

WHY WINTER?

The science behind the season's fur and frost.

COUNTRY ROADS, D1

TO THE RESCUE

Public responds to art council's plea for donations.

MAGIC VALLEY, D3

RELUCTANT COLT

Hawaii's Colt Brennan is named WAC player of Year.

SPORTS, B1

Good Morning

High: 50
Low: 33

Mostly cloudy.
Details: B6

Times-News

TUESDAY

December 4, 2007

75 cents

MagicValley.com

Wolf plan unveiled

Lawsuits from environmental groups could derail delisting

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

JEROME — Hunters who stalk Idaho's newest big game animal could soon be setting their sights on Idaho's most controversial predators.

Wolves are expected to be removed from the federal endangered-species list in February, when states could assume management over wolves and end a 34-year hunting ban.

Idaho unveiled its management proposal Monday at a public meeting attended by about 50 people at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's office near Jerome. The plan calls for curbing conflicts between wolves and humans by cutting wolf populations through controlled hunts — a strategy applauded by ranchers and hunters but loathed by environmentalists.

"It's really an interesting process because we've never been given a new big game



U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist Mike Jimenez, left, and Ed Bangs take blood samples from a tranquilized wolf during collaring operations in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming in January 2003. An estimated 1,545 wolves now roam Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

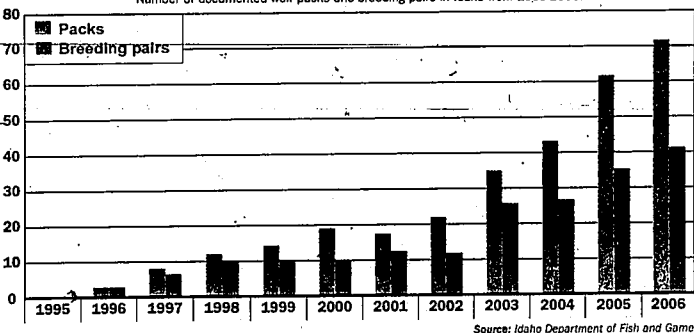
animal to manage," said Dave Parrish, head of Fish and Game's Magic Valley office.

Under the plan, wolves would be categorized the same as elk, deer and bears — a far cry from how the public perceived wolves, decades ago.

Please see WOLVES, Page A3

Wolf comeback

Number of documented wolf packs and breeding pairs in Idaho from 1995-2006.



Schools detail lice policies, treatment options

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

Lice season has hatched, elementary school principals said Monday. As temperatures drop, more children tend to come down with the parasite.

"It just happens this time of year, with the cold weather and being locked up inside," said Bill Brulotte, principal of Perrine Elementary School in Twin Falls.

Last week at Perrine, three children from one family were sent home because of lice. Parents were sent letters, but schools don't name the affected children.

"Contrary to popular opinion, it's not an indicator of a dirty home," said Sawtooth Elementary Principal Randy



Rudgedge. The nurse for the Twin Falls School District, Kyle Hodges, strongly agreed.

"It's just another fact of life, bugs are part of the community," she said. "The stigma associated with it probably adds to the stress. It can happen to anyone."

Lice usually affect two or three families every year at Perrine, and before last week, they last popped up in

October, Brulotte said. Cold weather coincides with jackets and hats and closer contact in the classroom, said Beth Olmstead, the principal of Lincoln Elementary School.

"We've had probably a little more (lice cases) this year than last year," she said. "I don't feel it's a huge epidemic. We've had it worse, Olmstead said.

Lice can spread through head-to-head contact, and sharing hats, brushes and headrests. The parasites don't fly, jump or hop, but they do crawl, according to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

"Every year there's isolated little outbreaks in the schools," Hodges said. "We should get to the point where parents on a regular basis check their child's head."

Children usually begin scratching their heads when lice crawl and feed on their scalp.

"Once a week, take a peek," Hodges said. Around 10 to 15 children have been sent home from Lincoln with the pesky parasite so far this year, Olmstead said.

Please see LICE, Page A3

School board drops bids on cable project

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

Months of competitive bidding came to an abrupt end Monday night when the Twin Falls School Board threw out all offers it received for a cable project at the new high school.

Rather than accept the lowest bid — which came in more than \$40,000 less than the others — trustees upheld a recommendation presented by their construction management firm and its district employees.

The recommendation was to trash all five bids received for the project due to "ambiguity" of the bid documents — and then to eventually "clarify" project specifications before a possible rebid.

The district's management firm, Benton Construction Company, had previously recommended on Nov. 20 that the board trash only the lowest bid from Boise cable firm, System Tech. Inc. Benton said System Tech's bid contained "non-responsive data," didn't utilize the district's preferred brand of cable — known as Panduit — and didn't account for work not listed on the bid form.

Monday night, System Tech Owner Troy Mortensen

publicly disagreed with these allegations.

He said his company's bid form was filled out according to the law, and would be in the "best interest" of the district and its taxpayers to accept.

The brand of cabling that System Tech cited for its \$836,500 offer — called Sionon — has been used by the United Nations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mortensen said. The company has also used the cable in numerous public and private projects in Idaho including the Idaho State Capitol renovation project, he said.

But the district's 11-year IT Administrator Brett Keller told the board that new standards of cabling could provide savings to the district. He didn't name a brand, but he said he's researched the issue at great lengths.

"Decisions cannot be made in a vacuum," Keller told the board.

Then he went on to recommend trashing all of the bids to eliminate any "ambiguity," he said.

At least four other companies put in bids for the project.

Please see CABLE, Page A3

Smoke shop owner may sue T.E. County

Beer, wine permit to get another look

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

The owner of the Smoke-N-Head Shop may sue the Twin Falls County commissioners to win a beer and wine license.

The commissioners said Monday they'll reconsider a beer and wine license for Allen Nagel, owner of the Smoke-N-Head Shop.

But Pat Brown, Nagel's attorney, said he plans to file suit in any event because the commissioners' made the decision without any legal reasoning.

Last month, the commissioners rejected the application, questioning whether the items at Nagel's store — flavored tobacco, various herbs and plants, and glassware to smoke them — are appropriate for Twin Falls.

Commissioner Terry Kramer said the store didn't "fit well with the community" and the commissioners wanted to make a statement.

On Monday, the commissioners, cited state law and said they'll reconsider the request Dec. 10 if he submits city building documents.

But Brown claims the commissioners referenced provisions for license requests to the state, not the county. Nagel has passed

the state's requirement for a license.

During a brief meeting with the commissioners Monday, Brown tried to refer them to a section he said covers county licenses. In that section, counties are required to have a method for reviewing the alcohol licenses.

When Brown asked for the information, he received a referral — from Jan. 3, 1940.

In the resolution, the two provisions for receiving a license are "strict observance" of state laws and paying a fee, according to a copy obtained by the Times-News.

"They want to do whatever they want without following the law and then make something up to justify their actions," Brown told the Times-News.

When asked about Brown's claim that the county was looking at the wrong state law, Commissioner Tom Mikesell said the commissioners are listening to their legal counsel.

"That's his opinion and our opinion is those things need to be met," he said.

Brown said he'll file a lawsuit Monday, and that he's not waiting for a second vote because the original decision wasn't based on any facts. He said he's unsure what documents the commissioners even want.

Please see SHOP, Page A3



At Your Service directoryC5
BridgeC7
CalendarA2
ClassifiedsC18

ComicsB45
County RoadD1
CrosswordC4
Dear AbbyB5

HoroscopeB4
JumbleC6
Magic ValleyD3
MoneyA6

MoviesD56
ObituariesA4
OpinionA45
SportsB1

StocksA7
SudokuC3
WeatherB6
WorldD6

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today. Tonight Wednesday



MINI-CASSIA

Today: Partly morning flurries, then mostly cloudy skies.
 Tonight: Variable clouds. Lows near 30.
 Tomorrow: Continued mostly cloudy. Highs, lower 40s.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

MayTime Club meeting and Christmas dinner, noon, home of Irene Mai, 735-5213.
 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, 731-2082.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
 Blaine County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Hailey, 788-5500.
 Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700.
 Albion City Council, 7 p.m., community center, 124 S. Main, 673-5352.
 Burley City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1401 Overland Ave., 878-2224.
 Jerome City Council, 7 p.m., council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A, 324-8189.
 Kimberly-Zoning-Commission, 7 p.m., community center, 120 Madison W., 423-4151.
 Rupert City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 624 F St., 436-9600.
 Shoshone City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 207 S. Rail St. W., 886-2030.
 Filer City Council, 7:30 p.m., City Hall, 300 Main St., 326-5000.

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, 9 to 10 a.m. at Filer Elementary and Hagerman High School Gym; and 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Buhi High School (temporary location: LDS church on Main), no cost, 732-6475.
 Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10 to 11 a.m., Living Waters Presbyterian Church, 821 E. Main St., Wendell, 737-5988.
 Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m., First Segregation Fire Station, Eden, no cost, 737-5988.
 Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.

SilverSnakers Fitness Program, 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.

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 736-9282.

Arthritis Walking Class, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., First Christian Church, 601 Shoshone St. N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-5988.

Mini-Cassia Shelter for Women & Children women's support group, 6 p.m., 123 S. C. St., Rupert, 436-0965.

The Mini-Cassia Lap-band Surgery Support Group, for anyone who has been banded, is waiting to be banded, or is considering the procedure, 6:30 p.m., Heyburn Police Department conference room, 1800 J St., Heyburn, 431-9596.

Road 2 Recovery, a 12-step program, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Building of New Beginnings, 1044 E. Main St., 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.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium "Season of Light," 7 p.m. and "Steamrolling," 8:15 p.m., Herrett Center, CSI, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

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

MORNING BRIEFING

AROUND THE WORLD

VERMONT

Storm brings heavy snow, weather warnings to Northeast

STOWE — A winter storm that wreaked havoc on the Upper Midwest began its snowy assault on the East on Monday, spelling trouble for travelers but elation for ski resorts that suffered through an abysmal winter last year.

Drivers in much of the region had to navigate a mix of rain, sleet and snow as the storm — which was blamed for at least 17 deaths — lumbered eastward, blanketing overnight.

At the same time, a new storm system began lashing the West Coast and was expected to give the Midwest a second blast of snow starting Tuesday.

In Vermont, 7 inches of snow welcomed skiers to snow-covered slopes. Monday morning, School was canceled or classes delayed from New York to Maine as highways turned slippery and wind gusts to 40 mph.

At Portland International Jetport in Maine, flights were canceled because of poor conditions at connecting airports.

AFGHANISTAN

Official: Al-Qaida may be stepping up activities

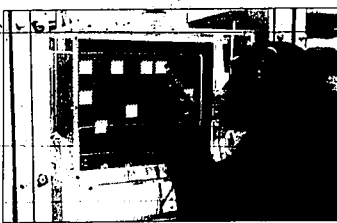
KABUL — The U.S. military is seeing early signs that al-Qaida may be stepping up its activities in Afghanistan, a senior defense official revealed for the first time Monday, as Secretary Robert Gates said his third trip to this war-torn country.

Gates said he has not yet seen data on any uptick in al-Qaida activity, but he said increasing levels of violence in the country are a concern and he plans to talk about it with other defense leaders from NATO nations operating in Afghanistan.

"I'm not worried about a backslide as much as I am (about) how we continue the momentum going forward," Gates told reporters in Djibouti on Monday just before he left for Kabul. "One of the clear concerns that we all have is that in the last two or three years there has been a continuing increase in the overall level of violence."

The senior defense official said the U.S. military is concerned and is looking for definitive signs of greater activity by al-Qaida and foreign fighters, but the U.S. has not seen enough proof to draw any final conclusions. The official discussed the terrorist network on condition of anonymity because of the security concerns.

As Gates headed to Kabul, U.S. officials also said they are now considering the possibility of providing arms to local tribes in Afghanistan, along with training, equipment and other support. The



This photo, provided by the Primate Research Institute in Kyoto, Japan, shows a chimpanzee named Ayumu performing the second stage of a memory test on a touch sensitive monitor in which he must recall the location of numerals that have changed to squares, in December 2006, at the institute. (See story below right)

effort would be modeled after successful efforts in Iraq to empower the locals to police their own neighborhoods.

While no decisions have been made, officials said the plan is under review.

IRAQ

Troops unearth mass grave, remains of 12

BAGHDAD — Iraqi troops unearthed a mass grave with the remains of 12 people including a paramedic who disappeared more than a year ago, officials said Monday, the first grisly discovery in a former stronghold of al-Qaida in Iraq.

Morgue workers wearing masks to protect them from the stench of decomposing bodies dug through bags of bones and tattered clothes as they sought clues to the identities of those killed.

More than 100 bodies, including women and children, have turned up since October in the remote desert terrain surrounding Lake Tharthar, a man-made body of water straddling the predominantly Sunni provinces of Anbar and Salahuddin about 60 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Most of the victims have no IDs, but officials have said they were likely abducted and murdered by al-Qaida in Iraq and other insurgents.

The U.S. military has claimed significant progress since last summer in forcing al-Qaida in Iraq out of Anbar province with the help of Sunni tribal leaders and local officials. Iraqis forces have taken advantage of these recent security gains to step up patrols in areas previously considered no-go zones.

