

MVP: LaCale Pringle-Buchanan, CSI
All-tournament team: Kalisha Cotten, SLCC; Hope Williams, UVCC; Tahani Goldsmith, Yavapai; Maddy Plunkett, CSI; Anita Burdick, CSI.

College of Southern Idaho guard Cassie Wood is fouled by a Yavapai defender as she takes the ball to the hoop Saturday night in Twin Falls.

simple, and we'll really start to focus on that in January."

Sophomore guard Joey Shaw added 22 points for CSI while tournament MVP Art Parakhuski contributed 12.

Please see **PRETTY**, Page D2

Golden Eagles roll Roughriders Burdick leads CSI's post dominance in win

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

No dispute necessary.

The No. 10 College of Southern Idaho basketball team knew its quartet of 6-foot-plus posts was better than anything the visiting Yavapai Roughriders could counter with Saturday night. So head coach Randy Rogers went to his posts, time and again. From high, low passes, weak-side offensive rebounding or simple post entry, the Golden Eagles dominated the paint.

For a 98-85 win on the final day of the Wolverton Challenge in Twin Falls, "I'm happy with that

because we know they had a couple of big kids," Rogers said. "I thought we were better inside and I thought we dominated the game inside."

Led by 6-foot-3 sophomore Anita Burdick's game-high 25 points and 12 rebounds, the Golden Eagles posted 52 points in the paint, clearly outclassing 1-4 Yavapai's duo of 6-3 posts, Sandy Cook and Bamaka Pruitt. Whether it was Burdick and Eva Ivanova, Maddy Plunkett and Soana Lucet, or any combination, the steady surge of CSI posts proved too much for the Roughriders to handle.

The quartet combined for 52 points and 36 rebounds, and contributed most of CSI's 24 second-chance points.

"It's good to know that when you go to the bench, there isn't going to be a drop-off," Burdick said. "We don't want our posts playing 30 minutes and wearing out. We want to play 20 minutes because we know the others can get the job done. No matter who starts, we have that depth."

The 6-1 Golden Eagles also got solid guard play from freshman LaCale Pringle-Buchanan, who

Please see **POST**, Page D2

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings table with columns for Team, W, L, PCT, GB, and Home/Away records.

NBA Standings table for Eastern Conference with columns for Team, W, L, PCT, GB, and Home/Away records.

NBA Standings table for Western Conference with columns for Team, W, L, PCT, GB, and Home/Away records.

GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE

TV SCHEDULE table listing dates, times, and networks for various sports events.

Arizona @ New Orleans 44
Adrian 70, Wilson-Saunders 59
Baylor @ Miami (Ohio) at Anaheim, Calif.
CBS - Anaheim Classic, championship game, St. Louis, Mo., 9:30 p.m.

Connecticut @ New York, Pittsburgh
San Jose 109, St. Louis 107 (did not play, tie)
New York (10) did not play, tie 31-11
Rick Flair, Australia 108-89-11
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11

Michael Long, N. Zealand 61-64-211
Marcus Farrow, Australia 70-69-211
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL table with columns for Team, W, L, T, PCT, and Home/Away records.

FOOTBALL table with columns for Team, W, L, T, PCT, and Home/Away records.

ESPN - Did Spide Classic, third place game, Georgetown, Va., 6 p.m.
NBC - Philadelphia at New England
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
ESPN - Did Spide Classic, championship game, N.C. State vs. Villanova at Orlando, Fla., 6 p.m.

Arizona @ Kansas
ESPN - Anaheim Classic, third place game, Mississippi
Kentucky @ South Carolina 13
Louisiana-Monroe @ Miami 50, UT
Louisiana-Monroe @ Miami 50, UT
Louisiana-Monroe @ Miami 50, UT

Alabama @ Oregon 51
East Carolina @ Colorado 51
New York 109, St. Louis 107 (did not play, tie)
New York (10) did not play, tie 31-11
Rick Flair, Australia 108-89-11

Michael Long, N. Zealand 61-64-211
Marcus Farrow, Australia 70-69-211
Drew Carter, Australia 108-89-11
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BASEBALL

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Kentucky @ South Carolina 13
Louisiana-Monroe @ Miami 50, UT
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Alabama @ Oregon 51
East Carolina @ Colorado 51
New York 109, St. Louis 107 (did not play, tie)
New York (10) did not play, tie 31-11
Rick Flair, Australia 108-89-11

Connecticut @ New York, Pittsburgh
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Marcus Farrow, Australia 70-69-211
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Boise State men's team knocks off Southern Utah in overtime

CEDAR CITY, Utah — Boise State gave up a slender halftime lead in the second half but rebounded to take a 75-73 overtime win over Southern Utah on Saturday.
Former College of Southern Idaho standout Reggie Larry had a double-double for the 3-2 Bisons, with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Mickelson to contend for the title.
They shot a 6-under 68 Saturday for one-stroke lead over France (62) and Scotland (66), entering Sunday's final round at Mission Hills Golf Club. The Americans are at 20-under 196 and have led by one stroke after all three rounds.

CSI sets for week
Coca-Cola Classic luncheon
TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho basketball programs will hold a luncheon for the annual Coca-Cola Classic tournament at noon, Friday, Dec. 7 in Room 277 of the Taylor building.

to talk about their programs. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and bring lunch from the CSI cafeteria.
WINTER YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS APPROACH
TWIN FALLS — The City of Twin Falls Parks & Recreation is offering winter youth basketball beginning in January.

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Late Unga TD run lifts No. 23 Brigham Young over rival Utah

PROVO, Utah (AP) — Playing with a sprained shoulder, Max Hall had one final chance to save BYU against rival Utah.

All he had to do was convert on fourth-and-18 from his own 12 with barely a minute remaining. Hall scrambled to his right to buy a little time, then threw the ball as far as he could — right to teammate Austin Collie for a 49-yard gain.

The play with 1:05 left kept the No. 23 Cougars' final drive going and led to Harvey Unga's 11-yard touchdown run with 38 seconds remaining in BYU's 17-10 win over the Utes on Saturday.

"We call it 'certain things happen to allow you to win games and I think that was definitely a magic play,'" Hall said.

Much like it was a year ago, when the Cougars (9-2, 7-0) led the Utes (3-7, 3-5) on John Beck's pass to Jonny Harline as time expired.

BYU (9-2, 7-0) clinched its

second consecutive outright Mountain West Conference championship. The Cougars haven't lost an MWC game since the Utes (0-4, 5-3) won here two years ago.

That game ended when Beck's fourth-down pass fell to the ground in overtime. Just 12 yards outside the same end zone, it went up to Hall to avoid another loss to the Utes.

"There wasn't any panic on the sideline. There wasn't any loss of composure," BYU coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

From there, the Utes self-destructed and their seven-game winning streak came to an end. After the fourth-down conversion, Utah gave BYU 30 extra yards on two penalties to set up Unga's touchdown run.

Utah had just taken a 10-9 lead by driving 69 yards for Darrell Mack's 1-yard touchdown run with 1:34 left to play.

"We thought we had



Brigham Young running back Harvey Unga (45) leaps over Utah defensive back Robert Johnson (17) to score the winning touchdown Saturday in Provo, Utah. Unga finished with 141 rushing and 27 passing yards and one touchdown as BYU beat Utah 17-10.

Not in this rivalry. For the 10th time in the last 11 meetings, the game was decided by a touchdown or less.

Unga ran for 141 yards and BYU's only touchdown.

after Unga's touchdown run. BYU capped the rally by knocking down Brian Johnson's pass in the end zone on the final play.

It was tough to swallow. Each team touched the end zone only one time," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "It came down to the wire just like last year, and unfortunately it went the other way."

Just after Johnson's incomplete pass landed, BYU fans rushed the field to celebrate the Cougars' first back-to-back wins over Utah since 2000-2001. The Cougars stayed on the field and were presented with the MWC championship trophy in a long celebration.

The Utes walked off to the locker room, stunned after another heartbreaker to the Cougars.

"It tears your gut out when you lose like this, but it's by no means the end of the world," Johnson said.

Utah had started the con-

ference season 0-2 and needed a win Saturday to keep the Cougars from clinching another outright title.

BYU won its 15th straight Mountain West game and can wrap up a second straight unbeaten season in the league next week at San Diego State.

The Cougars also won for the 12th straight time at home, where they haven't lost since the Utah game two years ago.

BYU shut down Utah's offense until Johnson led a 69-yard drive that put the Utes ahead on Mack's run with 1:34 left to play.

Utah converted four times on a third down during the drive, after going 1-for-10 in the first three quarters.

Johnson finished 17-for-29 for 123 yards with two interceptions for the Utes, who had only 59 yards of offense at halftime.

"They're not No. 23 in the country for no reason," Johnson said.

Missouri knocks off Kansas in Border War

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Unthinkable in September, Missouri is one victory away from playing for its first national championship.

Chuse Daniel threw for 361 yards and three touchdowns and the third-ranked Tigers ruined No. 2 Kansas' unbeaten season Saturday night with a 36-28 victory in the most important football game either school ever played.

As Big 12 North champions, the surprising Tigers (11-1, 7-1 Big 12) will head to San Antonio and a date in the Big 12 championship game with No. 10 Oklahoma, the only team to beat them this season.

A victory there will almost certainly propel Missouri into the BCS national championship game on Jan. 7.

"I'm excited about that, but we didn't get here thinking about it," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said.

"You know, we had to win five straight games to have a chance to play in this one for the divisional championship. I'm just so proud of everybody."

Todd Reesing's 5-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Henry with 2:03 drew the Jayhawks' within six points and Missouri's Tony Temple was stopped on third down to give the Jayhawks (11-1, 7-1) one last slim chance.

Lorenzo Williams put the finishing touches on it for Missouri, sacking Reesing in the end zone for a fourth with 12 seconds left. The Kansas quarterback walked off dejected, a muddy divot stuck in his face mask.