But Taka Tharthar, which used to be a resort area popular with Iraqis, under Saddam Hussein's, Sunni-dominated regime, has remained one of the hardest areas to control. The newly discovered mass grave is located between the lake and the Anbar city of Falluja.

RUSSIA

Russian election called undemocratic

MOSCOW — European officials and vote monitors Tuesday denounced Russia's parliamentary elections as an undemocratic exercise engineered by President Vladimir V. Putin and his party.

Neither a free, fair nor democratic election, said a German government spokesman. "Steered democracy," said the Swedish foreign minister. "Not a level playing field," added the European observer mission.

dead heat between them, with former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, also in strong contention. Many Iowa caucus goers say they still haven't made up their minds or could yet change them.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Accused Clinton office hostage taker called manipulative, desperate

ROCHESTER — The man accused of taking hostages at a Hillary Rodham Clinton campaign office last week watched impassively during his video arraignment Monday as he was portrayed alternatively as a sick man desperately seeking psychiatric help and a manipulative, long-time criminal.

The judge ordered Leeland Elsenberg held on \$500,000 cash bail on six felony charges and ordered a psychiatric evaluation for him. "I think it's very, very important, to keep this man under lock and key for now until we get to the bottom of his mental health problems," Rochester District Court Judge Daniel Cappiello said.

Prosecutor Janice Rundles asked for the high bail, saying Elsenberg, 46, has a long criminal record, including two rape convictions, and would be a threat to the public.

She said he was sentenced to 10 years for rape in Worcester, Mass., in 1985 but apparently escaped the next year and committed another rape. He was sentenced to 11 to 20 years for that, she said.

NEW YORK

Chimp beats college kids in computer game

NEW YORK — Think you're smarter than a fifth-grader? How about a 5-year-old chimp? Japanese researchers pitted young chimps against human adults in tests of short-term memory, and overall, the chimps won.

"That challenges the belief of many people, including many scientists, that humans are superior to chimpanzees in all cognitive functions," said researcher Tetsuro Matsuzawa of Kyoto University.

"No one can imagine that chimpanzees — young chimpanzees at the age of 5 — have a better performance in a memory task than humans," he said in a statement.

Matsuzawa, a pioneer in studying the mental abilities of chimps, said even he was surprised. He and colleague Santa Inoue report the results in Tuesday's issue of the journal Current Biology.

One memory test included three 5-year-old chimps who'd been taught the order of Arabic numerals 1 through 9, and a dozen human volunteers.

They saw nine numbers displayed on a computer screen. When they touched the first number, the other eight turned into white squares. The test was to touch all these squares in the order of the numbers that used to be on them.

Results showed that the chimps, while no more accurate than the people, could do this faster.

— compiled from wire reports

COMING TOMORROW

Fine furniture

Students put handcrafted pieces up for auction.

WEDNESDAY IN FOOD & HOME



Snowpack Levels

Watershed	Seasonal % of Avg.	percentage peak
Salmon	83%	18%
Big Wood	74%	12%
Little Wood	65%	12%
Big Lost	65%	14%
Little Lost	70%	17%
Henry Fork/Teton	70%	10%
Snake/Sage Basin	71%	17%
Oakley	34%	0%
Sawtooth Falls	38%	0%

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Vol. 102

No. 338

Cable

Continued from page A1

How they filled out their forms is uncertain since the district has yet to provide copies of all the bids, after repeated requests by the *Times-News*. District officials said Monday no copies were in the district office and were only in Beniton's possession.

System Tech had a rocky relationship with the district before it even put in its bid. Early on, the district had specified its bid to Panduit, but System Tech wanted to put in a bid for Sention, which it said would also meet project specifications.

So in September the district obliged the company and amended its bids to allow for three brands of

cable: Panduit, Sention and AMP brand.

Board members didn't say much Monday.

Trustee Kenney Young sensed some heat between Keller and Mortensen.

"Thanks guys, back to your corners for now," Young said after coping for the recommendation to reject all bids.

Mortensen said he would put in another bid for the project, assuming he can meet whatever specifications it may have.

The board approved one single bid project Monday night, for steel totaling more than \$3 million. It was the second time the project was bid by Steel West Inc. out of Pocatello, the only bidder, officials said.

Wolves

Continued from page A1

Wolves in the West were added to the federal endangered-species list in 1973.

The government reintroduced wolves to the Western Rockies in 1995 and 1996. The recovery goal for Idaho was 300 wolves — a number reached in 2002.

Officials now estimate nearly 700 wolves prowl Idaho's forests.

That's too many for ranchers and hunters, who say wolves are degrading livestock and big game populations. Nearly 200 sheep and 29 cattle were killed by wolves in 2006, according to Fish and Game. The effects on big game are harder to gauge, though officials suspect it is significant.

Conflicts between wolves and humans led to at least 45 wolf deaths in 2006. Six were shot by ranchers, who are allowed to kill wolves when they attack livestock, and 39 were killed by government officials after reports that wolves had threatened ranch animals.

Resolving rancher-wolf conflicts is a top priority in the state's management plan, which will rely mostly on hunting to keep wolf numbers down in high-conflict areas.

Wolf conflicts in Magic Valley are rare and virtually non-existent in residential areas, although reports of wolf skirmishes are rising in the Wood River Valley.

"There are a couple of packs in the Magic Valley,"

said Regan Berkley, a biologist in Fish and Game's Magic Valley office. "But we don't have the density that other places do."

Fish and Game's proposal calls for maintaining 15 breeding pairs — two adult wolves with at least two pups that survive from each litter. That would mean as few as 30 wolves or as many as several hundred.

Any Idaho wolf hunting seasons and limits would be

set by the state's Fish and Game Commission after debating, which could occur as early as February. The commission is expected to review the plan in March.

Anticipated lawsuits from environmental groups could derail the debating, said Steve Nadeau, the Fish and Game's large ruminant manager.

Matt Christensen may be reached at 735-3243 or at matt.christensen@lee.net.

Shop

Continued from page A1

"The reason not to wait is my guy is losing money everyday," he said. "Why should we wait? We were told today was reconsideration day."

Mikesell said the issue has merely changed from a decision based on morality to one that will now focus on standard procedure.

"We didn't lose the information to make a quality decision," he said. "It was not included in the application."

The rejection became controversial since the license dealt strictly with alcohol and will not make the business at 347 Washington St. N. go away. Nagel passed a criminal background check from the state. He said he's

offering legal smoking products. And city and county police authorities said Nagel's complying with the law.

Commissioner George Urlic said that they've received public support for the rejection but now they need to follow a procedure.

He and Mikesell plan to review the entire licensing process in the future. Kramer wasn't present Monday for the discussion of the alcohol license.

"I don't think we have a choice because of the laws," said Urlic. "We have to take personal opinion out of it."

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Lice

Continued from page A1

The principals said younger children tend to get lice more often than older children in the elementary schools. But lice can also spread to older siblings and their parents.

When outbreaks happen in classrooms some teachers have asked students to place their jackets and backpacks into individual plastic bags and then hang them on hooks, Olmstead said.

And eradicating the bugs from heads can be challenging.

Over-the-counter shampoo treatments can cost between \$15 and \$20, and sometimes more than one treatment may be needed. Their effectiveness seems to be waning for at least some cases, Hodges and Olmstead said.

"It can take hours to comb out an infested head," Hodges said.

That's not including the time it takes to clean clothes, bedding, and vacuum.

Some principals said lice have not been too bad this year — at least yet.

"It's getting to be the season. It's getting cold. We'll probably start seeing more of it," Rutledge said.

Hodges said donated lice kits are available for families on limited incomes, and she recommends using metal combs as opposed to plastic combs for more effective treatment.

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

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EDITORIAL

Tapping demand:
Impact fees important
to Twin Falls' future

Probably five years after they should have been in place, it's clear that the City of Twin Falls will impose some kind of impact fees — costs for growth assessed to developers and builders — during 2008.

The fees, favored by several members of the City Council and used by comparably sized cities in Idaho and elsewhere, received an important endorsement last week when the Developers and Engineers Council signed on.

That's significant because impact fees will play a critical role in how Twin Falls manages — or mismanages — growth in the next 20 years.

The premise behind impact fees is simple: Those who make the city grow should pay the costs of that growth. In the form of fees charged to the builders of homes, rental property and retail, office and industrial space. Land-use experts consider the fees to be beneficial to a community over time because they generate money to make growth more orderly, help developers predict costs and promote job growth.

A city-commissioned study by BBC Research & Consulting estimated that the maximum impact fees the city could charge for a single-family home would be \$4,910. They would be \$3,962 for multi-family apartments, \$13.66 per square foot of retail, \$4.51 per square foot of office space and \$3.37 per square foot of industrial property.

But no one in city government or in the developer, builder and finance communities expect Twin Falls to assess the maximum anytime soon.

The money will go to law enforcement, fire protection, parks and streets.

To maintain the current level of staffing, the Twin Falls Police Department will need \$13.9 million in the next decade. The city's fire department will require \$7.4 million.

Spending for parks is estimated at \$31 million, and future capital improvements for streets total \$52.8 million.

The BBC Research & Consulting report says levying the maximum impact fees would bring Twin Falls \$36.11 million in added revenue through 2017.

That's crucial. By all projections, growth is about to strain city services to the limit.

Local builders, who would actually pay the fees, haven't backed the concept yet. They're concerned about the depressed real estate market, and worry that adding impact fees would put mortgages out of reach for some home-buyers because the builders would pass them on.

But while it's not vibrant, the local real estate market isn't moribund. Given Twin Falls' population growth rate projected at between 1.5 percent and 2 percent a year, it's clear there will be strong demand for housing — more than enough to absorb impact fees.

Much needs to happen before Twin Falls can actually impose the fees. The city must appoint a committee to recommend the exact fee structure to the council, which does not have to abide by the BBC Research & Consulting study's results.

The council should act soon. Growth hasn't waited in the past, and it won't in the future.

Our view:

Impact fees could mean the difference between Twin Falls managing growth and simply enduring it.

What do you think? We welcome view-points from our readers on this and other issues.



Venezuelans value freedom above Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez has narrowly lost his latest attempt to push forward a revolutionary socialist agenda. His oil-rich country, still bent on humbling the United States, is an instructive place from which to view the world, so here are eight rules of modern political life as seen from Venezuela.

1. Trade trumps politics. Even as Chavez has been calling President Bush "the devil," U.S.-Venezuelan commercial ties have blossomed. This is the Western Hemisphere's equivalent of the Taiwan-China relationship: political enemies engaged in booming business. Bilateral trade will amount to about \$4.7 billion this year, up from 2006, with Venezuelan exports to the United States reaching \$37 billion (overwhelmingly oil), and imports totaling close to \$10 billion. Chavez derides the "little Yankees" but can't get enough American cars and clothes for his "21st-century socialism." Such links—links—dangerous.

2. Globalization breeds nationalism. Global financial flows and technology limit the real power of politicians, who compensate with what's left: national identity. Chavez's last speech in an unsuccessful campaign to turn Venezuela into a state with a formally socialist constitution had nothing to say about the ideas involved, but much to say about "our real enemy, the American empire," anti-colonialism, Bolivarian glory, and alleged threats



ROGER COHEN

from the Central Intelligence Agency or CNN. The radicalization of political discourse matters more than its content, as the 2004 U.S. election campaign also suggested.

3. Oil centralizes power. Venezuelan oil fetches a lower price than most because it's harder to refine, but Chavez is still puckering between \$4 billion and \$6.7 billion a month, depending on whom you believe. Give anyone in an opaque, rather than open, society more than \$100 million a day and he might start to rave about ruling until 2050, as Chavez has.

"The tendency of the petrostate is to recentralize, petrify and personalize power," said Margarita Lopez-Mora, a political scientist who long supported Chavez but is now disillusioned. From Moscow to Laundia to Caracas, this has been the case.

4. Anti-U.S. networks are here to stay. Chavez is throwing his one-pipeline-state petrodollars around to cultivate bands beyond comrades in Cuba, Nicaragua and Bolivia. Ties with Iran, Russia, China, Argentina, Ecuador and Caribbean states are intensifying. Never mind if it takes three weeks to ship oil to

China and three days to the United States. Chavez wants to parlay his petrorevenue and pseudorevolution into a global anti-American role. Moscow is selling him arms; Beijing is selling whatever it can. These trends will continue beyond Bush. High oil prices will tend to accentuate the long-term erosion of American dominance.

5. Ideologies are now served à la carte. Chavez makes common cause with the Cuban Revolution. But he parades under banners of Jesus Christ and calls Christ the "first revolutionary." So much for Communism's dismissal of the opinion of the people. The Venezuelan leader talks a lot about women's rights, but abortion remains illegal. Just as Chinese Communism can be capitalist, and Russian democracy look Leninist, Chavez's Cuban-inspired socialism can be Catholic: What counts is power preservation.