The Tigers, who had never won 11 games in a season, should become No. 1 in the Associated Press poll for the first time since 1960 and figure to be no worse than No. 2 in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

NO. 4 WEST VIRGINIA 66, CONNECTICUT 21
MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Pat Winkler rushed for 186 yards and accounted for three touchdowns to lead the Mountaineers to the Big East championship and a spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

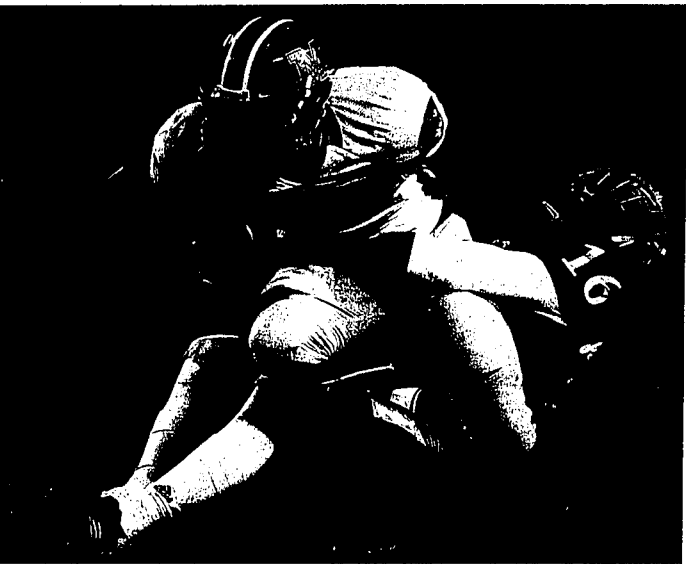
With one more win next week against Pittsburgh, the Mountaineers might be headed to the biggest BCS game of all — the championship game on Jan. 7 in New Orleans.

West Virginia (10-1, 5-1 Big East) will move up at least one spot to second in the BCS standings on Sunday following top-ranked LSU's loss to Arkansas Friday.

West Virginia has won six straight since losing to South Florida on Sept. 28 and has made a steady climb in the BCS standings after starting ninth in mid-October.

NO. 19 TENNESSEE 52, KENTUCKY 50, 4OT
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Resilient Tennessee is back on top in the SEC.

The Volunteers stuffed a scrambling Andre Woodson on a 2-point conversion attempt in the fourth over-



Missouri wide receiver William Franklin is tackled by Kansas defender Chris Harris in the first half of Saturday's game at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. Missouri won 36-28 to get to the Big 12 title game and keep the Tigers' hopes of a national championship alive.

time to secure their 23rd straight win over the Wildcats.

The Volunteers (9-3, 6-2) clinched the division title and a shot at LSU in next week's SEC title game.

Tennessee and Georgia finished tied at the East, but the Volunteers earned the title thanks to their 35-14 win over the Bulldogs on Oct. 6.

Erik Alving threw for a career-high 397 yards and seven touchdowns and running back Arian Foster had 216 total yards for the Volunteers.

NO. 6 GEORGIA 31, GEORGIA TECH 17
ATLANTA — Matthew Stafford ran for one touchdown and threw for another, Thomas Brown rushed for 130 yards, and Georgia won its seventh in a row over Georgia Tech.

Late in the third quarter, the Bulldogs (10-2) learned their hopes of winning the SEC East ended when Tennessee defeated Kentucky 52-50 in a four-overtime thriller.

Georgia closed the regular season winning six straight and could earn an at-large BCS bid.

Georgia Tech (7-5) hasn't beaten Georgia since 2000, and there's plenty of speculation that this latest loss could cost coach Chan Gailey his job. He dropped to 0-6 against the Yellow Jackets' biggest rival.

NO. 8 VIRGINIA TECH 33, VIRGINIA 21
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Sean Glennon threw for 260 yards and the other half of

Virginia Tech's quarterback rotation. Tyrod Taylor ran for two touchdowns, as the Hokies earned a spot in the ACC championship game.

The Hokies (10-2, 7-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) also got a season-high 147 yards rushing from Brandon Ore and six catches for 147 yards and a touchdown from Eddie Royal.

They won their fourth straight in the series and earned a rematch with No. 15 Boston College in next Saturday's conference title game in Jacksonville, Fla.

NO. 15 BOSTON COLLEGE 23, MIAMI 14
BOSTON — Boston College ended a 15-game losing streak against Miami — and didn't even need Doug Flutie to do it.

Matt Ryan threw for 369 yards and three touchdowns to send the Eagles into the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game with Dec. 1 in Jacksonville, Fla., against Virginia Tech.

BC (10-2, 6-2 ACC) will play in the conference title game Dec. 1 in Jacksonville, Fla., against Virginia Tech.

NO. 10 OKLAHOMA 49, OKLAHOMA STATE 17
NORMAN, Okla. — Allen Patrick ran for a career-best 202 yards and two touchdowns as Oklahoma wrapped up a spot in the Big 12 championship game.

Patrick, who had four 100-yard rushing games after Adrian Peterson broke his collarbone last season, passed the century mark for the first time since

September and also caught a touchdown pass.

The Sooners (10-2, 6-2 Big 12) had been all but assured of playing in their fifth Big 12 title game in the past six seasons even with a loss, but a Bedlam blowout left no doubt.

NO. 12 FLORIDA 45, FLORIDA STATE 12
GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Tim Tebow threw three touchdown passes, ran for two scores and carried Florida to its fourth straight win over the Seminoles.

Tebow led the Gators (9-3) to touchdowns on four of their first five possessions.

Percy Harvin did his part, too. After missing the last two games because of migraine headaches, Harvin returned and ran 16 times for 157 yards. He scored on a 24-yard run with 3 minutes to play.

UCLA 16, NO. 9 OREGON 0
PASADENA, Calif. — Freshman Kai Forbath kicked three field goals, including a career-long 54-yarder, and the Bruins took advantage of No. 9 Oregon's injuries to hand the Ducks their first shutout loss in more than 22 years.

Oregon (8-3, 5-3 Pac-10) had been bounced out of the national championship picture Nov. 15 when Heisman Trophy candidate Dennis Dixon injured his knee in the first quarter of a 34-24 loss at Arizona.

The Ducks lost backup quarterback Brady Lee late in the first quarter of this game, and young signal-callers Cody Kempt and Justin Roper were unable to

generate any offense.

NO. 21 CLEMSON 23, SOUTH CAROLINA 21
COLUMBIA, S.C. — Mark Buchholz hit a 35-yard field as the Tigers explored to give Clemson a victory and leave Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier with the longest losing streak of his college career.

Buchholz, who starred on the Tiger soccer team this fall, had missed two earlier field-goal attempts.

NO. 25 AUBURN 17, ALABAMA 10
AUBURN, Ala. — Brantton Cox scored on a 1-yard sneak with 3:50 left and the 25th-ranked Tigers' playing stingy defense in a win that extended Auburn's winning streak in the rivalry to a school-record 21.

Alabama (6-6, 4-4) hired Nick Saban to coach the Crimson Tide after last season, giving him \$4 million a year, in part to come up with a way to beat the Tigers.

Not only was he unable to do that, but the Tide is no lock to even reach the post-season.

WOFFORD 23, MONTANA 22
MISSOULA, Mont. — Michael Hobbs scored on a 6-yard run with 32 seconds remaining Saturday to lift Wofford to a 23-22 upset of previously unbeaten Montana in the first round of the FCS playoffs.

Third-seed Montana (11-1) had a chance to win the game on a 47-yard field goal with four seconds remaining, but Dan Carpenter's kick pulled left.

Callahan left the football complex without speaking to reporters.

College Scores

FAR WEST	
BYU 17, Utah 10	Fresno St. 45, Kansas St. 29
Wyldfire 23, Montana 22	Utah St. 24, Idaho 19
Northern 21, Stanford 14	UCLA 16, Oregon 0
San Jose St. 27, Nevada 24	New Mexico 27, UNLV 6
Washington St. 42	Washington 35
E. Washington 44	McNeese St. 15
TCU 45, San Diego St. 33	
MIDWEST	
Buffalo 30, Kent St. 23 (OT)	Ohio St. 38, Miami (Ohio) 29
W. Michigan 16, Temple 3	Ball St. 27, N. Illinois 21
Missouri 36, Kansas 28	
SOUTHWEST	
Utah 48, Rice 43	Houston 39, Texas Southern 6
Oklahoma 49, Oklahoma St. 17	North Texas 27, W. Kentucky 26
SOUTH	
Marshall 37, N.C. State 0	Virginia Tech 53, Virginia 21
East Carolina 35, Tulane 12	Tennessee 52, Kentucky 50 (4 OT)
Southern U. 22, Grambling St. 13	Memphis 55, SMU 52 (3 OT)
UCF 38, UTEP 20	Wake Forest 31, Vanderbilt 17
Southern Miss 16, Arkansas St. 10	Georgia 31, Georgia Tech 17
North Carolina 20, Duke 14	
Marshall 46, UAB 39	Florida 45, Florida St. 12
Florida Atlantic 55, Florida International 15	Louisiana-Monroe 17
Louisiana-Lafayette 14	Clayton 23, South Carolina 21
Auburn 17, Alabama 10	
EAST	
Boston College 28, Miami 14	Louisiana-Lafayette 14
Cincinnati 52, Syracuse 31	

Orgeron out at Ole Miss

JACKSON, Miss. — A dreadful final month on and off the field cost Mississippi State's Ed Orgeron his job, even though his bosses had said his future was secure.

Orgeron was fired Saturday, a day after the Rebels lost 17-14 to rival Mississippi State to finish 3-9 and winless in the Southeastern Conference for the first time since 1982.

Callahan fired as Nebraska coach

LINCOLN, Neb. — After watching Bill Callahan's Huskers for five games, Tom Osborne, in his new role as interim athletic director, decided it was time for change.

He fired Callahan during a five-minute meeting Saturday.

Callahan left the football complex without speaking to reporters.