6. Democracy is tested. Chavez has held several referendums and elections since coming to power nine years ago, although none as close as Sunday's. When opposition TV stations are curtailed, when birth certificates and national identity cards are bought for a few hundred dollars, when tens of billions of dollars go missing in the national budget, when the judiciary is subservient and corruption a way of life, democracy is challenged. But his concession of a very narrow defeat was reassuring, yet his long-time readiness to forge an open and accountable soci-

ety remains to be seen.

7. Utopias live. Decades of neglect of Venezuela's poor by ruling elites opened the way for Chavez's "revolution," with its promise of socialist cooperatives, improved health care, better education and "people's power." In some areas—particularly health and education—Chavez has delivered. But "El Comandante" has also tried to extend a controlled system for his greater glory. It benefits his cronies capitalists in a make-believe economy of price controls, exchange-rate controls and unsustainable subsidies. When the crash comes, the poor will suffer and have no recourse. But the threat for working-class sectors is undimmed by 20th-century cataclysm, and the appetite for an anti-Bush is so voracious that the Chavez-as-Che concoction resonates, empty as it is.

8. TV trumps all. In the bars of Caracas, people watch NBA basketball and their beloved baseball. Johan Santana, the brilliant Venezuelan pitcher now

apparently close to a move to the Yankees, is a national hero. At the U.S. embassy, visa applicants must wait until April for appointments.

Flights to and from the United States are packed, malls full of U.S. brands. Consumers have ever more choices, politicians ever fewer. It's unlikely even Chavez can turn back the clock far enough to change that.

Roger Cohen is a columnist for the New York Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chinese making
money off Christmas

While in a local home improvement store recently, I noticed a massive display of "fake" Christmas Trees.

After further investigation, I noticed every single one of them was "Made in China," as well as every ornament and decoration in the store. How is it that the Red Communist Chinese, who do

not even celebrate Christmas, are the world's largest manufacturers of Christmas-related products? Unfortunately, nearly everything we purchase is made in China.

I can't exactly put it into words, but somehow communists profiting from Christmas is especially annoying.

TOM YOUNG
Twin Falls

Times-News

Brad Hurd . . . publisher Steve Crump . . . Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Traci Bliss and Bill Blitzenburg.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Illegal aliens work hard
for the money they make

Regarding the letter to the editor, "Driver's licenses for illegal aliens a bad idea":

The Hispanics come to this country for a simple reason: they want a better life for them and their families as your ancestors did, wherever they came from. Those Hispanics, which want a better life, surely don't get it for free. They work the hard jobs that no one wants, like milking cows from dawn to dusk. The Hispanics work long hours and long weeks.

Yes, you are correct, maybe some have "fake" Social Security numbers which

Write to us

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their bosses chose to ignore because reality is, most American citizens don't want to do those arduous jobs. To go to their jobs, the "illegal immigrants or aliens," as you call us, must have a driver's license, which, by the way, is meant to prove that a person knows how to drive safely. It is not meant as a proof of citizenship.

If your data is correct, "eight million questionable Social Security numbers" think how much money the

U.S. government is making from the illegals by paying these "fake" Social Security numbers, assuming every illegal worker contributes \$1,000 dollars a year in a "fake" Social Security. That will equal \$8 billion per year free to the Social Security Administration — money that will never benefit the illegal workers earning the wages.

About the priest that is protecting the Hispanic families: It is comforting for me

to see that someone has mercy for the Hispanics that pick up our crops, milk our cows and contribute to our Social Security benefits. I suggest you withdraw your negative attitude and have more respect for the Hispanics. Thanks to them, your kids have fresh milk and vegetables on the table.

VERONICA LEONARD
Buhl

Family running dairy
the proper way

I have written strong opinions regarding a specific dairy and would like to make some clarifications. This dairy has had issues

that date clear back to 1976 and for approximately 20 years was a "sleeping monster," but now that monster has been awakened. The Department of Agriculture will state that it is in "substantial compliance" but is not taking into consideration its considerable level of nuisance to the surrounding neighbors at its present level of operation.

That being said and not the purpose of my letter, let me continue. Let me express my admiration for the Bill and Donna Stoffus Family Dairy and the upcoming opening of their new operation in Buhl. I had the pleasure of watching a group of

people who have worked hard to bring a fresh product to this community. As the first bottle of milk was filled, the room erupted in cheers and the pride that all felt was palpable. Bill and Donna, and their family and coworkers have much to be proud of. I felt privileged to be a part of what I am certain will be a huge success.

I hope all the surrounding families will visit Bill and Donna and enjoy their fresh, and exciting new products. It will truly let you experience the "goodness of milk" and the feeling of the family dairy.

KIM HELSLEY
Buhl

What if the United States had drawn map of Middle East?

As an Israeli-Palestine summit convenes this week, take a moment to contemplate one of the more intriguing what-ifs of history: What if the United States had been handed with the responsibility of ruling Palestine after the end of the Ottoman empire? And what if that mandate had included all of today's Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria too? Would the Middle East have been better off than it is now?

The world has forgotten the King-Crane Commission that Woodrow Wilson set in motion in 1919 at the Paris Peace Conference. To sort out a new world order, Wilson urged that a commission be sent to "elucidate the state of opinion" in Greater Syria about how people wanted to be governed now that the Turks were gone. The allies reluctantly accepted the commission but then bowed out.

The British and French had already divided up the territory between them in a secret agreement. And, as the United States had not fought in the Middle East, nor had it ever declared war on the Ottomans, the allies felt it was really none of America's business.

But neither Wilson nor the United States, just emerging as a world power, could totally ignored.



H.D.S. GREENWAY

In the end only Henry King, president of Oberlin College, and Charles Crane, heir to a plumbing fortune, took off for the Middle East. Neither knew anything about the region. After talking to hundreds of people of all confessions, the commission decided that Greater Syria should be treated as a unitary state and not divided among the allies. King and Crane thought Syria should be given independence, preferably under Emir Faisal whom Lawrence of Arabia had helped to chase out the Turks.

If there were to be a League of Nations mandate, however, the region's Arabs said they would prefer to be ruled by Americans, rather than by British or French, according to the commission's report. Reasons were that the Americans were not considered true imperialists and could be counted upon to leave one day. Also, Americans had the wherewithal to develop the region. Dissenting from this opinion, however, were the

Zionists who had just been promised a Jewish homeland in Palestine by the British. The Balfour Declaration also said that a Jewish homeland should not interfere with the rights of Arabs, thus setting up a contradiction that haunts us still.

According to Tom Segev, whose book "One Palestine, Complete," chronicles the British Mandate, the early Zionists feared Wilson's obsession with democracy. "Democracy in America," a Zionist publication, explained, "too commonly means majority rule without regard to diversities of types or stages of civilization..." Since Zionists were a majority in neither Palestine nor the rest of Greater Syria, American style democracy would be bad for the Jews.

The commission argued against a Jewish state on the grounds that to disregard the wishes of the Arab majority would be contrary to Wilsonian principles. The Jews, and the Christians of Lebanon, should seek autonomy within a Greater Syria, but not independence. Crane would later be branded as an anti-Semite, just as it turned out, but the commission's recommendations against a Jewish state was based more on skepticism concerning the unresolvable contradictions in the



Iraqi refugees who have just returned from Syria unload their luggage from a bus in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday. About 20 buses carrying hundreds of Iraqi refugees returned to Baghdad from Syria late Wednesday, a move the government hailed as a sign of growing public confidence that Iraq is finally on the road to stability.

Balfour Declaration. Since the Arab majority opposed it, a Jewish state could not be achieved without force of arms, and it would take not less than 50,000 troops to achieve it, the commission found.

When the commissioners returned to Paris, their moment in history had passed. Wilson had already sailed home, where shortly afterward he fell ill and died. The British and French carved up the Middle East between themselves. American participation in the

League of Nations was still-born, and the commission's report was not even published until 1922.

Would an American mandate have been any better than the British and French mandates? Palestine was a nightmare for the British, trying to keep Zionists and Arabs from each other's throats, and the French were plagued with more than a dozen revolts in Syria.

Perhaps the United States would have been quicker, after World War II and the Holocaust, to recognize a

Jewish state, but would the plight of the Palestinians and the travails of Lebanon be any better today if America had been in charge between the two world wars?

America's performance in Iraq would suggest that we all should be thankful that the modern Middle East was never made in America. It's tempting to say that, on the whole, things were better off under the Turks.

H.D.S. Greenway is a columnist for the Boston Globe.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Idaho F&G mismanaging wolf program

We need the assistance of all concerned Idaho citizens and sportsman in preventing our ballot initiative. Without the success of this ballot initiative, we will continue to be at the mercy of government bureaucrats to continue their inept management of this issue.

The Idaho Fish and Game recently announced a proposed wolf management plan to deal with this predator. The head Fish and Game, wolf biologist Steve Nedeau, in a recent meeting in northern Idaho, told our group that there are at least 27 different pro-wolf advocacy groups that plan on challenging delisting through the courts. These lawsuits will likely sideline the proposed management plan and allow these predators to multiply and run free in our Idaho wilderness for many years to come.

Mr. Nedeau is the proclaimed wolf expert for the Fish and Game management plan. Mr. Nedeau is like the "fox watching the chicken coop." His priority is promoting the perpetuation of this non-native Canadian gray wolf species at the expense of our defenseless Idaho ungulate wildlife. Our Idaho Fish and Game has horribly mismanaged this program since its inception. The citizens of Idaho need to send a strong message to our state and federal bureaucrats that we will no longer tolerate the mismanagement of this Canadian gray wolf program.

Depredation of our calf-cow elk counts have fallen below sustainable levels. The current situation is dire and in proof that our state and federal bureaucrats have horribly mismanaged this program. This failed "experiment" is jeopardizing the future survival of our Rocky Mountain elk herds. Idaho citizens must demand immediate drastic corrective measures to this failed program. Failure of such will result in the Rocky Mountain elk species soon becoming an endangered species in Idaho.

We invite you to our meeting today at 7 p.m., the Turf Club.

TONY MAYER
Twin Falls

Families' work appreciated

To the Wrights and the Willises:
Thanks for everything you guys do for our community. It hasn't gone unnoticed or

Write to us

The Times-Herald welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicalvalley.com.

unappreciated by the vast majority.

SUSIE DUNN
JEFF DUNN
Twin Falls

INS has to profile to do its job

Regarding Mrs. Parra's letter Nov. 26, I agree this is a great nation and we all deserve a chance to make it. Those of us that are here legally deserve a chance. If you sneak into the United States illegally, then you are a criminal and deserve to be

sent back, period.

Yes, you are right, there are Americans who are taking advantage of our welfare system. I have a problem with that also. I still say "so what" on racial profiling. If an Immigration and Naturalization Service agent spots a Mexican-American and proof of citizenship is shown, they are released, similar to a traffic stop. If INS agents are not allowed to profile, how can they stop illegal aliens? Are they supposed to randomly pick a person and ask for proof of

citizenship? That's not going to work; you have to target the problem group to solve the problem.

As for having someone follow me around, sure go ahead, I have nothing to hide.

As for your comment about working in 100-degree weather, I do that already. I bust my butt outside in the rock, dirt, dust and sage-

brush year round. I'm not afraid to work.

And your do-it-for-half-the-money comment, that wouldn't be an issue if people were not sneaking into the country and working for lower wages and paying no taxes. There are a lot of legal citizens who are out of work who might not be if illegals weren't taking up jobs.

Racism is not really the

issue here. People turning a blind eye to illegal intruders and then asking that special provisions be made for them is the issue.

I have problems with having to ask for people to speak English. We live in Idaho, USA. English is our language; if you move here, learn it.

ERIK WENSINK
Wendell

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Concerns raised about economy

(AP) Wall Street tumbled Monday, led by financial services stocks, on concerns that the U.S. economy's expansion will erode amid troubles in the mortgage industry.

Dow Jones Industrials -57.15
 13,314.57

Nasdaq Composite -23.63
 2,637.13

Standard & Poor's 500 -8.72
 1,472.42

Russell 2000 -7.80
 759.07

A6

MONEY

TIMES-NEWS • BUSINESS EDITOR JOSHUA PALMER: 735-3231

TUESDAY

DECEMBER 4, 2007

Manufacturing expands moderately in November

Jayco one of several RV manufacturers seeing growth

Times-News staff and wire reports

U.S. manufacturing expanded in November as new orders and production improved, but weakness in employment suggested that industrial jobs may not be as plentiful in coming months.

However, recreational vehicle manufacturing in south-central Idaho is still adding jobs.

"We just finished hiring

some new people and in about six months we plan to hire about 60 more," said Dave Yoder, general manager of Jayco Inc., which already employs about 280 workers in its three manufacturing plants.

The company will need additional employees to meet increasing demand for its recreational trailers. Jayco's facilities in Twin Falls currently produce 19 units per day, however, it plans to produce 23 units per day by February.

According to the RV Consumer Group, a non-profit group that monitors the industry, almost all RV manufacturers are seeing increased sales in lower-

mid-priced RVs — likely due to the higher cost of family recreational activities that require lodging, transportation and meals.

However, not all sectors of the manufacturing industry see the same increases.

The Institute for Supply Management, a Tempe, Ariz.-based, trade group, said Monday that its manufacturing index registered 50.8 last month, down from 50.9 in October. A reading above 50 indicates growth, below that spells contraction.