GEM STATE TRAVELING

Places to go, things to see in St. Anthony

County: Fremont
Drive: St. Anthony was settled by Carlos H. Moon in 1890, on land that was situated on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, often called the North Fork. He named the town St. Anthony because the area reminded him of an area he had seen in Minnesota, named St. Anthony Falls.

see the St. Anthony Sand Dunes and the Camas Meadow Nez Perce Battleground. The byway is best traveled between mid-April and November. Full services are available in St. Anthony and Parker with partial services in Kilgore.

comfortably and additional cabins sleep as many as 12-13. Visit www.sheepcreekguest ranch.com

Sandbar Swimming Area

Work on your tan, build sandcastles, play on the playground equipment and cool off in the Henry's Fork of the Snake River near St. Anthony. This swimming area is roped off and a lifeguard is on duty.

St. Anthony Sand Dunes

The St. Anthony Sand Dunes consists of more than

11,000 acres of clear, shifting, white quartz sand dunes up to 400 feet high that move about eight feet each year. They are unique in that the dunes support a high amount of exceptional off-road vehicle use on open dunes inside a wilderness study area, attracting riders from all over the West. Visitors are strongly encouraged to avoid damage to vegetation and impacts to wildlife so that use of this unique area may continue. Primitive campsites are available on the East end of the dunes along the Red Road.

Developed camping is located at Egin Lakes Access Recreation Site, located on the south-central portion of the dune camping.

Clyde Keefer Memorial Park

Located in St. Anthony, Keefer Park is great for family outings or family reunions. Plan a family picnic, take the kids to the playground, catch a fish or just nap on the grass under a tree. The park provides visitors with large outdoor barbeque facilities, and a covered area with tables.

Fort Henry Historic Byway

This 81-mile route takes visitors past herds of deer and elk and game bird habitat on the way to the Fort Henry Monument. Along the way,

Sheep Creek Guest Ranch

A 2000-acre guest ranch near Soda Springs offering hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, wilderness education, trap shooting and cowboy action shoots. The western-style lodge will sleep ten

Idaho town plans store to serve tourists

ST. ANTHONY (AP) — Residents of this town south-west of Yellowstone National Park say they're tired of telling tourists that they don't have a store that carries clothing, inner tubes or other items often sought by visitors.

So leaders of the small eastern Idaho city are spearheading an effort to open a community store, and organizers say that with a little luck the store could be open in time for back-to-school shopping next year.

"I think it will be a great thing for the whole town," Kate Sullivan, manager of the Henry's Fork Guest House Inn, told the Post Register.

"We don't have that much going on here and we need to change that."

Organizers hope to raise \$400,000 to open the store, and \$500 shares will be sold soon in an effort to raise the money.

Fremont County economic development specialist Cathy Koon is leading the effort.

Koon said an attorney is reviewing paperwork that will be submitted to the secretary of state and attorney general's office next month, and about 20 volunteers are putting together a board of directors and a committee charged with organizing the store's opening.

The group is working with consultant Mike Relle, who will help the store select and order merchandise. Relle does similar work for seven community-owned stores in Montana, Nevada and Wyoming.

Though he's not yet sure what will line the shelves of the St. Anthony store, Relle typically stocks apparel found in the junior departments of stores like J.C. Penney, Sears and Dillard's. Organizers still must choose a location for the store and pick a name, and Sullivan said she's trying to recruit more people to join the effort.

If successful, the store could entice visitors to the St. Anthony Sand Dunes at Yellowstone National Park to stick around a little longer, using other local businesses as well, such as grocery stores and fuel stations, she said.

"It's citizen driven and all up to the community to make it work," Sullivan said.

Plymouth rock to be boxed during renovations

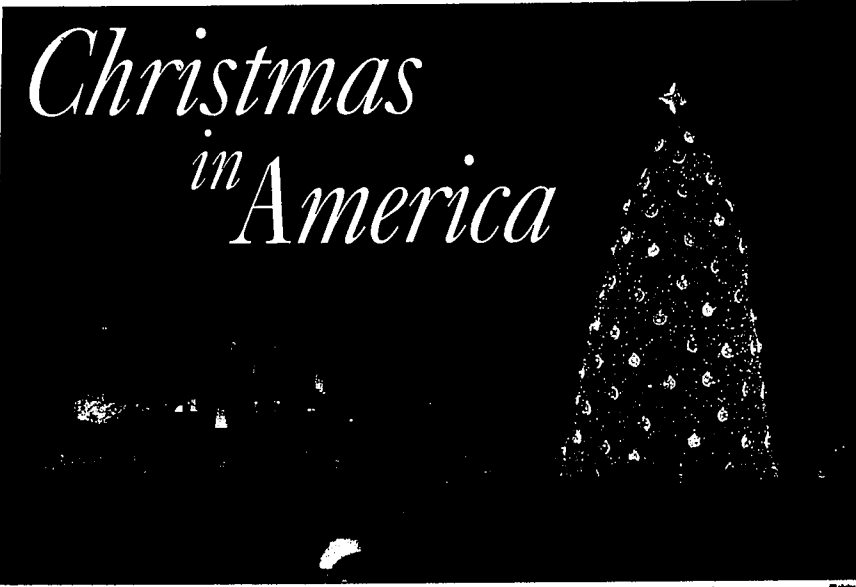
PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP) — Tourists hoping for a look at legendary Plymouth Rock next spring will instead see nothing but a reinforced plywood box.

The famous symbol of America's founding is going to be covered from March to May as state park officials begin a \$680,000 overhaul of a granite and steel portico built over the rock's remains. The idea is to protect the rock from any falling steel, stone or mortar.

The rock is located at the spot where it's believed the Pilgrims first walked ashore from the Mayflower in 1620. Officials "want to protect it because it's taken a bit of a beating over the years."

It cracked in half when townspeople working a team of oxen tried to move it to the village center in 1774.

And early tourists slipped away at the rock, taking pieces all over the country,



The National Christmas Tree is lit at the Ellipse, near the White House, left, on Dec. 7, 2006, photo, in Washington D.C. The lighting of the National Christmas Tree is an unbroken tradition which began in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge lit the first tree in the President's Park on behalf of all Americans.

Christmas trees and holiday lightings around the country

NEW YORK (AP) — The lighting of the Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center is probably the most famous celebration of its kind, and this year it will take place Nov. 29, 7-9 p.m. If you're not among the thousands crowding in to watch the event live in midtown Manhattan, you can watch from home on TV or stop by in person any time through Jan. 3.

But if you won't be coming through the Big Apple this holiday season, there may be a tree lighting or some other stupendous display near you. Here are some from around the country.

In Washington, D.C., the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place Dec. 6, at 5 p.m. at the White House Ellipse. Tickets are required; details at 202-206-1631. Entertainers and a military band perform and President Bush will speak. On Dec. 5 at 5 p.m., the Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

In Los Angeles, on Nov. 18, celebrities including Pat LaBelle and Smokey Robinson appeared at The Grove for an annual Christmas tree-lighting, Hollywood-style. At the California state capitol in Sacramento, the tree-lighting will be on Dec. 4. Last year Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who officiates at the ceremony with his wife Maria Shriver, took the bold step of calling it a Christmas tree, ending the use of the term "holiday tree."

On Christmas Eve in Louisiana, over 100 bonfires are built along the bank of the Mississippi in the locales of Latcher, Gramercy and Reserve. It's an old Cajun tradition, to guide the way for "Papa Noel." Gray Line offers a six-hour trip to see the event, departing 3 p.m. from New Orleans, including a tour of the Destrehan Plantation and dinner. The cost is \$73 for adults, \$46 for children. Reservations can be made at 800-



ABOVE: The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree stands in Rockefeller Center in this Nov. 29, 2006 file photo in New York.

LEFT: Fireworks explode over the Michigan Capitol and the official state Christmas tree following a ceremony lighting the tree, Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, in Lansing, Mich.

for relief sent from Massachusetts following the Halifax Explosion in 1917. This year's tree, a 45-foot tall white spruce, will be lit Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Boston Common.

In Detroit, a tree was lit at Campus Martius Park Nov. 18, with festivities including ice skating and carriage rides.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the city hosts a nighttime drive-through lighting display called "Jolly Holiday Lights" at Waterworks Park, that began Nov. 20.

Atlanta's tree-lighting tradition took place at Macy's in Lenox Square, Nov. 22.

In West Virginia, Oglebay Resort & Conference Center in Wheeling has a huge Christmas light show that draws thousands annually. The display

started Nov. 8 and lasts through Jan. 6.

Many tree-lightings around the country don't involve evergreens. They consist of displays of thousands of lights strung together to look like trees.

In Charleston, S.C., the "tree" of lights will be lit Dec. 1, in Marion Square. Kids love to run around beneath the illuminated "branches," and the ceremony is followed by a parade of lit-up boats on the waterfront.

In Indianapolis, the holiday display also consists of thousands of lights. This year's lighting at Monument Circle downtown took place Nov. 23.

In downtown Pittsburgh, Pa., Light-Up Night took place Nov. 16. The corner of an old department store building is decorated with lights in the shape of a giant Christmas tree running several stories high. From the hills overlooking Pittsburgh, you can also see a tree-shaped cone of lights suspended over the fountain at the Point.

In Texas, on Dec. 2, Austin hosts the lighting of the Zilker Tree, which consists of 3,309 bulbs on 39 streamers strung from Austin's Moonlight Tower. The tree is part of Zilker Metropolitan Park's Trail of Lights Festival, a mile-long, walk-through display of lighted scenes including Santa's House.

In Houston, the Uptown Holiday Lighting took place the evening of Thanksgiving, when thousands gather along Post Oak Boulevard to watch fireworks and the illumination of a half-million lights and 80 trees along Post Oak Boulevard.

Spending the holidays in Hawaii? Stop by to see the tree in Honolulu. The tree is selected by Department of Parks and Recreation workers, who scope out a candidate from somewhere on Oahu and ask its owner to donate it. Then it's transplanted and moved to City Hall. The tree will be lit Dec. 1 at midnight.

Sampling of Aztec divinity in Tepoztlan

By Christopher Reynolds
Los Angeles Times

TEPOZTLAN, Mexico — Unless you have Aztecs in your family tree, you might find this city's name hard to pronounce. But so much else about the city is easy, or irresistible. The Aztec echoes, the steam baths, the ice cream, the pyramid, even the corn smut.

Tepoztlan — pronounced tel-*po*-*se*-*LAWN* — is a smallish city that sits in a lush valley flanked by mountains that appear to have been smuggled out of a Chinese landscape painting. At its center, a 16th-century convent and church rise above a marketplace full of locals making tortillas, nibbling on fried grasshoppers and licking locally concocted sherbets.

Just north of town stands Tepozteco, the pyramid built on a mountaintop by the Aztecs about 700 years ago to honor Tepoztecal, god of fertility and pulque, also known as Aztec moonshine.

If weren't for the influx of big-city sophisticates every weekend, you never would guess that Mexico City is just beyond the mountains, 47 miles north or that Cuernavaca, the language school capital of Mexico, is 11 miles south.

We arrived late on a weekday, a few hours too late to enjoy the traditional Wednesday farmers market but in good time to spend two quiet days before weekend visitors started streaming in.

Because it's always good to have a quest, I decided I had to make the short, steep climb to the pyramid. My wife, Mary Frances, and our daughter, Grace, were interested in the hike, too. But mostly my wife and I just aimed to explore to the degree that our 3-year-old would permit.

Tepoztlan has been fascinating strangers for a long time, first conquistadors and missionaries, later dueling academics, now tourists and movie stars. (Anthropologist Robert Redfield came from the University of Chicago to write a book analyzing the town's social structure in 1930, only to be followed by Oscar Lewis of the University of Illinois, who published a rival volume in 1951.)

These days, with about 35,000 residents, Tepoz is not so tiny. But it's thick with myth and history, it's walkable, and the weather is mild. (Even in the more humid summer months, average highs top out around 78 degrees, and average winter lows are in the 40s.)

The city's eight neighborhood churches keep their calendars crowded with festivals, but if you need solitude, you can always duck into the darkness of a purifying temezcal and chant amid the steaming rocks and herbs.

We started by taking measure of our hotel, the Posada del Tepozteco, and what a happy task that turned out to be. It was built in the 1940s as a mansion on a hill two blocks from the town center and the property was converted into a hotel about 10 years later. Its views of the valley and jutting mountains are commanding in three directions, the landscaping is immaculate, and the service is crisp and bilingual.

Over the years, it has grown to include 22 guest rooms, a bank-vaulted dining room, and a swimming pool, kept at about 80 degrees. Guests are mostly foreigners during the week, mostly from Mexico City on the weekends. Angelina Jolie, whose picture hangs on a wall behind the desk, took up residence for about three weeks during the shooting of the 2001 film "Original Sin."

Everywhere, you turn, there's another elegant arch or a lily pond, a bubbling courtyard fountain, a sculpture placed just so, or a patio table facing a vista that appears to flow from the spirals of the Parroquia de la Natividad church to the jagged outline of the surrounding mountains. One night as we dug into dinner, a party of English-speaking foreigners straggled up to that view for the first time.

"My Lord!" one said. There are other agreeable



A path rising 1,300 feet in 1.2 miles brings the hiker to Tepozteco, a pyramid built 700 years ago by the Aztecs, just north of the Mexican city of Tepoztlan. The trek affords a peerless view of town and mountains.

lodgings in and near the town. If we returned and had a rental car, I would be tempted to book the half-as-cozy Hotel Amanalan de Quetzalcoatl, about five miles outside the city—but of those I saw, the Posada del Tepozteco ranks first.

The only flaw we found is one the hotel can't control: If you go to bed with your window open, you'll be sleeping with all of Tepoztlan. It's not a raucous town, but the church bells, the roosters, the dogs, the occasional bottle rocket from somebody's street celebration — all these noises, hemmed in by the mountains,

then it creeps uphill, into an area that's been designated national park, toward a smudge of gray atop a high



canyon wall. At first the path climbs gently, bordered by ramshackle refreshment stands, the loose stone steps thick with black beetles in the shade.

Then the path gets steeper, and your breath gets shorter, and you remember that the floor of this valley is more than 5,000 feet above sea level.

You climb about 1,300 feet in 1.2 miles. Sure-footed hikers can manage it in a little less than an hour, and at the top they find Tepozteco itself. The actual pyramid is only about 30 feet high with 13 steps, but the top-of-the-hill payoff is still terrific. Not only can you clamber around on a pre-Columbian monument, you get an IMAX view of the town and mountains, a vista made dreamy by the shifting mists.

While I summited on behalf of the family, Mary Frances and Grace turned back, explored the neighborhood and took a table at Axtila, a sprawling restaurant surrounded by dense foliage at the foot of the trail. Once I was down the hill again, we consulted the menu, and I got my chance to face the corn smut.

Huitlacoche, also known as corn smut, is a black fungus that grows on corn. If you found some in a corner of your shower, you would pay big money for a professional to banish it. But it tastes creamy and mushroomy, and it's been a delicacy in these parts for decades.

There were no grasshoppers on the Axtila menu, nor was there pulque. Nor did we seek them out anywhere else. But I was curious about these Aztec steam baths.

About six blocks north of the town center, the road narrows to a pedestrian path. Then it creeps uphill, into an area that's been designated national park, toward a smudge of gray atop a high

canon wall. At first the path climbs gently, bordered by ramshackle refreshment stands, the loose stone steps thick with black beetles in the shade.

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Near average temperatures with scattered clouds. Highs, lower 40s. Tonight: Clouds slicking around, but likely staying dry. Low: 26. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy and breezy. Highs, mid 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Scattered clouds. Highs, lower 40s. Tonight: Cool with fair to partly cloudy skies. Low, upper teens. Tomorrow: Sunny skies. Highs, 40s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Regional forecast for Sun Valley, Boise, and Northern Utah. Includes weather icons and descriptive text for each area.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases: New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter, Waxing Gibbous, Full Moon, Waning Gibbous, Last Quarter, Waning Crescent.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table with columns: Monday, Moonrise, Moonset, Tuesday, Moonrise, Moonset.

U.V. INDEX

Table with columns: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Shows UV index levels.

REGIONAL FORECAST

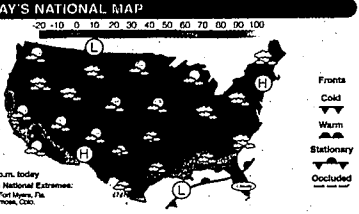
Table listing regional forecasts for various cities including Boise, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table listing national forecasts for major cities across the United States.

WORLD FORECAST

Table listing world forecasts for major international cities.



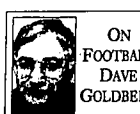
CANADIAN FORECAST

Table listing Canadian forecasts for major cities like Toronto and Vancouver.

REGG MIDDLEKAUF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY. Includes a photo of Regg Middlekauf and his quote.

Injuries kill everyone but Pats

In the opening week of the season, the St. Louis Rams lost Orlando Pace, one of the NFL's best offensive linemen.



ON FOOTBALL DAVE GOLDBERG. Introduction to the author's column.

Holmes. So it traded Michael Bennett to Tampa Bay after the Bucs lost Carnell 'Cadillac' Williams. Then Johnson hurt his foot and the 34-year-old Holmes decided to retire.

ning backs, Laurence Maroney and Sammy Morris, for much of the season, and Morris is gone for the year. But the Patriots were able to fill in with the versatile Kevin Faulk and Heath Evans, normally a fullback.

quarterback in his first two seasons. Gray started three games and won two, but Garrard's return last week was clearly a needed lift for the Jaguars' offense.

Houston started 2-0, then lost wide receiver Andre Johnson with a knee injury. The Texans were 2-5 during his absence, then beat New Orleans last week as he returned with six catches for 120 yards, including a 73-yard TD.

Not only has Harrison been hurt, but so has rookie Anthony Gonzalez, the No. 3 pick. Tight end Dallas Clark missed a loss in San Diego when Manning threw six interceptions, and last week Aaron Moorehead, the No. 4 pick, went down with a back injury.

Dirty Dozen: The top six and bottom six teams in the NFL based on current level of play. 1. New England (10-0). Can the Patriots be promoted to a higher league?

Look at the 49ers, who from 1997-99 had Steve Young as a backup to Steve Montana, one future Hall of Famer caddying for another.

Even with his team 6-2, the hypercritical NBC media and the ESPN yappers kept pointing out the Giants started that way last season, then "collapsed" to lose six of eight.

Yes, inconsistency at quarterback and the failure of running back Eddie Benson have contributed. But so did the decimation of the secondary, led by what seems like the annual season-ending injury to safety Mike Brown, who might be next to Brian Urlacher.

2. Green Bay (10-1). Mike McCarthy is coach of the year. 3. Dallas (10-1). Jason Campbell exposed the secondary last week.

Hostetter went to the Raiders as a free agent in 1993, something he might have done earlier but couldn't under the rules at the time.

That's often a deciding factor—a team that's lucky has injuries at positions where the backups are capable.

Richard Seymour, one of the NFL's best defensive linemen, was on an schedule unable to perform last to start the season and has seen spot duty in the last three games.

28. New York Jets (2-9). Two straight OT games, one a win. Sign of life? 29. Atlanta (3-9). Why did Bobby Petrino bench Harrington?



Philadelphia Eagles quarterback A.J. Feeley passes against the Miami Dolphins on Nov. 18 in Philadelphia. The Eagles won 17-7 behind Feeley after starting quarterback Donovan McNabb was injured in the first half.

With McNabb injured, Eagles will throw Feeley against unbeaten Patriots

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles will play No. 2 quarterback A.J. Feeley against New England on Sunday night because they have to. The New England Patriots might use their backup, too. Because they want to. Donovan McNabb did not practice this week to rest his sore ankle and thumb, and on Saturday the Eagles said he will not play against the Patriots. Feeley will have to try to stop New England as it litters the roadside with opponents on its quest for a perfect 19-0 record.

anybody that's done it better for 10 games than what the Patriots have done right now, Reid said. "Everything seems a little more poignant when you're sitting here having to play them and they're doing it at the present. There have been some good offenses before, but they're doing it very well right now." The numbers bear him out: The Patriots could clinch the AFC East title before they take the field Sunday night, and they aren't likely to stop there. Oddsmakers favor them to run the table through the Super Bowl, which would surpass the 17-0 record of the 1972 Miami Dolphins — the NFL's only perfect season.