The November results, which marked the 10th consecutive monthly expansion, were slightly stronger than the 50.1 expected by analysts

polled by Thomson/IFR Markets.

"While other segments of the economy are struggling, manufacturing continues to grow due to continuing strength in new orders, and a recovery in production from last month," Norbert Ore, chairman of the institute's business survey committee, said in a statement. "Prices, driven higher by energy prices, are once again the major concern."

Wall Street stocks briefly dipped after the report was released because signs of economic strength could reduce the chances the Federal Reserve will cut rates at its Dec. 11 monetary policy

Purchasing

The Purchasing Managers' Index tracks the overall business activity of more than 350 industrial companies.



SOURCE: Institute for Supply Management

meeting.

But the stock declines were limited as investors turned their attention to remarks by

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who reaffirmed a plan to try to stabilize the mortgage market by reducing foreclosures on adjustable-rate mortgages.

The manufacturing report showed a decline in the employment index to 47.8 from 52.0, indicating manufacturing jobs are contracting, according to Doug Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets.

"The one concern in the report is the steep drop in the employment index to a ready below 50," Porter said. The weak result could foreshadow a disappointing national employment report on Friday, he added.

Paulson: Agreement is near on industry-wide effort to freeze mortgage rates

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Monday he is confident there will soon be an agreement to help thousands of homeowners avoid mortgage defaults by temporarily freezing their interest rates.

Paulson told a national housing conference that this effort involved a "pragmatic response" to current realities as the economy goes through the worst housing slump in more than two decades. The number of homeowners struggling to meet higher payments because their initial introductory rates are resetting is currently soaring.

Paulson and other top Treasury officials have been holding talks with major players in the mortgage industry over the past several weeks to hammer out an agreement that would freeze the lower introductory rates to keep them from resetting to higher levels for a period of years.

"We are working aggressively and quickly, utilizing

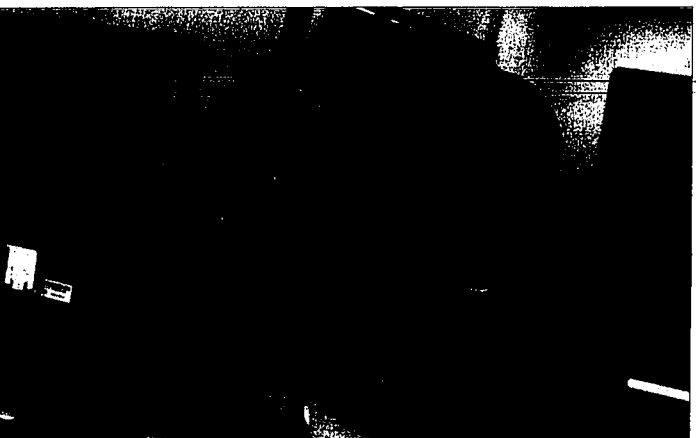
available tools and creating new ones, to help financially responsible but struggling homeowners," Paulson said in a speech to a national housing conference sponsored by the Office of Thrift Supervision.

One of the outstanding issues is how long the freeze will last. Some government regulators are pushing for five to seven years but investors, who will see lower payments on the loans, are arguing for a shorter period of one to two years.

An estimated 2 million subprime mortgages, loans offered to borrowers with spotty credit histories, are scheduled to reset to much higher levels by the end of 2008. Those resets will push the payment on a typical mortgage up by \$350 per month, taking it from \$1,200 currently to \$1,550.

Paulson said he believed the disagreements can be resolved without delay. Some expect the administration to unveil the completed deal later this week, but Paulson was not as specific in his remarks, saying only, "I am confident they will finalize these standards soon."

Hands-on learning



Don Davis of Filer, left, and Ben Whipple of Twin Falls, take part in a business simulation game at the College of Southern Idaho on Saturday. The "Marketing Game" gave participants the opportunity to learn hands-on marketing experience.

Business simulation gives students real-world experience

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

College of Southern Idaho Business Director Dennis Helmer explained that the two most important areas of any business is getting your product sold (marketing) and managing your money (finance).

When it comes to becoming a big-win business executive, companies often find promise in these two areas of operation.

In order to give students, and local businesses hands-on experience in marketing, the college — through the Small Business Development Center — held a Simulation Game.

"I've been doing this simulation for 10 to 12 years now, and it is really very popular. The simulation training gives participants the opportunity to apply marketing principles in a more real-life situation," Helmer said. "Students have ranked the program as

one of the most educational functions of the class."

About a dozen participants took advantage of playing the game on Saturday. The winner of the simulation would be chosen by which company made the most money.

For John Garrett, 20, of Twin Falls, the simulation was harder than he thought it would be. He wasn't striving to win, but to take applicable knowledge away that could be used in running his own business one day.

"Well, we're trying to sell a voice, word processor unit and we have to make all these decisions on how to market, who to market to and apply all the right costs so that at the end of the day your company is profitable," Garrett said. "I'm trying to take what I've learned in class and apply it here. It's pretty hard to get all the costs right and stay in budget. Already, I've learned that I need to watch my spending

"I've been doing this simulation for 10 to 12 years now, and it is really very popular. The simulation training gives participants the opportunity to apply marketing principles in a more real-life situation."

— Dennis Helmer, CSI business director

and try to stay in budget."

As a sales manager for Qwest, Ben Whipple, of Twin Falls was hoping the simulation would help him in his current career.

"Marketing is a huge part of what I do and this has helped me transform what I know into running a profitable, business," Whipple said. "The main thing I needed was more hands-on learning and this has really helped."

Helmer explained that while the simulation is free for students the \$20 partici-

pation fee is well worth the cost to local business people. "This simulation helps companies and business owners see what the ins and outs are to marketing," Helmer said. "Most people walk away with real-world experience they may not otherwise get."

The simulation is offered at the college three times a year. For more information call (208) 732-6452.

Contact Blair Koch at blairkoch@gmail.com or at 316-2607

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wine tasting, silent auction Wednesday

The Magic Valley Advertising Federation will host a wine tasting and auction on Wednesday beginning 5:30 p.m.

The silent auction runs from 5:30 until 7 p.m. Several items will be auctioned totaling more than \$2,000 in value.

Cost to attend is \$20 per person. For more information or to reserve tickets, call Debbie Currier at (208) 736-0823 or email deccurrier@mvaol.com

New business to file air quality permit

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) has received a request from Packaging Specialties of Idaho for an air quality permit to construct a new printing facility in Burley.

A public comment period on the permit will be pro-

vided if a written request is submitted to IDEQ by 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11. For more information, go to: www.ideq.idaho.gov/publiccomment.htm

PGI growers elect new officers

BLACKFOOT — PGI growers elected new officers and ratified the new role for the organization during its annual All Grower Meeting. Those elected to move the organization forward in its more specialized role are: President Ray Tomlinaga, Blackfoot, Vice-President James Hoff of Idaho Falls, and Secretary Treasurer Will Howard of Burley. Other members of the down-sized board are Paris Penfold, Driggs, representing seed growers, and Kamren Koopman from American Falls.

— from staff reports

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Con Agra	24.69	▼ .33	Dell Inc.	23.94	▼ .60	Idacorp	35.27	▲ .11
Lithia Mo.	15.15	▼ .45	Micron	8.30	▼ .02	Supervalu	40.94	▼ .93

COMMODITIES

For more see page A7

Live cattle	94.23	▲ .38	Jan. Oil	89.31	▲ .60
Jan. gold	792	▲ 6	(Light sweet crude by barrel)		

What to expect today in business • International Council of Shopping Centers will release weekly measure of comparable store sales at retail chains. • Four-week treasury bill auction.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Commodity	High	Low	Close	Change
Aug. Soybean	21.00	20.75	20.87 1/2	+1/8
Soybean Meal	27.00	26.75	26.87 1/2	+1/8
Soybean Oil	1.10	1.08	1.09 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Corn	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Wheat	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Oats	.50	.48	.49 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Rye	.50	.48	.49 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Barley	.50	.48	.49 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Clover	.50	.48	.49 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Alfalfa	.50	.48	.49 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Hay	.50	.48	.49 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Sugar	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Lard	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Tallow	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Cotton	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Wool	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Hides	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Leather	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Rubber	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Petroleum	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Gasoline	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Coal	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Iron	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Steel	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Copper	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Aluminum	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
Aug. Zinc	1.00	.98	.99 1/2	+1/8
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Intelligence report counters Bush's warnings on Iran

By David Wood
The Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — In a surprising new report, the U.S. intelligence community said Monday that Iran halted its weapons program to develop nuclear weapons four years ago, most likely in response to international criticism.

The new National Intelligence Estimate runs counter to Bush administration warnings about Iran's weapons-development program, specifically its suggestion that Iran is pushing forward to build a nuclear bomb. The report said Iran's effort to turn nuclear material into an actual bomb ended in 2003 and has not been restarted. A top White House official said there would be no change in U.S. policy toward Iran as a result of the latest findings.

According to the new assessment by U.S. intelligence agencies, Iran is continuing its effort to enrich uranium to produce weapons-grade material and "at a minimum" is keeping open the option of developing nuclear weapons. But, the report said, Iran faces "significant technical problems" and probably could not amass enough highly enriched uranium for a bomb until "some time during the 2010-2015 time frame."

Despite rhetoric from Iran's fiery president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, about Iran's right to develop nuclear weapons, the intelligence report said Tehran's decisions about nuclear weapons seem to be guided by weighing the costs of international sanctions and diplomatic isolation, rather than by a single-minded, all-out rush to produce a nuclear bomb. "Tehran's decision to halt its nuclear weapons program suggests it is less determined to develop nuclear weapons than we have been judging since 2005," said the intelligence assessment, released by the Director of National Intelligence, Mike McConnell.

For President Bush, who warned in October that Iran's nuclear ambitions could ignite "World War III," the new report appeared to be a cold dash of reality. "This is challenging information," national security adviser Stephen Hadley said.

But he insisted that the new intelligence judgment bolstered the White House's confidence that international pressure, rather than force, was the right way to deal with Iran.

Bush had been asked in an Oct. 17 news conference about Iran's nuclear ambitions. He responded, "Yeah, I believe they want to have the capacity, the knowledge, in order to make a nuclear weapon if you're interested in avoiding World War III. It seems like you ought to be interested in preventing them from having the knowledge to make a nuclear weapon."

Hadley said that Bush was briefed on the new findings Wednesday, a day after the intelligence assessment was finalized. He said that "months earlier" Bush was told there was new information on Iran but that it was not confirmed and that it would take some time to complete the assessment.

"It was not told to stop talking about Iran's nuclear weapons program," Hadley said.

Hadley insisted that Bush's strategy of bringing international pressure on Iran had not changed before or after he learned of the new intelligence assessment.

Hadley also disclosed that Vice President Dick Cheney, who warned in October that "we will not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon," was briefed on the new intelligence findings during Thanksgiving week, a week before Bush was briefed. The administration is seeking agreement at the United Nations Security Council for a third round of economic

sanctions against Iran. Its case seemed to be bolstered over the weekend by a statement by the new chief Iranian negotiator, Saeed Jalili, that all previous diplomatic understandings on Iran's nuclear program were nonoperative.

The new National Intelligence Estimate, a form of report that is the most authoritative written judgment of the U.S. intelligence community, was ordered by

the former director of national intelligence, John Negroponte, more than a year ago, in response to questions being raised by both administration officials and Congress. Completion of the assessment was originally due last spring but was delayed for additional work and a comprehensive "scrubbing" and review, intelligence officials said.

The assessment, released

Monday as an unclassified summary of the full, classified report, is the "unanimous judgment of all U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, collection and analysis offices at the Departments of Energy and State, and others."

It said many of its key judgments were made "with high confidence," a phrase that indicated to intelligence pro-

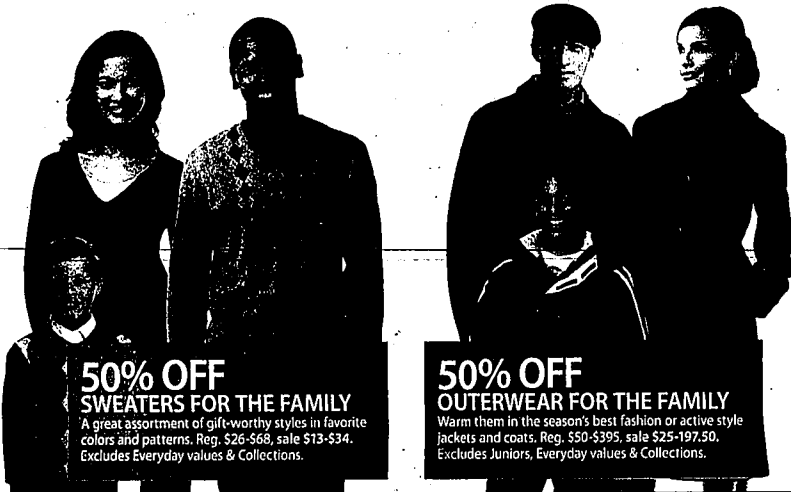
fessionals that the United States has sources deep inside Iran's ruling elites.