When Jacksonville lost David Garrard for three games, it had to go with Quinn Gray, a third-string

back. In Jacksonville last season, it had to go with Quinn Gray, a third-string

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DECEMBER EVENTS

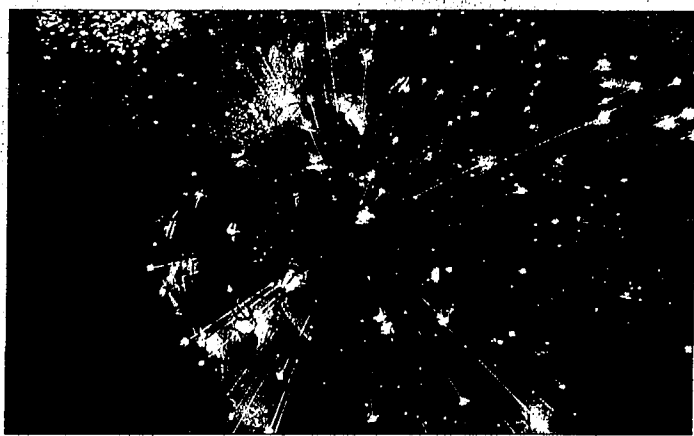
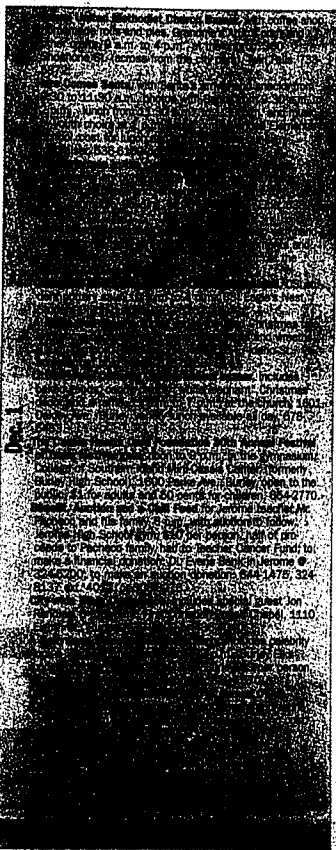
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SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 25, 2007

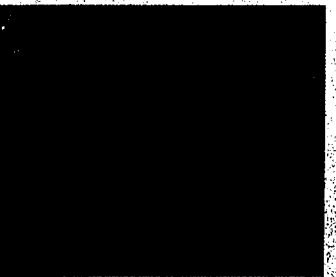
INSIDE: Weekly events, E2 | World, E3-5 | Classifieds, E7-20 | Crossword, E16 | Jumble, E9 | Bridge, E18 | Sudoku, E15 | Service Directory, E17



Dec. 2
Ballroom Dancing, for senior citizen ballroom dancers only, 2 to 5 p.m., Twin Falls Senior Citizen Center, 530 Shoshone St. W., prepared buffet provided, 543-8722.
Orlef Shane Christmas Memorial, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church, 2262 Hilland Ave., Burley, no child care available, 654-2500.
City-wide Bible Conference with celebration services, 9 a.m., First Christian Praise Chapel, 1110 Eighth St., Rupert; evening events, 6 to 9 p.m., Mini-Cassia Community Christian Church, 677-4320 or 438-4040.



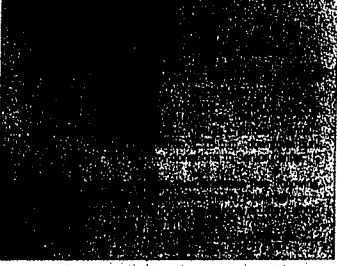
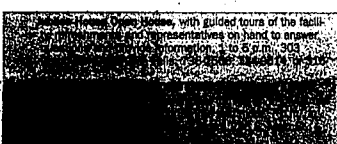
Dec. 4
Magic Valley New Neighbors Club luncheon, with Betty Jo Olson on the piano keyboard, 11:30 a.m., Riley Creek Restaurant, 607 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls, \$12, 731-2082 by Dec. 1.



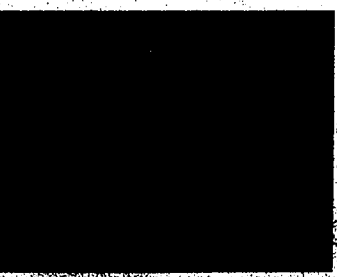
Dec. 6
Painting Party Benefit for young cancer patients, 5 to 8 p.m., Hangs On Studio, downtown Twin Falls; studio fee donated to childhood cancer campaign, 735-3327.
A Road Christmas, Remembering Red Skelton, 6 to 7 p.m., Buhl High School Auditorium, Uctara; \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door, 843-8262.
Gooding Hospital Foundation Festival of Trees Opening Night, 6 p.m., the ISOB Round Building, Gooding, 934-5760.



Dec. 7
Gooding County Memorial Hospital Festival of Trees Luncheon and Style Show, Black Rock Clothiers and Sheepskin Coat Factory will supply the clothing modeled; presentation of mink fur jacket for raffle, College of Southern Idaho Northside Center Round building, \$10 advanced lunch-and-style show tickets, (208) 934-5760.
Dec. 7, 8 — "The Nutcracker" traditional holiday ballet, performed by students of Centre Stage Studios of Dance and Performing Arts and directed by Jennifer Sager, 7:30 p.m. (7) and 2 p.m. (8), King Fine Arts Center, Burley, \$10 general admission, \$8 Senior Citizen (age 65 and older) and \$13 and \$15 Reserved Patron of the Arts seating, 678-4117 for reservations.
Dec. 7, 8 — Buhl Businesses Open House, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Buhl Businesses, 543-6682.
Dec. 7, 8 — A Community Nativity Celebration, includes special viewing for senior citizens and handicapped individuals from 2 to 3:30 p.m., open to the public with nativity displays and "Live Nativity," 5 to 9 p.m. (7) and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (8), Burley West LDS Stake Center, 2420 Park Ave., Burley, no cost, open to the public, 678-0459.



Dec. 9
Junior Club of Magic Valley 18th Annual Holiday Home Tour 2007, supervised, self-guided tour through seven homes decorated for the holidays; includes entertainment and treats, 1 to 6 p.m., in and around Magic Valley, \$8, to benefit CASA Court Appointed Special Advocates (Guardian Ad Litem), 308-7226 or 732-0448.



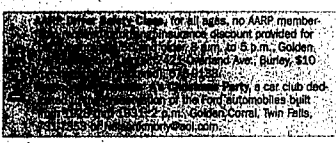
Dec. 11
The Magic Valley Legion Post and Auxiliary Christmas Party, dinner provided by auxiliary members and wives of legion members with the legion furnishing meat, 6 p.m., Aubrey Lodge, 101 E. W. North St., bring a gift to someone in need; \$15 for members for the MISTY for Ben at St. Luke's Hospital Medical Center of Boise, 677-3443.
Western Association of Genealogists, Mr. Mark Smith from the Office of Vital Records of Boise available to answer questions about genealogy (birth and benefits) 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., 1000 S. Capitol Blvd., Boise, 442-2716 for appointments.
Neighborhood Christmas Dinner, 6:30 p.m., 240 E. Lake Street, 735-4468, no charge, 607-6288.

Dec. 11
The Burley Junior and Senior High School Choir Concert, includes familiar and new Christmas selections, 7 p.m., at the King Fine Arts Center, 2100 Park Ave., Burley, no cost, donations accepted for the choir, 878-6606.

Dec. 12
Job Search Workshop offered by the Department of Labor; learn tips on interviewing, writing resumes, completing applications and identifying skills and interests, 8:30 a.m., 420 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, no cost, 735-2500.
Computer class: Using the Internet, 4 to 6 p.m., Magic Valley Office of Idaho Department of Labor, 420 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, no cost, 735-2500.
Rupert American Legion Post 10 meeting, 7 p.m., Rupert Elks, 436-4806.
Magic Valley Singles Square Dance Club, includes election of officers and free first-time lessons (subsequent lessons: \$3) from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Plus Dancers from 8:30 to 10 p.m., Jerome Senior Center, 212 First Ave. E., all ages welcome, (P bring finger foods), 734-4647.



Dec. 14
Dec. 14, 15 — Minico High School's Madrigal Dinner, with a Renaissance theme, costumes and music throughout the evening, 6:30 p.m., Minico High School, 292 W. 100 S., Rupert, \$15, 436-4721.
Youth Christmas Banquet, includes an Italian dinner, entertainment by youth group members and a gift auction, 6:30 to 9 p.m., First Baptist Church, 2262 Hilland Ave., Burley, proceeds to offset youth activities and events, 878-7613.
Opening night fundraiser dinner, for Christmas Cantata costs and supplies; includes soup, salad and bread, 5 to 8:30 p.m., Gooding United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 805 Main St., Gooding, \$5 for adults and no cost for children age 11 and under, 934-6633.



Dec. 16
Dec. 16 — The Burley West Stake Christmas Concert, traditional Christmas music in celebration of the birth of Christ, 7 p.m., at the church, 2420 Park Ave., Burley, no cost, open to the public, 678-2100.



Dec. 18
Dec. 18 — The Magic Philharmonic Orchestra Christmas Concert, with guest conductors Jacques Lee and Helen Boycutt and special appearances by Santa Claus, 7:30 p.m., King Fine Arts Center, 2100 Park Ave., Burley, \$3 for adults, \$1 for students and \$1 for families, 678-9534.



Dec. 19 Magic Valley Singles Square Dance Club, free first-time lesson (subsequent lessons: \$3) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Plus Dancers from 8:30 to 10 p.m., Jerome Senior Center, 212 First Ave. E., all ages welcome, (Q-Z bring finger foods), 734-4647.

Dec. 20 — The annual Christmas concert, featuring variety show and 7 p.m. concert. Proceeds to benefit the project and scholarship fund. 4855 or 428-8003.
Dec. 20 — Bonanza luncheon and lunch, 11:30 a.m., 1200 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls. Special agent guest, 733-7258 ext. 1570 or BCIdaho.com.

Dec. 21 Santa Story Time, Santa will read to the children for story time, 10:30 a.m., Burley Public Library, 1300 Miller Ave., 878-7703.

Dec. 26 — Job Search Workshops, offered by Department of Labor, learn how to write resumes, complete applications and interviews, 8:30 a.m., 420 Falls Ave., 2500.



Dec. 26 — Faulkner Planetarium "Season of Light" at 1 p.m. and "Steamrolling" at 3 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, 732-6655.
Dec. 26 — Computer class: Microsoft Word, learn basics of Microsoft Word and build resume, 4 to 6 p.m., computer lab, Magic Valley Office of Idaho Department of Labor, 420 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, no cost, 735-2500.

Dec. 28 Faulkner Planetarium "Icy World/Saving the Night" at 1 and 3 p.m., "Season of Light" at 7 p.m. and "Steamrolling" at 8:15 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!

Weekly events

Monday College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, a guided walking workout with stretching and gentle resistance training, 9 to 10 a.m. at several Magic Valley locations: CSI gym, Gooding ISDB gym, Jerome Robt. Center, Shoshone High (old gym), Rupert Civic Center, Blaine County Campus Gym and Flier Elementary; 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Buhl High School (temporary location; LDS church on Main); and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at CSI Burley Outdoor Center Gym, no cost, 732-6475.
SilverSneakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd.; no cost for Medicare-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured; 733-4384.
Adult Children Anonymous (A.C.A.) meetings for individuals recovering from alcoholic or dysfunctional family environment, 6 p.m., Canyon View Psychiatric and Addiction Services, 228 Shoup Ave. W. (west entrance), Twin Falls, no cost, (208) 250-5678.
Recovery for Life: "Find Help, Discover Hope, Experience Healing", includes Divorce Care, Order/Share, Co-dependency for Women, 12-Step HOPE (addiction recovery) and Financial Peace (debt recovery), 8 to 9:45 p.m.; meet served and 7 p.m. meetings, Twin Falls Reformed Church, 1531 Grandview Drive N., (corner of Grandview Drive North and Pole Line Road), 733-6129 (through Dec. 17).

Tuesday College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, a guided walking workout with stretching and gentle resistance training, 9 to 10 a.m. at Flier Elementary and Hagerman High School Gym; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Buhl High School (temporary location; LDS church on Main), no cost, 732-6475.
 Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.
SilverSneakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for Humana-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4384.
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 3 Chapter of Twin Falls, weigh ins from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Fellowship room, Magic Valley Church of Christ, 2002 Filer Ave. E., 736-7237 or 735-1101.
 Faulkner Planetarium "Season of Light" at 7 p.m. and "Steamrolling" at 8:15 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655 (except Dec. 25).
 Mini-Cassia Shelter for Women & Children women's support group, 6 p.m., 123 S. C St., Rupert, 436-0987.
 Road 2 Recovery, a 12-step program, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Building of New Beginnings, 1044 E. Main St., (next to Goode Motors across from First Federal Savings Bank), Burley, 670-2578.
 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 or 324-7237.

Calendar continued on page E3



See what's new online

The Junior Club of Magic Valley presents...
 The 18th Annual
Holiday HOME TOUR
 To benefit: CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates (Guardian Ad Litem)
Sunday, December 9th
 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 The following houses will be featured:
 Chuck & Linda's Retreat Joan & Raymond Elchick's
 Chuck & Carol's Snowcovey Greg & Jenny's Floral
 Dave & Lisa's Quilts Deann & Pam's Seals
 Jackson & Rachelle's Dille
 Tickets: \$8.00
 Children 7 and older are welcome with ticket
HOLIDAY PRIZE DRAWING:
 Two Top Five Prizes
 with Travel, Dining @ A Day Spa
 and Dinner at the Outdoor Steakhouse
 Entries are submitted with ticket purchase prior to
 Wednesday, December 9th
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TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 48 Chapter of Jerome, a weight-loss support group, 10 p.m., Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E., 420-3823.
SilverSoakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for Humana-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4384.
Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.
Pinochia Club, 1 p.m., Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W., fifty cents, open to the public, 734-5084.
American Legion Bingo, 7:20 p.m. Bonanza bingo and 7:30 p.m. Regular bingo, 610 W. Main, Wendell, \$500 and \$1,199 Black outs, 536-6356.
Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Fireside Room of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall at Yakima and Main, Filer, 734-0557 or 324-7237.
A.C.T.S. Program, a 12-week, ongoing course based on self-help, recovery and education, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bathol Témple Apostolic Church, 929 Hankins Road (behind O & B Supply), Twin Falls, no cost, 731-3210.

Friday
Faulkner Planetarium "Season of Light" at 7 p.m.; and "Steamrolling" at 8:15 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

Saturday
 To have an event (including on-going events) listed in the January monthly calendar please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number by noon Dec. 20 to Suzanne Browne by e-mail to sbrowne@magvalley.com; by fax, 734-6538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 5491, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

Minnesota man trumps sister in annual turkey competition by roasting 72-pound bird

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A Minnesota man basted a 72-pound turkey to trounce his sister in their annual sibling rivalry over who can prepare the biggest Thanksgiving bird.

Rich Portnoy roasted his tubby turkey in his 36-inch-wide, chef-caliber oven on Thursday to top the biggest bird his sister had ever cooked by 25 pounds.

Andra Portnoy conceded defeat from her Boston, Va., home, but noted that her brother's large oven gave him an edge.

"It actually tastes pretty good!" Rich Portnoy said, gloating a bit after he and two other men pulled the turkey from the oven after 15 hours of roasting.

Big turkeys are a tradition in the Portnoy family. Rich Portnoy said his father cooked birds of 30 pounds or more years ago.

Last year, Andra Portnoy cooked a 47-pounder to take the lead after her brother could only find a 37-pounder, even though he lives in the nation's top turkey-producing state.

This year, Rich Portnoy approached the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, which helped him find an 85-pound breeding tom that, at 59 weeks old, was near the end of its useful life.

He bought the turkey for \$30, loaded the live bird into the back of the family's car and drove it to a processor, where it was made oven-ready at 72 pounds.

Portnoy and his wife Charlene roasted 26 people for Thursday's feast. They were sure the big old tom would be edible, so Portnoy also cooked a 19-pound "backup" turkey on the backyard grill.

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Thursday
College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, a guided walking workout with stretching and gentle resistance training, 9 to 10 a.m. at Filer Elementary and Hagerman High School Gym; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Buhl High School (temporary location: LDS church on Main), no cost, 732-6475.
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Check out what's new online at www.magicvalley.com

MOUNTAIN STATES TRANSMISSION INTERTIE PROJECT (MSTI) OPEN HOUSE

NorthWestern Energy invites you to a Public Open House Meeting concerning the proposed Mountain States Transmission Intertie Project (MSTI), a proposed new 500KV electric transmission line to be built between southwestern Montana and southeastern Idaho.

CAREY OPEN HOUSE
 Tuesday - November 27th, from 6 pm to 8 pm
 Carey High School Auditorium
 20 Panther Lane
 Carey, Idaho 83220

Communication with the public concerning this project is extremely important, as comments on this project are a crucial component in choosing a final route for this line.

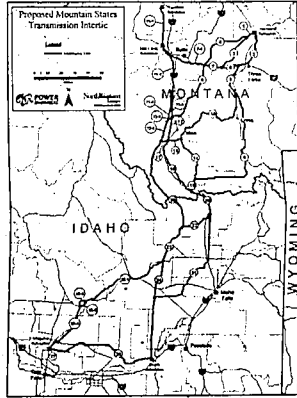
Please visit www.msti500k.com for more information.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please send written comments, brochure requests and questions concerning the project to:

by e-mail: msti@northwestern.com
 or by mail to:
 Mr. Rick Walsh
 Manager -
 Environmental Permitting
 North-Western Energy
 40 East Broadway
 Butte, MT 59701

An initial study was completed in late 2006 that identified alternative routes for the new transmission line. No line route has been chosen at this time.

NorthWestern Energy will be conducting further studies to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Montana Major Facility Siting Act (MESA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).



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India's cheeky 'chick lit' finds an audience

By Rama Lakshmi
The Washington Post

NEW DELHI, India — Indian bookstores these days are stocking up on a new kind of English-language novel — the kind in which twentysomething urban women put their careers first, ridicule arranged marriages and wrestle with weight gain.

The internationally trendy fiction genre known as "chick lit," popularized by "Bridget Jones's Diary" and "Sex and the City," now has an Indian avatar.

In a country where marriages are usually arranged by parents in consultation with astrologers, and where women are traditionally expected to sacrifice their own aspirations in the interest of family, the cheeky chick-lit heroines are being embraced by readers who see the lighter side of Indian mores.

The plots reveal Indian city-dwellers confronting the amusing vagaries of daily life — a working woman puts her family astrologer's number on speed dial on her cell-phone; another woman dumps trash on a boy her mother sends for an arranged marriage; a couple's romance blossoms through a series of Post-It notes stuck on a car in a parking lot; a mother bemoans her bad karma because her 29-year-old daughter is still single.

Indian chick lit is the latest and most irreverent entrant into the world of English-language fiction here. But publishers and critics say it is also a reflection of the growing confidence among women in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and elsewhere.

"This is the story of the new Indian woman in the cities. She is single, has a career and is willing to have fun, take risks and find a man her way, and not necessarily her family's way. It is a woman we have only read about in books from the Western countries and now, suddenly we are finding her on Indian roads," said V. K. Karthika, the publisher and chief editor at Harper Collins India, who launched "Almost Single" by debutante writer Advaita Kala. The book has sold 10,000 copies in the past four months and is now in its fourth printing, a huge success by the standards of English-language fiction in India.