"You don't normally say 'high confidence' without corroborating multiple sources that you have a track record with," said John McLaughlin, a senior career CIA officer who was deputy director and chaired the National Intelligence Council, which produces the national estimates.

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INSIDE: Jazz win eighth straight at home, B2



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TUESDAY

DECEMBER 4, 2007

INSIDE: NBA, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Comics, B4-5 | College football & Weather, B6

Patriots rally in final minutes

The Associated Press

BAITIMORE — The New England Patriots are still perfect, but looking mighty vulnerable.

New England pulled off its greatest escape thus far to become the sixth team in NFL history to start a season with 12 victories. For the second straight week, it was a struggle against a losing team, but the incredibly resourceful Patriots got Tom Brady's 8-yard touchdown pass to Jabar Gaffney with 41 seconds left to beat the Baltimore Ravens 27-24 Monday night.

The winning drive in the final minutes cov-

ered 73 yards and required two fourth-down conversions, one on a defensive holding penalty 6 seconds before Gaffney beat Dawan Landry in the left corner of the end zone.

Driven to distraction by a Baltimore defense at times reminiscent of the 2000 unit that led the Ravens (4-8) to a Super Bowl victory, Brady came through late — as he always seems to.

After edging Philadelphia, the Patriots kept alive their pursuit of the only unblemished record in NFL history, Miami's 17-0 in 1972.

With Pittsburgh (9-3) up next, the Patriots must recapture some of their record-setting

ways from earlier in the season to keep their flawless record intact.

As the highest road favorite in a non-replacement game (19 points), the Patriots nearly laid a dud in swirling winds and occasional snow flurries. They trailed for much of the game, but Brady relentlessly guided them downfield for the

Please see PATRIOTS, Page B2

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady rolls on the turf after being sacked Monday in Baltimore.



MMA fighter dies weeks after being injured

By John Porretto
Associated Press writer

HOUSTON — A mixed martial arts fighter has died in a hospice about six weeks after he was injured in a sanctioned bout, a rare fatality for a combat sport that is growing in popularity.

Sam Vasquez, 35, of Houston, was injured at the Toyota Center on Oct. 20 and died Friday. The Harris County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed Vasquez's death, but spokeswoman Stacey Mitchell said it could be several days before the official cause is determined.

Mixed martial arts fighting, a free-for-all combination of judo, boxing, karate, Muay Thai, kickboxing, taekwondo, jujitsu and wrestling, has grown in popularity and attracted large pay-per-view television audiences.

To broaden its fan base, the sport has limited the violence, attracting new fans without alienating its original hard-core base.

Vasquez was hospitalized after he was knocked out by Vince Libardi of San Antonio in the third round of a fight at the Renegades Extreme Fighting show. He

lost consciousness and suffered a seizure.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, which sanctioned the fight, said it investigated the incident immediately after the fight. The agency examined the pre-fight requirements, the activity during the bout and the way emergency medical workers responded to Vasquez's injury.

A mixed martial arts fan Web site said Vasquez was the first such fighter to die from an injury incurred or aggravated while competing in a regulated bout, though no official statistics were available. In 1998, American Doug Dodge died after being knocked out in an unregulated fight in the Ukraine.

Vasquez had been in intensive care at St. Joseph Medical Center before being transferred to a hospice last week.

Vasquez suffered a massive stroke while hospitalized. Comments attributed to his wife, Sandra, on the mixed martial arts forum www.mma.com indicated he had been in a medically induced coma and had undergone two surgeries to remove blood clots in his brain.



St. Louis Cardinals manager Billy Southworth is shown in this 1945 file photo.

Kuhn, O'Malley, others elected to Baseball hall

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — At last, Bowie Kuhn beat Marvin Miller at something.

The late commissioner was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame on Monday while Miller was rejected by a revamped Veterans Committee stacked with those he regularly opposed — and been — in arbitration and bargaining sessions that altered the history of the game.

Former Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley, managers Dick Williams and Billy Southworth and ex-Pirates owner Barney Dreyfuss also were elected.

Please see HALL, Page B2



Reluctant Colt

Brennan accepts WAC offensive player of year

By James Song
Associated Press writer

HONOLULU

Hawaii

quarterback Colt

Brennan carried his

second consecutive

Western Athletic

Conference offensive

player of the year award,

not that he thought he

deserved it.

Brennan lobbied coach

June Jones and the WAC and

against giving him the

honor, despite throwing for

4,174 yards and 39 touch-

downs in leading the 10th-

ranked Warriors (12-0) to

their first outright conference

title, an undefeated

season and a berth in the

Sugar Bowl against No. 4

Georgia. The Heisman

trophy candidate also has

eight rushing TDs.

"I missed two games and

knocked out of two games,"

he said. "I'm a little confused

sometimes how I can get the

WAC award when my receivers

and my whole offense did what

they did this year."

Brennan said he was "not the

deciding factor" in those four

games.

"It's hard for me to sit here

and accept an award when four

of those victories we had in the

WAC this year came from my

other teammates," he said. "I

think it's important they get

recognized just as much."

So in an unprecedented move, the WAC created a so-called "offensive unit of the year award." It was given to Brennan and the starting receiving corps of Davone Bess, Ryan Grice-Mullen, C.J. Hawthorne and Jason Rivers.

"Once again, Colt impressed me with his unselfishness, and I told him I would do what I could," WAC Commissioner Karl Benson said. "On the flight back to the mainland, I thought of this way to pay tribute to Colt and these four great receivers for the season each had and how they each contributed to the Warriors' perfect 12-0 regular season."

Brennan said he was more excited about the unit award than his own accolade.

Also far the second straight year, Warriors coach June Jones was named the WAC coach of the year.

"It is an honor," Jones said. "It comes with winning and is a team thing." Fresno State linebacker Marcus Riley earned WAC defensive player of the year honors and Nevada quarterback Colin Kaepernick was named the freshman of the year.

This season, Brennan became the NCAA career leader in touchdown passes and currently has 131 in his three seasons. The senior from Irvine, Calif., was among 11 players from Hawaii named to the all-WAC first team.

Boise State, which finished second in the conference, placed five players on the first team, while Fresno State had four.

The others Warriors on the first team are receivers Bess and Grice-Mullen; offensive linemen John Estes and Hesterale Satele; defensive linemen David Velkune and Michael Lafaele; linebackers Solomon Elumilman and Adam Leonard; defensive back Myron Newberry and kicker Dan Kelly.

2007 All-Western Athletic Conference football teams

Offensive Player of the Year: Colt Brennan, QB, Hawaii

Defensive Player of the Year: Marcus Riley, LB, Fresno State

Freshman of the Year: Colin Kaepernick, QB, Nevada

Coach of the Year: June Jones, Hawaii

Special Award — Offensive Unit of the Year: Davone Bess, WR, Hawaii; Colt Brennan, QB, Hawaii; Ryan Grice-Mullen, WR, Hawaii; C.J. Hawthorne, WR, Hawaii; Jason Rivers, WR, Hawaii

First Team offense

WR: Jeremy Childs, Boise State; Davone Bess, Hawaii; Ryan Grice-Mullen, Hawaii

TE: Bear Pascoe, Fresno State

OL: Ryan Clay, Boise State; Ryan Wendell, Fresno State; John Estes, Hawaii; Hesterale Satele, Hawaii; Dominic Green, Nevada

QB: Colt Brennan, Hawaii

RB: Ian Johnson, Boise State; Luke

Lippincott, Nevada

First Team defense

DL: David Velkune, Hawaii; Tyler Clutts, Fresno State; Nick Schlenker, Boise State; Mike Lafaele, Hawaii

LB: Marcus Riley, Fresno State; Solomon Elumilman, Hawaii; Adam Leonard, Hawaii; David Vobora, Idaho; Matt Castelo, San Jose State

QB: Marty Tadmor, Boise State; Antonio Baker, Louisiana Tech; Myron Newberry, Hawaii; Dwight Lowery, San Jose State

First Team specialists

PK: Dan Kelly, Hawaii

P: Chris Keagle, Louisiana Tech

ST: Kevin Robinson, Utah State

Second Team offense

WR: Jason Rivers, Hawaii; Chris Williams, New Mexico State; Kevin Jurovich, San Jose State

TE: Adam Bishop, Nevada

OL: Ted Miller, Boise State; Adam Kirby,

Idaho; Tyler Miller, Louisiana Tech; Mike

Martinez, New Mexico State; John Bookar, San Jose State; Shawn Murphy, Utah State

QB: Taylor Sharp, Boise State

RB: Deonte Jackson, Idaho; Patrick Jackson, Louisiana Tech

Second Team defense

DL: Josh Muen, Louisiana Tech; Chris Pugh, Louisiana Tech; Matt Hines, Nevada; Jarrod Gilbert, San Jose State

LB: Quin Harris, Louisiana Tech; Ezra Butler, Nevada; Dante Floyd, New Mexico State; Jake Hutton, Utah State

DB: Kyle Wilson, Boise State; Stanley Frank, Idaho; Shiloh Keo, Idaho; Christopher Owens, San Jose State

PK: Kyle Brozman, Boise State

P: Leon Jackson, III, Utah State

ST: A.J. Jefferson, Fresno State

ST: Shiloh Keo, Idaho

Jones: Florida's Tim Tebow is a 'system' quarterback

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Tired of his prolific passer being labeled a so-called "system quarterback," Hawaii coach June Jones on Monday pointed to another star quarterback running a system: Florida's Tim Tebow.

Jones said the key difference, however, is that his record-breaking quarterback, Colt Brennan, runs an NFL-style offense while Tebow runs a "college system."

"My quarterback has been labeled a 'system quarterback for three years," Jones said. "He is the best passer in college history. He is. There is no question about it. Tim Tebow is in a system."

Jones acknowledged Tebow was a

great quarterback who will probably win the Heisman Trophy and a national championship. However, "a lot of his hits are not going to do in the National Football League. That's my point."

The former NFL quarterback and coach addressed comments he made about Tebow late Sunday to ESPN. He questioned whether the Florida quarterback could run Hawaii's run-and-shoot, which is the nation's highest scoring offense. Brennan, meanwhile, could run "any system," he said.

Jones, who said his comments were not meant to demean Tebow in any way, may be involved in some gamesmanship before the Heisman finalists are

announced Wednesday.

"His supporters are infuriated. Gators fans who expressed their displeasure in Internet chat rooms and blogs. They'll have their chance to voice their opinion in person when the Warriors open their 2008 season at The Swamp."

Tebow, who broke his right, non-throwing hand against Florida State on Nov. 24, has accounted for 51 touchdowns this season, making him one of the favorites to win the Heisman.

The sophomore has 838 yards rushing and 22 touchdowns, tying an NCAA record. He also has completed 68.5 percent of his passes for 3,132 yards and 29 touchdowns. He has just six interceptions.

3,000 attend Taylor funeral

MIAMI (AP) — The little girl entered the big gymnasium in a stroller, asleep and oblivious to the 3,000 people on hand to pay last respects to her father, Sean Taylor.

Later, 16-month-old Jackie Taylor was wide awake and running wild sprinks past the huge flower arrangements in front of the stage. Wearing a red dress, she stood and applauded with the rest of the audience following the introduction of her father's team, the Washington Redskins. She weaved in milk bottles, sucked on a pacifier and went up and down the front row hugging grieving relatives.

There were plenty of tears at Taylor's three-hour funeral Monday, but also a ripple of laughter and words of inspiration.

"Let me hear you scream!" shouted the Rev. Jesse Jackson, urging the audience to cheer Taylor's memory. "One more time! This is a celebration!"

The 24-year-old Taylor died last Tuesday, barely 24 hours after he was shot in the bedroom of his home a few miles from where he grew up. Police say he was a victim of a botched burglary, and four young men have been charged with unpremeditated murder.

Three of the suspects were transported from Lee County jail to Miami-Dade County jail Monday evening, said Inocencio Hall, a spokesman for Miami-Dade County jail.

Charles Wardlaw, 16, Jason Mitchell, 19, and Venjah Hunte, 20, were expected to appear in court Tuesday morning, Hall said.

The fourth suspect, Eric Rivera, 17, would be processed at a juvenile detention center in Miami-Dade County, Hall said.

A lawyer for one suspect said a 15th suspect was being sought.

"It's times like this that all of us struggle to find meaning in life," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell told mourners.

"Today my heart is broken," said LaVar Arrington, wearing heavy tears as he recalled his two years as Taylor's teammate with the Redskins. "I'll get through it. We'll all get through it."

The funeral sought closure through prayers, tributes and gospel music. One singer expended so much emotion she collapsed into a chair upon leaving the stage and was carried away in it as the service continued.

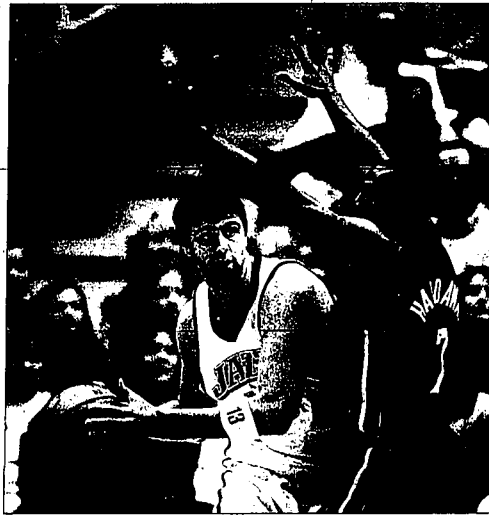
Eulogies by family, friends and dignitaries praised Taylor's baby face, shy smile, kindness, warmth, faith and extraordinary athletic skill.