In the past five years, a handful of novels geared toward young women,



Indian author Advaita Kala says the heroine in her book 'Almost Single' is witty, outspoken and happily single. Kala's book is part of the wave of 'chick lit' gaining popularity in a country where marriages are usually arranged by parents and women are expected to sacrifice their own aspirations for family.

including "Girl Alone" and "Piece of Cake," have drawn a following in India. But the success of "Almost Single" has revealed the larger, untapped market for a girls-having-fun genre.

"A generation ago, marriage was the only route to independence from parental control in India. Now women are working, living alone in the cities, hanging out with women friends, drinking, dating and having fun in spite of the enormous social pressure to get married," said Kala, 30, the witty author of "Almost Single."

"They inhabit a world where women enjoying a drink in the bar are not social outcasts. They are not tragic figures because they are single."

Kala, who has a liberal arts degree from Berry College in Georgia and works as a job trainer for the Taj group of hotels in India, says the protagonist in her novel is witty, outspoken and comfortable with her single status. She will not be forced into an arranged marriage with someone she sees as incompatible.

The heroines of chick lit skillfully balance cultural traditions with 21st-century lifestyles, trying to observe fasting rituals while adhering to the Atkins or South Beach diet, choosing to hang out with gay friends or facing a mother's disapproval.

"I like such books because they resemble my life and the conversations I have with my friends and parents," said Jyoti Dhanu, a 25-year-old advertising executive who was browsing a New Delhi bookstore on a recent day. "We have the baggage of cul-

ture imposed on us. We have

to be a good daughter, be chaste, marry at the right age, be a good wife and a good daughter-in-law. But all we want is to have fun like everybody else."

Kala's protagonist works in a five-star hotel, smokes and drinks, can "name old and new wines with great elan, and can tell my cheeses apart." She turns to her two friends with problems involving her nagging boss or with her mother, who gives her "unbitchal cord whiplash," phoning with the names of candidates for an arranged marriage.

One of the men her mother presents is an Indian who works for McKinsey & Co. in New York. He is a conservative Hindu vegetarian who has one condition for a bride: She must not eat garlic and onion. Kala's heroine, Aisha,

wonders if she should develop her own set of dietary demands for a prospective groom. "No problem, Ma, just make sure he is on high proteins and no carbs," she says. The mother chides her for showing disrespect to other people's traditions, and Aisha fears she might be missing out on the nuances of ancient culture in her "desire to be a liberated Indian woman."

The cover of Kala's book features a woman in a red sari, the traditional Indian garment for women, and red Reebok tennis shoes. The sari, in fact, is often treated as a metaphor for the traditions that weigh so heavily on the heroines of chick lit. In Kala's book, Aisha wears jeans under her sari in one scene.

During a shopping expedition in the novel "Piece of

Cake," the protagonist does her best "to drape the six-yard length of fabric, and emerged holding up the various folds that keep getting tangled in my feet." She calls the sari the "strangling folds."

"I am keenly aware that my book represents a sliver of Indian society, but it is a growing sliver," said Kala, who says she learned what it was to be poor during her student years in the United States, when she cleaned dorm toilets and had to choose between a meal and a large Pepsi.

Now, Kala is single and lives with her parents in New Delhi. She wears a ruby ring that her family astrologer recommended for creativity. She says he predicted her book's success and forecasts that she will get married "very soon."

30th Annual "Loads of Christmas Cheer" Festival of Trees

Old Burley High School Gymnasium

Wednesday, Nov. 28 Festival Gala 6:00 PM
Thursday, Nov. 29 12:00 Noon-9:00 PM
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM SENIOR CITIZENS (PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED)
Friday, Nov. 30 10:00 AM-9:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 1 10:00 AM-6:00 PM

**Cassia Health Care Foundation, Inc. &
Cassia Regional Medical Center Volunteers**

<p>Thursday, Nov. 29th Senior Citizens & Physically Challenged</p> <p>10:30 Mike James 11:00 The Taffetas 11:30 Oakley Elementary School</p> <p>Open To The Public</p> <p>12:00 Dawn's Learning Connection 12:30 Newcomer's Center 1:00 Mountain View 1st Graders 1:30 Deelo 5th Graders 2:00 White Pine 6th Grade Chorus 2:30 Ashley Cook 2:45 Justus DelBosque & Josina Steams 3:00 Jim Hartwell and Glen Wilkinson 3:30 Holly Call, Cheri Bourne, Lauren Gammon 4:00 Bel Cantos 4:30 Kent Jensen 5:00 Mike James 5:30 The Dance Factory 7:00 Bedazzled 7:30 Soft Touch 8:00 OVAC Choir</p>	<p>8:30 The Mixed Nuts Friday, Nov. 30th 10:00 Dworshak 3rd Graders 10:30 Burley Kindergarten 11:00 Deelo Kindergarten 11:30 BJHS 8th Grade Chorus 12:00 Oakley High School Choir 12:30 Albion Elementary School 1:30 Mountain View 1st Grades 1:30 Burley Kindergarten 2:00 Dworshak 3rd Graders 2:30 Sara Badger Students 3:00 Zachary Harman 3:15 American Heritage Ensemble & Dance 4:00 Leslie Crafton Students 4:30 Nikki Hyde 4:45 Harmony Kids 5:00 Jolene Hobson/Elise Anderson Strings 5:45 Aaron Martsch 6:00 The Ballet Conservatory 6:30 Mini-Cassia Jr Miss-Eliza Christensen</p>	<p>Friday Continued 7:00 Fiddlin Friends 7:30 Centre Stage Dance 8:15 Audra Lloyd 8:30 Trendsetters</p> <p>Saturday, Dec. 1st 10:00 En Point Dance Academy 11:00 FOCUS 11:30 Variations 12:00 Trendsetters 12:30 Kevin Rogers 1:00 Julies's Danceworks 1:30 Leslie Crafton Students 1:45 Santa's Singers 2:00 The Bench Family 2:30 5678 Dance 3:15 The Crescendos 3:30 Showstoppers 4:00 5678 Dance 4:45 Erica Jones Dance Studio 5:00 Main Motion 5:30 Snake River Flats</p>
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Festival Gala

Dinner • Entertainment/Dance • Santa Auction

Wednesday, Nov. 28th • 6:00 PM
Thirty-five Dollar per person

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Entertainment • Holiday Kitchen • Baked Goods • Santa
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Thank goodness there's Coats for Kids



Idaho's long, cold winter is coming, and many children are without warm coats. The Optimist Club of Twin Falls needs new or gently used winter coats to help needy children in the Magic Valley keep warm this winter.

The annual Coats for Kids drive is underway! Children's coats may be dropped off at any of these locations: Times-News; Blockbuster, TF; US Bank; Flee; MV Bank; by Mall; KMV; First Federal, Washington & Eastland; Barber's; St. Luke's MVRMC; Twin Falls Grocery; Miller's; McDonald's; TF; Swenson's; and many others. Contact Fred Meyer.

Send donations to TF Optimist Club,
PO Box 755, Twin Falls 83303

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German town's landmark church outleans Pisa

By Craig Whitlock
The Washington Post

BAD FRANKENHAUSEN, Germany — Compared with this town's 625-year-old crooked church, the Leaning Tower of Pisa is a model of rectitude.

Ever since it was built out of stone in 1382, the Church of Our Beloved Ladies by the Mountain in Bad Frankenhausen has been listing gradually to the east. Undermined by a porous geological foundation, the 184-foot-tall church tower has been falling over, sometimes as much as an inch or two a year. Townspeople have been accustomed to its lopsided shadow for centuries and, until recently, the church attracted little outside attention.

Two years ago, however, someone got out a measuring tape. Over time, villagers discovered, the tip of the spire had toppled more than 14 feet from where it was supposed to be, outleaning Pisa's more famous tower by about six inches.

A wave of civic pride quickly swept over Bad Frankenhausen, pop. 9,000. Burglars have been walking around with their chests puffed out since.

Henry Hunger, the deputy mayor, said locals are used to the sight of visitors gawking at the tower, their heads askew as if they can't believe what they're seeing.

"You go up to them and explain, 'No, no, it really is crooked,'" he said. "It's the image of the city; it's always been there, and it's always been crooked. Plus, it just dominates the skyline."

The tower is perched on a hillside on the edge of town and looks like it could keep over in a stiff breeze. Locals insist the structure is sturdy and say no one has abandoned the row of tidy homes sitting about 75 feet from the tower's base, at least not yet.

Engineers have noticed that the speed with which the tower is falling has picked up recently, with the spire now moving 2.4 inches a year. At that rate, it could reach a tipping point in the next decade or so, though nobody knows for sure.

As a result, local and state government officials have agreed to spend \$1.5 million to try to stabilize the tower. Contractors started work over the summer and have wrapped the tower with temporary anchors and cables.

"We're going in very small steps and we're being very, very careful," said Juergen Ahlers, site manager for the contractor overseeing the project. "Essentially, we're going to grab it, lift it and push it back a bit."

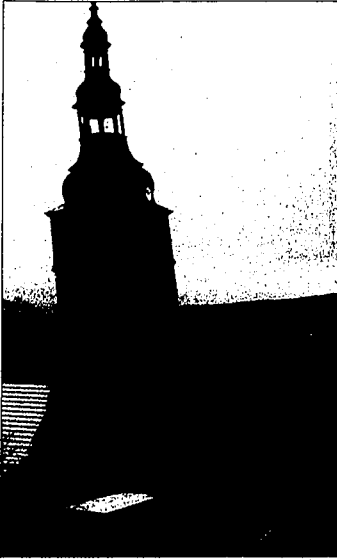
The ground under the church is riddled with deep cracks and fissures. Engineers decided the only way to save the leaning tower would be to reinstall it on a flexible base. Plans are to straighten it slightly — about two feet — and see what happens.

Ahlers said he expects the tower to keep falling a couple of inches each year, even after the repair job. He predicted that it will have to be cranked back every 10 years or so. "We'll never be able to completely stop the tilt," he said.

Previous fix-it attempts have had mixed results. In 1789, a fire burned the steeple, so craftsmen built a new spire that curved in the opposite direction, hoping to make the tower look straighter than it really was. In 1911, the town tried propping up the tower with giant poles, but somehow that made things worse. In 1935, engineers strapped four giant iron belts around the building; architects say the tower likely would have crumbled otherwise.