"Many times God must have looked down and said, 'Man, I made a great football player,'" Redskins coach Joe Gibbs said.

Michael O'Leary recalled the start of his nephew's football career as a 6-year-old with the Homestead Hurricanes. Young Sean was assigned No. 66 and a place on the defensive line.

"He asked me, 'Uncle Michael, what do I do?' I told him, 'Hit the guy with the ball.' That's what he did, over and over," O'Leary said.

Taylor grew into a hard-hitting safety. He helped the Miami Hurricanes win the 2001 national championship, became a first-round NFL draft pick in 2004 and led the NFL in interceptions this season when a knee injury sidelined him last month.



Miami Heat guard Anfernee Hardaway (7) forces Utah Jazz forward Mehmet Okur to pass during the first quarter Monday in Salt Lake City.

Jazz defeat Heat for eighth straight win

SALT LAKE CITY — Mehmet Okur scored 25 points, including four 3-pointers, to lead Utah past Miami 140-101.

Ricky Davis made two free throws to cut the lead to 94-92 with 3:41 to play, but the Jazz went on a 9-2 run to clinch the game. Okur made a 3-pointer from the left side to cap the spurt that put the Jazz ahead 103-94 with 1:19 to play.

Carlos Boozer had 24 points and 15 rebounds while Deron Williams added 24 points and 15 assists to give the Jazz their eighth straight win at home.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 26 points and 10 assists but missed a crucial shot during Utah's final run and went just 6-of-12 from the free throw line. Jason Williams and Davis both scored 15 points for the Heat, who have lost four of their last five games.

TRAIL BLAZERS 106, GRIZZLIES 105
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Travis Outlaw scored 21 points, including the winning 6-foot runner is the buzzer sounded, to give Portland its first road victory of the season, 106-105 over Memphis on Monday night.

Officials reviewed the basket after the game not only to see if Outlaw got the shot off in time, but also whether the clock started properly when Portland inbounded the ball with 2.8 seconds left.

Outlaw took the inbound pass near midcourt and drove the right side on Mike Miller before firing the off-balance bank shot. Outlaw scored the last seven points for the Trail Blazers over the game's final 56 seconds.

It was Outlaw's second buzzer-beater of the game as his 30-footer at the horn cut Memphis' lead to 80-78 at the end of three quarters.

Rudy Gay had 30 points, including a sweeping rebound tip with 2.8 seconds left to give Memphis the lead before Outlaw's winning basket.

Miller had a season-high 30 points for the Grizzlies.

Brandon Roy had 26 points and nine assists for Portland, which had lost its first nine road games this season.

HAWKS 88, 76ERS 79
PHILADELPHIA — Josh Smith scored 22 points and Marvin Williams and L.J. Childress both added 16 as Atlanta

snapped a seven-game losing streak at Philadelphia.

Joe Johnson scored 15 points and Al Horford had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks, who lost won at Philadelphia on March 21, 2003. Atlanta improved to 3-5 on the road this season.

Willie Green scored a season-high 23 points while Andre Miller added 18 for the Sixers, who lost for the 10th time in the last 13 games.

Philadelphia was 2-of-11 from 3-point range. Over the last three games, the Sixers have hit just 5-of-37 3-pointers, including an 0-for-14 effort in last Friday's one-point win over Washington.

RAPTORS 98, BOBCATS 79
TORONTO — Kris Humphries and Corey Delino both scored 17 points and Jeroy Graham added 13 as Toronto shrugged off injuries to three top players.

Jose Calderon had 12 points and nine assists for the Raptors, who won their fourth straight at home.

Gerald Wallace scored 19 points and rode Jared Dudley had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte, which has lost six straight.

Toronto played without forwards Chris Bosh (strained groin) and Andrea Bargnani (hyper-extended left knee) and guard T.J. Ford left Thursday.

Toronto is 2-1 in the three games it has played without Bosh, who leads the team with 10.8 points and 7.9 rebounds.

MAVERICKS 103, BULLS 98
CHICAGO — Josh Howard scored 27 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 25 for Dallas, which saw a 16-point fourth-quarter lead dwindle to three.

Andrew Nocioni hit three free throws to pull Chicago within 101-98 with 11:8 seconds left. Jason Terry answered with two free throws for Dallas, and Chicago's Kirk Hinrich shot an airball on a 3-point shot from the corner.

Howard had 10 rebounds and six assists. Eric Dummit added 10 rebounds and six blocks, and Terry scored 18 points.

The Mavericks were leading 85-69 after Jerry Stackhouse's dunk with 8:16 left, but had to sweat this one out because of Nocioni and Hinrich.

— The Associated Press

Clock ticks on Yankees' talks for Santana

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The New York Yankees appeared set to pull out of trade talks for Johan Santana unless the Minnesota Twins were prepared to strike a deal late Monday night.

"I want to get it done by tonight, one way or another," Yankees senior vice president Hank Steinbrenner said as he left Legends Field, the team's spring training home in Tampa, Fla. "I'm waiting for a meeting in Nashville, and then Brian will give me a call."

As Steinbrenner was speaking, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman was talking to reporters in the Yankees' suite at the sprawling Opryland Hotel, where the four-day winter meetings began. Cashman, much more cautious in his public comments than Steinbrenner, said he had not yet spoken with the Twins but wouldn't say whether he planned to later Monday.

New Twins general manager Bill Smith didn't seem concerned about the deadline. Of course, baseball teams set deadlines past all the time only to resume talks later.

"We've got good players. We have players that maybe other clubs would like to acquire," he said. "We've had a lot of years where we keep going over and picking up the phone receiver to be make sure the deal time was still (there). We couldn't get the phone to ring."

That's not a problem these days, with the Yankees and Boston Red Sox both pursuing Santana, a two-time Cy Young Award winner who can become a free agent after next season, and other teams inquiring about closer Joe Nathan.

While Cashman usually is surrounded by media, even with the Santana spotlight on him Smith leads a low-key existence.

"I passed through the lobby. I can still go under the

radar. There aren't many people who know who the heck I am," he said.

New York offered pitcher Phil Hughes, center fielder Melky Cabrera and a midlevel prospect. The Red Sox are thought to have offered for Lester, Clayton Kershaw, or Jacoby Ellsbury — but only one of them — as part of a deal.

Santana's agent, Peter Greenberg, said his client was angered by a report that he has told the Twins to only trade him to the Yankees or Red Sox. Santana has made no such request, Greenberg said, and also hasn't ruled out returning to the Twins next season.

"He was very adamant about that. He wanted to make sure he was clarified that, 'I want to stay here,'" Greenberg said. "He's been very clear all along that he wants Bill to make the best deal possible."

While the Yankees pressed for a decision, Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein didn't express any time pressure. He said there was no expiration date on any of his trade talks.

New York did get a left-hander Monday: Andy Pettitte declined to pitch for the Yankees next season rather than retire.

Pettitte's agent, Randy Hendricks, said Monday that the 35-year-old lefty had started telling teammates on Sunday. Hendricks then informed Cashman of the news.

Hendricks said Yankees captain Derek Jeter and catcher Jorge Posada had lobbied Pettitte to return, and the pitcher consulted his wife.

After Pettitte declined his \$16 million option last month, wanting more time for his decision, the Yankees left him a standing \$16 million offer.

"Sure. I'm happy," Steinbrenner said. "There's still a couple details to work out there."

SI names Favre 2007 Sportsman of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Brett Favre's standout season for the resurgent Green Bay Packers has earned him the title of 2007 Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year, making him the fourth quarterback to win the award in his 53-year history.

The 34-year-old Favre joins fellow quarterbacks Terry Bradshaw (1979), Joe Montana (1990) and Tom Brady (2005) as recipients of the award, given to an athlete who symbolizes the ideals of sportsmanship.

Favre, a three-time NFL MVP, said in the cover story of the magazine's Dec. 10th issue that leadership is about finding ways to raise his team's level of play.

Favre has started a quarterback-record 249 consecutive games, and this year surpassed Dan Marino for career touchdown passes and yardage.

Favre has had one of the best seasons of his 17-year career with 3,412 yards with 18 touchdowns.

Patriots

Continued from page B1

winning score and his 41st touchdown pass of the season. It's eight short of Peyton Manning's record with four games left.

And New England is four wins shy of the only 16-0 regular season ever. Remaining after the Steelers are the weak Dolphins and Jets, and Saturday night visit to the New York Giants.

That the Ravens, losers of the straight, would test the Patriots so severely was stunning. Indeed, if not for undimly penalties and a fumble of an interception return by Ed Reed, the Ravens might have pulled off one of the biggest upsets in NFL history.

Baltimore got a brilliant effort from Willis McGahee, who rushed for 138 yards and a touchdown. Kyle Boller threw for two scores, and the Ravens managed three sacks.

But they couldn't manage to hang on, although a 52-yard completion to Mark Clayton got them to the New England 3 as time ran out.

The Ravens went in front 17-10 as McGahee starred with six carries for 48 yards on a third-quarter drive. He carried two defenders into the end zone on his 17-yard TD that lifted him over 1,000 yards rushing in his first season with Baltimore.

His score also woke up the dormant Patriots offense. Brady found a rhythm on a 72-yard drive capped by Randy Moss' 3-yard touchdown reception.

NEW MANAGEMENT ORIENTAL MASSAGE Osaka Massage 736-7147

Hall

Continued from page B1

Manager Whitey Herzog and umpire Doug Harvey each missed induction by a single vote.

Dreyfuss helped bring peace between the American and National Leagues by arranging the first World Series in 1903. O'Malley united the East and West Coasts under baseball's flag when he moved the Dodgers to Los Angeles after the 1957 season. Southworth and Williams won World Series titles.

Kuhn presided over the introduction of night games to the World Series and baseball's first, tentative steps into national marketing. But the game also changed in ways he fiercely resisted: Free agency, salary arbitration

and dozens of other benefits that Miller won for the players as the head of their union.

"I think it was rigged, but not to keep me out. It was rigged to bring some of these (people) in. It's not a pretty picture," Miller said by telephone after being informed of the results by The Associated Press. "It's demeaning, the whole thing, and I don't mean just to me. It's demeaning to the Hall and demeaning to the people in it."

The veterans panel has been changed twice since 2001, when charges of cronyism followed the election of glove man Bill Mazeroski.

The original 15-member panel was expanded to include every living member of the Hall, but that

group failed to elect anyone in three tries.

It was replaced by three separate panels — one for players, one for managers and umpires and one for executives and pioneers, leaving Miller's fortunes largely in the hands of the same group he once fought in collective bargaining and the courts.

He did not come close, receiving only three of 12 possible votes. Under the previous system, Miller received 63 percent of the votes earlier this year while Kuhn got 17 percent — a reversal noticed by Miller's successor at the players' union, Donald Fehr.

Kahn, who died in March at the age of 80, is the commissioner elected since Happy Chandler in 1982.

D.J. White has career-high 29 points and No. 15 Indiana survives injury to Gordon

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — D.J. White was on pace for a career best before high-scoring freshman Eric Gordon was injured.

After that, he had no choice but to keep shooting.

"My teammates did a good job getting me the ball early," said White, who scored a career-high 29 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the 15th-ranked Hoosiers' 84-72

victory over Tennessee State on Monday night. "I had to step up. Our leading scorer, our playmaker got hurt, and we all knew we had to step up and play."

The Hoosiers (7-1) led early by as many as 19 points, but Gordon left the game with about six minutes left in the first half after he fell hard to the floor, bruising his lower back. He was taken

for precautionary X-rays and is expected back for Saturday's game against Kentucky, coach Kelvin Sampson said.

In the second game, the Tigers (2-4) rallied within seven points before two straight 3-pointers by Indiana's Steve Stenler—two free throws by Janarius Ellis—then gave Indiana a 73-51 lead and Tennessee State

came no closer than 12 points the rest of the way.

White, a 6-foot-9 senior whose previous high was 21 points, was perfect from the field in the first half and finished 11 of 16 overall. He was 7-of-9 from the free throw line and had four blocked shots.

Mike Ellis finished with 11 points. Ellis had 10 and Stenler finished with nine

for Indiana, which held on for its 22nd straight victory in Assembly Hall.

Bruce Price, who led Tennessee State's comeback scored a career-high 31 points, all but six after the 6-3 Gordon left the game.

Tennessee State coach Cy Alexander said the Tigers' surprising defensive effort in the second half

all 40 minutes in the past two games, finished with eight points, the first time in his college career he scored 17 or more points.

Gordon was 1-of-4 from the field and was knocked to the court as he passed off to White, who was fouled and hit both free throws for a-36.

The game briefly, but the left hinging shortly after that.

BASKETBALL

NBA			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	12	9	.571
Boston	12	9	.571
Brooklyn	12	9	.571
Charlotte	12	9	.571
Chicago	12	9	.571
Cleveland	12	9	.571
Dallas	12	9	.571
Denver	12	9	.571
Detroit	12	9	.571
Golden State	12	9	.571
Houston	12	9	.571
Los Angeles	12	9	.571
Memphis	12	9	.571
Minnesota	12	9	.571
Milwaukee	12	9	.571
Phoenix	12	9	.571
Portland	12	9	.571
Sacramento	12	9	.571
San Antonio	12	9	.571
San Diego	12	9	.571
Seattle	12	9	.571
Utah	12	9	.571
Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

NBA			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	12	9	.571
Boston	12	9	.571
Brooklyn	12	9	.571
Charlotte	12	9	.571
Chicago	12	9	.571
Cleveland	12	9	.571
Dallas	12	9	.571
Denver	12	9	.571
Detroit	12	9	.571
Golden State	12	9	.571
Houston	12	9	.571
Los Angeles	12	9	.571
Memphis	12	9	.571
Minnesota	12	9	.571
Milwaukee	12	9	.571
Phoenix	12	9	.571
Portland	12	9	.571
Sacramento	12	9	.571
San Antonio	12	9	.571
San Diego	12	9	.571
Seattle	12	9	.571
Utah	12	9	.571
Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

GAME PLAN

LOCAL			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	12	9	.571
Boston	12	9	.571
Brooklyn	12	9	.571
Charlotte	12	9	.571
Chicago	12	9	.571
Cleveland	12	9	.571
Dallas	12	9	.571
Denver	12	9	.571
Detroit	12	9	.571
Golden State	12	9	.571
Houston	12	9	.571
Los Angeles	12	9	.571
Memphis	12	9	.571
Minnesota	12	9	.571
Milwaukee	12	9	.571
Phoenix	12	9	.571
Portland	12	9	.571
Sacramento	12	9	.571
San Antonio	12	9	.571
San Diego	12	9	.571
Seattle	12	9	.571
Utah	12	9	.571
Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

WRESTLING

WRESTLING			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	12	9	.571
Boston	12	9	.571
Brooklyn	12	9	.571
Charlotte	12	9	.571
Chicago	12	9	.571
Cleveland	12	9	.571
Dallas	12	9	.571
Denver	12	9	.571
Detroit	12	9	.571
Golden State	12	9	.571
Houston	12	9	.571
Los Angeles	12	9	.571
Memphis	12	9	.571
Minnesota	12	9	.571
Milwaukee	12	9	.571
Phoenix	12	9	.571
Portland	12	9	.571
Sacramento	12	9	.571
San Antonio	12	9	.571
San Diego	12	9	.571
Seattle	12	9	.571
Utah	12	9	.571
Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

TV SCHEDULE

TV SCHEDULE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	12	9	.571
Boston	12	9	.571
Brooklyn	12	9	.571
Charlotte	12	9	.571
Chicago	12	9	.571
Cleveland	12	9	.571
Dallas	12	9	.571
Denver	12	9	.571
Detroit	12	9	.571
Golden State	12	9	.571
Houston	12	9	.571
Los Angeles	12	9	.571
Memphis	12	9	.571
Minnesota	12	9	.571
Milwaukee	12	9	.571
Phoenix	12	9	.571
Portland	12	9	.571
Sacramento	12	9	.571
San Antonio	12	9	.571
San Diego	12	9	.571
Seattle	12	9	.571
Utah	12	9	.571
Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	12	9	.571
Boston	12	9	.571
Brooklyn	12	9	.571
Charlotte	12	9	.571
Chicago	12	9	.571
Cleveland	12	9	.571
Dallas	12	9	.571
Denver	12	9	.571
Detroit	12	9	.571
Golden State	12	9	.571
Houston	12	9	.571
Los Angeles	12	9	.571
Memphis	12	9	.571
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Milwaukee	12	9	.571
Phoenix	12	9	.571
Portland	12	9	.571
Sacramento	12	9	.571
San Antonio	12	9	.571
San Diego	12	9	.571
Seattle	12	9	.571
Utah	12	9	.571
Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

LOCAL

LOCAL			
Team	W	L	Pct.
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Boston	12	9	.571
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Wizards	12	9	.571

WRESTLING

WRESTLING			
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Charlotte	12	9	.571
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TV SCHEDULE

TV SCHEDULE			
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Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL			
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Utah	12	9	.571
Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

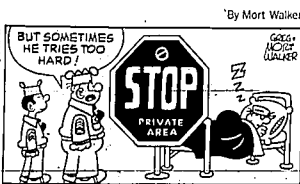
FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL			
Team	W	L	Pct.
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Seattle	12	9	.571
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Washington	12	9	.571
Wizards	12	9	.571

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL				
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San Diego	12	9	.571	
Seattle	12	9	.571	
Utah	12	9	.571	
Washington	12	9	.571	

Beetle Bailey



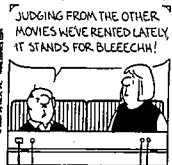
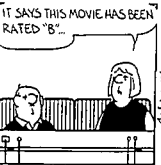
By Mort Walker

Blondie



By Dean Young & Stan Drake

The Born Loser



By Art Sansom & Chip

Garfield



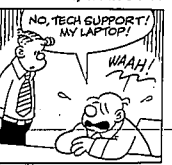
By Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible



By Chris Browne

Hi and Lois



By Chance Browne

Classic Peanuts



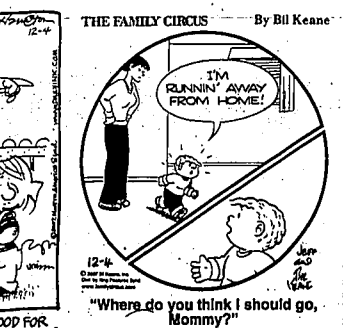
By Charles M. Schulz

The Wizard of Id



By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

Dennis the Menace



By Hank Ketcham

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane

Office popcorn fragrance causes some to swoon



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I laughed out loud when I read the letter from "Believes in Decomm. Eugene, Ore." (Oct. 15), whose office reeked of popcorn.

I work for a theater company that shares office space with two sister companies and an investment firm. All are owned by the same family. Several times a month someone will make popcorn, and yes, the smell travels throughout the building. Co-workers often stop in the break room exclaiming, "Oh! Who made popcorn?" You'd be surprised at how many visitors ask if they can have some. It's a great icebreaker.

On a side note, if the smell is offensive to some, why not compromise and buy pre-popped popcorn?

—LOVES POPCORN IN DALLAS

DEAR ABBY: That's not a bad suggestion. Frankly, I was surprised at the number of readers who "tweaked" me on this subject — most of whom thought my answer stunk. And I must admit, there are kernels of wisdom in their responses:

DEAR ABBY: Those of us who are allergic to corn or other ingredients in microwave popcorn must certainly DO object to popcorn fumes. They make us deathly ill! I avoid any business that pops popcorn, or I

risk a severe allergic reaction, which, can include anaphylaxis among other serious symptoms. The office manager in that office is right to put a stop to microwave popcorn. It's not safe for everyone.

—DONNIE IN CONCORD, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: I am a lawyer. I agree with the office manager. The chemical smell of microwave popcorn is nauseating and, indeed, unprofessional. Recent stories in the media have revealed that the fake "butter" chemicals (diacetyl) can cause cancers in factory workers who produce it. Also, this is a small commonly associated with casual environmental sources such as movie theaters, county fairs, and nights at home in front of the television.

It is not appropriate for a law firm unless the office is large enough and has a sophisticated air filtration system so the odor can be confined to a back room.

—ANN ARBOR LAWYER

DEAR ABBY: The smell of nuked popcorn makes my

throat itch and my eyes water. There is supporting evidence that the fumes may be hazardous to your health.

May I suggest an alternative? Switch to something healthy like granola bars or herbal teas, and perhaps add, a general attitude adjustment.

—GLENN, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

DEAR ABBY: The woman who was concerned about the popcorn smell in their office needs to know that the odor may be the least of her problem. In many public offices and buildings, it's against the fire code to microwave popcorn. The bags catch fire easily because the fat inside creates a lot of heat while cooking the kernels, and they can go from "pop" to "black" in only a couple of seconds. Many fires have started this way.

"Believes" should investigate what the regulations are in her area. She may have a valid reason to ask "Sissy" to switch snacks.

—CATIE B., WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: The eight days of Hanukkah begin at sundown. I can't believe how early it has fallen this year. Allow me to wish all of you a happy Festival of Lights!

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2007. There are 27 days left in the year. The Jewish festival of Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

Today's highlight:

On Dec. 4, 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

On this date:

In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

In 1918, President Wilson sent 310 for France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.

In 1942, President Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during

the Depression.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Commander James A. Lovell aboard.

In 1977, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, ruler of the Central African Empire, crowned himself emperor in a lavish ceremony. (Bokassa was deposed in 1979; he died in 1996 at age 75.)

In 1978, San Francisco got its first female mayor as City Supervisor Dianne Feinstein was named to replace the assassinated George Moscone.

In 1991, the original Pan American World Airways ceased operations.

In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral and began speeding toward Mars on an odyssey of 310 million miles. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

Ten years ago: The National Basketball Association suspended All-Star Latrell Sprewell for one year for clocking and threatening to kill his coach, Elgin Baylor. (An arbitrator later reduced the suspension and reinstated

ed Sprewell to the Warriors, which had terminated his contract.)

Five years ago: United Airlines lost \$1.6 billion in federal loan guarantees, a major setback to the nation's second-largest air carrier. In 2003, Supreme Court justices heard arguments on whether federal laws intended to combat organized crime and corruption could be used against anti-abortion demonstrators. (The court later ruled that such laws were improperly used to punish abortion opponents.)

One year ago: Lacking the Senate votes to keep his job, embattled U.N. Ambassador John Bolton offered his resignation to President Bush, who accepted it. Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith was convicted in the Philippines of raping a Filipino woman and sentenced to 40 years in prison. Texas driver "Byron" Williams was convicted in Houston of the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed into a sweltering tractor-trailer. NASA announced plans to build an international base camp on the moon.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actress-singer Deanna Durbin is 86. Game show host Wink Martindale is 73. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 70. Actress Gemma Jones is 65. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is 65. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 63. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 60. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 59. Actor Jeff Bridges is 58. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd) is 58. The Rossington Collins Band is 56. Actress Patricia Richardson is 56. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 52. Country musician Brian Proust (Diamond Rio) is 52. Rock musician Bob

Griffin (The BoDeans) is 48. Rock singer Vinny Dembroski (Sponge) is 45. Actress Maria Tamel is 43. Actress Chelsea Noble is 43. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 41. Rapper Jay-Z is 38. Actor Kevin Sussman ("Ugly Betty") is 37. Actress model Tyra Banks is 34. Country singer Lila McCann is 26. Actress Lindsay Felton is 23. Actor Orlando Brown is 20.



THOUGHT

"People who have what they want are fond of telling people who haven't what they want that they really don't want it."

—Ogden Nash, American humorist and poet (1902-1972)

Jennifer Love Hewitt isn't laughing

NEW YORK (AP) — An angry Jennifer Love Hewitt is defending her curves after photos of her in a bikini were ridiculed on the Internet.

"I've sat by in silence for a long time now about the way women's bodies are constantly scrutinized," the 28-year-old actress writes on her Web site. "To set the record straight, I'm not upset for me, but for all the girls out there that are struggling with their body image."

The photos show Hewitt, with a bit of cellulite, on a Hawaii beach with her new fiancé, Scottish actor Ross McCall.

Several sites posted the shots, along with some less-than-complimentary comments. TMZ.com, for example, said, "We know what you ate this summer. Love — every thing."

"A size 2 is not fat. Nor will it ever be," Hewitt responded in a post Thursday. "And being a size 2 doesn't make you beautiful."

"What I should be doing is celebrating some of the best days of my life and my engagement to the man of my dreams, instead of having to deal with photographers taking invasive pictures from bad angles."

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: A few very early morning flurries, then mostly cloudy.
 Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy skies. Low: near 30.
 Tomorrow: A bit cooler with more clouds. Highs: near 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Chance morning flurries, then mostly cloudy skies.
 Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy. Low: near 30.
 Tomorrow: Continued mostly cloudy. Highs: lower 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS.
 The heaviest snow has moved out of the high country, but today and tomorrow still hold chances for light lingering snow showers as moisture continues to come in from the west.

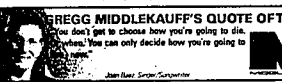
BOISE
 Today High: 31-32. Tonight's Low: 18-23. The moved out of the high country, but today and tomorrow still hold chances for light lingering snow showers as moisture continues to come in from the west.

Thursday will be sunny but cooler.

NORTHERN UTAH
 The main storm track will stay out of the area today. A batch of moisture coming in from the west will bring in some snow on Wednesday.



Yesterday's State Forecast: 50 at Twin Falls. Low: 11 at Pocatello. Weather key: 100 percent cloudy; 80 to 99 percent cloudy; 60 to 79 percent cloudy; 40 to 59 percent cloudy; 20 to 39 percent cloudy; 10 to 19 percent cloudy; 0 to 9 percent cloudy; 0 to 9 percent cloudy; 0 to 9 percent cloudy.