The tower has been closed since 1969, but city officials hope to start a restoration project next year. Their aim is to attract tourists and to bring up the wind-drunk in the town, and the surrounding landscape.

"Our vision, however, has some obstacles. Unlike Pisa, Bad Frankenhausen is located



The tower of the Church of Our Beloved Ladies by the Mountain in Bad Frankenhausen, Germany, has been tilting steadily since it was built in 1382 on a shaky foundation. Efforts are under way to stabilize it.

in a remote corner of eastern Germany and doesn't rate a mention in many tourist guides. And then there's a question of how long the Church of Our Beloved Ladies by the

Mountain will be able to hang on to its crooked distinction.

Although residents don't bring it up, the stabilization project will straighten the tower just enough so that it

will no longer lean as much as Pisa's, at least until it starts falling again. The Pisa tower, which is roughly the same height, was fixed in place in the early 1990s.

Just as worrying is the emergence of other challengers.

About 270 miles away on Germany's North Sea coast, the village of Suurhusen boasts that its 15th-century church tower is the crookedest on the planet. Residents cite a different measurement, saying that the base of their tower is askew by 5.17 degrees, compared with 3.97 degrees for Pisa and about 4.4 degrees for Bad Frankenhausen.

Even better, Suurhusen's village elders revealed this month that they had won a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, which plans to list their tower as the leaning world champion in next year's editions.

The announcement caught people in Bad Frankenhausen by surprise and left many steamed. They pointed out, rightly, that Suurhusen's tower is only half as tall.

"It's ridiculous," said Baerbel Koellen, head of an association dedicated to preserving the tower. She said the group had scheduled an "emergency meeting" to decide how to respond.

"We always knew about their church," she sniffed. "But we didn't see them as competition. There's no question that ours is more crooked."

Ahlers, the contractor, dismissed the rival claim too, saying that measuring the angle of tilt from the base

was misleading. "You cannot compare these two churches," he said. "It's like comparing boxers in the lightweight category with heavyweights."

Guinness Book officials haven't done much to clear up the controversy. Olaf Kuchenbecker, a Guinness representative from Hamburg, said the World's Crookedest Tower was a new category and acknowledged that record keepers hadn't visited Bad Frankenhausen.

"This is not an absolute, by any means," he said. "If another group thinks it has a more crooked tower, the

group is free to apply to us for consideration.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Bad Frankenhausen have another worry.

According to local folklore, the tower will remain standing as long as jacksaws — a black, crow-like bird — keep nesting in the steeple. Problem is, no one has seen jacksaws flying around the church in years.

"They've left Frankenhausen," Koellen said. "I don't know why."

Special correspondent Shannon Smiley contributed to this report.

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The Twin Falls Times-News a growing 7-day morning
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Responsibilities include: editing copy for AP style,
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headlines that are accurate, informative and active; collaborating
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About half of this job will involve creating graphics for the
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The annual coats for kids drive is underway!
Children's coats are available from
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TWIN FALLS

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TWIN FALLS

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Sudoku Answers:

3	8	2	9	6	5	7	1	4
4	7	5	2	1	3	9	8	6
6	9	1	7	8	4	2	3	5
8	3	7	5	4	6	1	9	2
5	2	6	8	9	1	3	4	7
9	1	4	3	7	2	6	5	8
2	4	9	6	3	8	5	7	1
1	5	3	4	2	7	8	6	9
7	6	8	1	5	9	4	2	3

JUMBLE

Answer:

KENNEL CHUBBY COOKIE SUBURB PRIMED BETRAY

He wore a plaid jacket to the fillies party because he had a —

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SPECIAL EDITION: THE PET PAGES

Pet pileup

Sometimes a pet is a loyal hunting dog, ready to share adventures with a beloved owner. A pet can be a purring, furry lap warmer, or a squawking bird always looking for attention. Some people's pets are others' worst nightmares — writhing snakes, hissing cockroaches, sneaky little mice.

We interviewed a handful of Magic Valley residents who have unique relationships with their pets. Some stories are silly. Others are touching. No matter how odd some pets may seem, however, we found that everyone is fond of their animal companions in their own way.

The reptile rescuer



Tom Conrad watches Bebe, his bearded dragon, eat crickets at his home. Bebe consumes 100 crickets every two weeks.

Attention, herpetophiles: Stay away from Tom Conrad.

If you're not scared of reptiles, however, you're in for a treat. Conrad turned his Twin Falls home into a haven for all things scaly and scary.

Walk into his living room, greet the two friendly puppies, and marvel at the collection of cages that line the walls. Say hello to Bebe, the bearded dragon next to the door. Give your regards to Mr. Humphreys, the tortoise in the massive terrarium behind the couch. Don't forget the geckos, snakes and Chilean rose hair tarantula.

Most of Conrad's reptile friends are rescued from people who bought the animals without knowing their needs.

"They don't realize that they get huge," he said.

They're in good hands with Conrad. The cages are immaculate, the animals are sociable and it's clear that he's concerned with their well-being.

What does his girlfriend think of all this?

"She likes them," he said.

—Melissa Davlin

A little extra love

If it takes a big heart to adopt an animal with special needs.

Dr. Zsigmond Szanto has taken in several sick and injured cats during his 11 years as a Twin Falls veterinarian.

"I just decided to give them another chance and a new home," he said.

One cat, burned in a range fire, was brought in to be euthanized. Instead, Szanto cared for him until he recovered.

He still has the cat, whom he describes as affectionate but "leery" of doses of medicine.

Another of his cats had been mauled by dogs.

"Here I was, holding the syringe in my hand," he said. "She just looked at me and meowed and purred the loudest that a cat can. I think that was it."

That cat, who died earlier this year, needed several surgeries, but Szanto said it was worth it.

"She had a good life," he said, "and that's what I'm after."

—Melissa Davlin



Dr. Zsigmond Szanto says he has been lucky to have his veterinary clinic and hospital. Brian Ryan came to Szanto's attention because of a burn on his face. Szanto treated and cared for him.

Something fishy



Richard Logan looks through a saltwater aquarium at Exotic Guppy. Logan has spent his life collecting fish tanks, reptiles and amphibians.

Richard Logan's love for creepy crawlies has nearly taken over his life.

Logan not only opened Exotic Guppy, a Twin Falls pet store that deals everything from frogs to fish, but has turned his entire backyard into a pond to house his collection of koi.

"Since I was small, I always had fish tanks and ran around collecting snakes and lizards," he said.

The leader of his gang is a 20-inch bearded dragon, appropriately named Beardy. His favorites, however, are the saltwater fish and coral.

—Melissa Davlin

Good homes for great pets

Debbie Blackwood may not be able to adopt all the homeless animals at Twin Falls Animal Shelter, but she has devoted her life to caring for them and finding them good homes.

"I wake up at night worrying about them," she said.

Blackwood, the shelter director, knows she

Please see BLACKWOOD, Page 12



Debbie Blackwood, director of Twin Falls Animal Shelter, comforts Salti, a Siamese cross, at the facility. Salti was found with a collar, indicating she has a home, but so far she has remained here.

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1.3 Million People Make Their Living On eBay

By Frances M. Kelsey

Despite the fact that the economy is rising in the United States, employment rates are declining. One of the major reasons for the decline in employment rates is the opportunity to work with eBay and other main online auction websites. Why settle for minimum wage when it is possible to make over \$100,000 a year from the comfort of your home? Over 170 million people are signed up for eBay and around 1.3 million people are making a full-time living through online auctioning, leaving their everyday jobs.

Michael Syme, online auction expert and author of the book "Keys to Making Money with Online Auctions," is one of many people who have left the mundane aspect of a 9-to-5 desk job and has begun to make his own income at home with the help of his children. Now Syme is making around \$10,000 a month

by selling a variety of items that can be found in his home.

"People shouldn't wait until they find themselves out of a job before they find out they are not financially secure," Syme said. "They should start ensuring their own and their family's financial future immediately."

Not only does eBay allow people to make money and get rid of some things that may no longer be of use, there are more benefits than cash. If a seller can make \$1,000 a month or more, they can qualify for most of the same benefits that would be made available in a regular 9-to-5 job, such as health, vision, pharmacy, and dental. Over 200,000 members of eBay qualify for these benefits and more.

Not only does using eBay at home cut back on paying for gas and having to deal with the hassle of rush hour traffic, but also consumer demands through the internet are continually growing,

allowing for a higher income rate per seller. Consolidated revenues for eBay in the year 2007 are expected to reach anywhere from \$7.05 to \$7.3 billion, a 31% improvement from the year 2006.

According to a speech given by former Senior Vice President of Products Development, Lynn Reddy, on average one car is sold every two minutes, a car part or accessory sold every three seconds, diamond jewelry every eighty-three seconds, and a pair of Timberland shoes every ten minutes. These items and more, from concert tickets to stamps and coins are sold daily by average people looking to gain an income or better their current cash flow.

"Anybody can do it if they know the right technique," Syme said. "With the right techniques it's easy to make extra income."



Photo: Mike Bauer

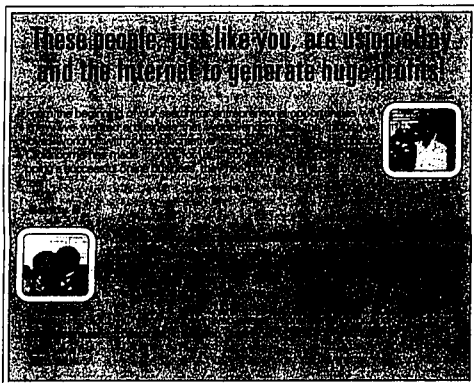
and become acquainted with the techniques. With a little homework, access to an internet-ready computer, and some basic computer knowledge, anyone can be on their way to becoming a member of the fastest growing community in the U.S.

"Why wait to win the lottery," Syme said, "when selling on eBay is like winning the lotto every day."

This should not be taken as discouragement to start working in an auction that costs you time and money to fix.

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