Gregg Middlekauff, author of the quote of the day.

REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
 "You don't get to choose how you're going to die. You just get to choose how you're going to live."

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly cloudy	Variably cloudy	Still mostly cloudy	Clouds sticking around	Rain to mixed showers or snow	Cooler, light snow possible
High: 30	Low: 33	46 / 28	41 / 25	36 / 23	37 / 21

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric	Sunrise and Sunset
Yesterday's Low: 33	Month to Date: 0.01"	Yesterday's Humidity: 40%	Yesterday's 3024 ft.	Today's Sunrise: 7:52 AM. Sunset: 5:09 PM.
Today's High: 31	Year to Date: 2.26"	Today's Humidity: 40%	Today's 3024 ft.	Today's Sunrise: 7:54 AM. Sunset: 5:09 PM.
Month's Low: 18	Year to Date: 2.26"	Month's Humidity: 40%	Month's 3024 ft.	Month's Sunrise: 7:54 AM. Sunset: 5:09 PM.
Month's High: 46	Year to Date: 2.26"	Month's Humidity: 40%	Month's 3024 ft.	Month's Sunrise: 7:54 AM. Sunset: 5:09 PM.

REGIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
Boise	31-32	30-31	28-29
Burley	30-31	29-30	27-28
Idaho Falls	29-30	28-29	26-27
Pocatello	28-29	27-28	25-26
Rupert	27-28	26-27	24-25
Twin Falls	26-27	25-26	23-24
Walla Walla	25-26	24-25	22-23
Yakima	24-25	23-24	21-22
Spokane	23-24	22-23	20-21
Seattle	22-23	21-22	19-20
Portland	21-22	20-21	18-19
San Francisco	20-21	19-20	17-18
Los Angeles	19-20	18-19	16-17
San Diego	18-19	17-18	15-16
Phoenix	17-18	16-17	14-15
Las Vegas	16-17	15-16	13-14
Albuquerque	15-16	14-15	12-13
Denver	14-15	13-14	11-12
Chicago	13-14	12-13	10-11
New York	12-13	11-12	9-10
Washington	11-12	10-11	8-9

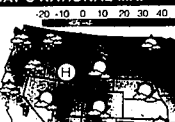
NATIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
Boise	31-32	30-31	28-29
Burley	30-31	29-30	27-28
Idaho Falls	29-30	28-29	26-27
Pocatello	28-29	27-28	25-26
Rupert	27-28	26-27	24-25
Twin Falls	26-27	25-26	23-24
Walla Walla	25-26	24-25	22-23
Yakima	24-25	23-24	21-22
Spokane	23-24	22-23	20-21
Seattle	22-23	21-22	19-20
Portland	21-22	20-21	18-19
San Francisco	20-21	19-20	17-18
Los Angeles	19-20	18-19	16-17
San Diego	18-19	17-18	15-16
Phoenix	17-18	16-17	14-15
Las Vegas	16-17	15-16	13-14
Albuquerque	15-16	14-15	12-13
Denver	14-15	13-14	11-12
Chicago	13-14	12-13	10-11
New York	12-13	11-12	9-10
Washington	11-12	10-11	8-9

WORLD FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
Boise	31-32	30-31	28-29
Burley	30-31	29-30	27-28
Idaho Falls	29-30	28-29	26-27
Pocatello	28-29	27-28	25-26
Rupert	27-28	26-27	24-25
Twin Falls	26-27	25-26	23-24
Walla Walla	25-26	24-25	22-23
Yakima	24-25	23-24	21-22
Spokane	23-24	22-23	20-21
Seattle	22-23	21-22	19-20
Portland	21-22	20-21	18-19
San Francisco	20-21	19-20	17-18
Los Angeles	19-20	18-19	16-17
San Diego	18-19	17-18	15-16
Phoenix	17-18	16-17	14-15
Las Vegas	16-17	15-16	13-14
Albuquerque	15-16	14-15	12-13
Denver	14-15	13-14	11-12
Chicago	13-14	12-13	10-11
New York	12-13	11-12	9-10
Washington	11-12	10-11	8-9

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Slive: Blame game, not system

McDonald's or any other company got only one out of every four orders right, the place would be empty the next day. Not the Bowl Championship Series.

Business has never been better. The people in charge have more money to throw around, more of their pals at the chambers of commerce are starting in the take and their TV partner couldn't be happier, largely because the suckers who pay the freight by tuning into the games aren't going anywhere.

Meanwhile, college football's national championship is more "mythical" than ever.

Since hijacking the game's postseason in 1998 with the promise of matching No. 1 vs. No. 2 in the title game, the BCS has delivered exactly twice.

Once in 2002, when undefeated Miami and Ohio State met, and again in 2005, when Texas and Southern California did the same.

This year? Don't ask.

Befitting a season that began with a colossal upset and got more unpredictable as it unfolded, Ohio State will play LSU on Jan. 7 in New Orleans.

The Tigers' appearance marks the first time a two-loss team made the championship game. That means any of the four other two-loss teams that are ranked among the top seven — Virginia Tech, Oklahoma, Georgia and USC — could win their bowl game and make a plausible argument about being national champs.

Still, when it comes to tortured logic, they'd all have to take a back seat to the BCS.

"I don't think it's too much the system as it is the year," BCS chief and Southeastern Conference commissioner Mike Slive said Sunday night, in a classic case of blaming the victim.

It's not the system's responsibility to sort themselves out, Mike. That's what championships are for.

The difference is that just about every other sport at every level has decided to leave the field, without worrying about whether it's good for tourism, Fox Sports, their cronies, apologists and hired computer geeks.

But their cynicism doesn't end there. In the past, the BCS funded off demands for a playoff by "tweaking" the format — a half-dozen times in its brief tenure — only to find another tweak or two is needed the following year.

What they've done the past two years to escape the blame for the mess they've made is suggest they might be ready to change.

"What I find interesting about this year ... is this year an anomaly or is it this year a precursor to what we might see in the future," Slive said. "And then trying to analyze that question leads us to the discussion we have had on numerous occasions about whether this format needs an adjustment."

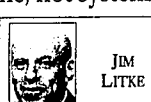
Slive and his pals back at headquarters already know how the "format" should be adjusted — and have from the beginning a plan for some sort. That's why a fifth BCS game was tacked into the current TV deal that runs through the 2011 bowls. Known as a "plus-one," it could be played after the four BCS games as a kind of college football Super Bowl.

Yet when Slive was asked during a conference call how soon it might happen, this is how he answered (keep in mind that he's a lawyer by training): "We have to put this one in the mix and look at it. If you go to a plus-one, you're going to have years in which it's just very, very appropriate. You're going to have years when it may not be so appropriate ... The only way to solve that is to have a flexible format and just make sure that we look at the standings and then decide how to finish the year."

Translation: We ain't changing any time soon. We like things exactly the way they are and as long as we have the TV rights and the backing of the university presidents from the power conferences, we'll keep making it up as we go along.

If the truth-in-advertising laws applied to college football this season, the BCS would just go ahead and cancel the title game. There's no clear No. 1 — Ohio State hasn't beaten a Top 10 team and lost to Illinois, which was unranked when it beat the Buckeyes and is No. 13 in the current BCS rankings. There's no clear No. 2, either. LSU lost both its games in triple overtime — but against teams that finished 8-4 (Arkansas) and 7-5 (Kentucky) and outside the BCS Top 25. The cases for all the other contenders get even weaker from there on out.

College football's national championships were "mythical" long before the BCS inserted itself into the process. Teams played in bowl games based on conference ties, and afterward, writers weighed in and people argued over their handiwork for days.



Jim Litke

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All the BCS has done is take over the tabulating, add a dose of pseudo-science — check out the three computers that have mislabeled the University of Oklahoma, even though the Sooners beat the Tigers twice, once on a neutral field and, pocke a nice chunk of the profits. McDonald's couldn't get away with that, either.

2007-HEISMAN WATCH

McFadden plays brilliant again

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of 2007 Heisman Trophy candidate profiles written by The Associated Press.

FAVETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Week after week, Darren McFadden calmly answered questions, doing his best to shrug off all the hype about the Heisman Trophy.

Then he'd take the field — and hear about it some more.

"A lot of trash talk going on after plays," McFadden said. "They were always just like, 'Come on—Heisman.' They say anything when they tackle you, you know?"

McFadden should excuse those defensive players if they were a little mouthy. Tackling him is quite an accomplishment.

After finishing second in the Heisman voting last year, the Arkansas tailback is again a top candidate to win college football's most prestigious award.

McFadden ran at this year's honor rally began last season, when he rushed for 1,647 yards and led the Razorbacks to the Southeastern Conference title game.

He had no chance to out-pull Ohio State's Troy Smith, but as the Heisman runner-up, he had a head start on this season. Everyone wanted to know what was in store for McFadden's junior season. The answer: more of the same.

"I feel like I had a great season," McFadden said. "I feel like I accomplished my main goal — for me to exceed what I did last year. I feel like I did that."

McFadden rushed for 1,745 yards in 12 games — more than he did in 14 games last season. His versatility is common knowledge by now. McFadden occasionally lines up as a quarterback. He's completed six passes this season, four for touchdowns.

McFadden also returns kickoffs, and at 6-foot-2, he's a bruising blocker when he doesn't have the ball.

Is that enough to win the Heisman? He'll find out this week. McFadden has strong competition, particularly from Florida quarterback Tim Tebow. Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel, who will face McFadden and 25th-ranked Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl, also is a contender.



Arkansas running back Darren McFadden (5) jumps over LSU safety Greg Steltz during the third overtime period of their college football game in Baton Rouge, La., on Nov. 23. McFadden rushed for three touchdowns and threw for another to lift Arkansas to a 50-48 victory over the top-ranked Tigers.

"When Darren McFadden is at his highest level, there's not a defense in this country that can stop him," said Reggie Herro, who took over as Arkansas' interim coach when Houston A. Nutt resigned last week. "He needs blockers just like every other great running back, but what he's done over the past two years is more than enough to secure a Heisman Trophy."

"Just by the prerequisite of what's been in the past, looking at stats and what you've done on the field and how important you are to a football team, I think Darren McFadden exemplifies that and then some."

McFadden's campaign was on track in September. He ran for 195 yards against Alabama in a 41-30 loss. It's easy to wonder how different the Razorbacks' season could have been if they'd won that game — and they might have if McFadden hadn't missed the end with a concussion.

The following weekend, he ran for 173 yards in a 42-29 loss to Kentucky.

Those two defeats increased the outcry against Nutt, and McFadden was third on the SEC's career rushing list at 4,465 yards. He can turn pro after this season, so if the Cotton Bowl is his last

game, he'll need 73 yards on New Year's Day to pass Kevin Faulk for second place.

Arkansas is 0-3 in the SEC. That game remains a significant blemish on his resume.

Needing a big November to save his Heisman hopes, McFadden delivered. In Arkansas' first game of the month, he tied an SEC record by running for 321 yards against South Carolina. Then came the regular-season finale Nov. 23: McFadden ran for 206 yards and three touchdowns and also threw for a touchdown to lead the Razorbacks over then-No. 1 LSU 50-48 in triple overtime.

"I just want my guy to be mentioned in that Heisman (race)," Nutt said after the LSU game, shortly before he left the Razorbacks and was hired by Mississippi. "He was second last year in the Heisman Trophy ballot and he's having a better year this year, so why wouldn't he be there?"

McFadden is third on the SEC's career rushing list at 4,465 yards. He can turn pro after this season, so if the Cotton Bowl is his last

game, he'll need 73 yards on New Year's Day to pass Kevin Faulk for second place. The Razorbacks have never had a Heisman winner, and their fractured fan base could use a reason to cheer as a tumultuous year draws to a close.

McFadden has made his bid. Now it's up to the voters.

"It would make you feel like you made your history around the state," McFadden said. "You'd see your mark. It would be a great feeling for me."

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LARIS '05 RM
800, super clean, re
15x2" track, light
height. SLP can. on
1500-miles. S4,800
25-827-6518

LARIS '07 XC60

Call 208-308-4667.

LARIS '08.
550, runs great.
\$1,000 firm.
Call 208-734-3210

1 DOO '00
1000 Highmark 151",
bullet motor, \$2800.
Call 280-3250.

1 DOO '03 800 Summit
14' 141", 1700 miles;
bullet 22" handle bar ex

208-734-4210.

5500, Yamaha '00
Mountain Viper, 1,85
miles, 144 inch trac
3500, 208-312-4266

MAHA '07 Mountain
hazer, 4 stroke
white & gray, 23
miles, \$5,500. Call
339-0896 or 487-357

11

ON-

07

CH BY CO.

actor tire - 5
actor seats -
er - knife se
eeth; 14" -
vex implant

KAYE WALLACE
(208) 420-7111
auctioneers

907
Travel Trailers
SUGAR-'07-276rh

7' 5th wheel, used
100 times, need
money for medical
expenses, \$25000.00
Please call 208-431-
029 or 431-8249.

a.

24/7
Classified Ac

Placement
magicvalley.com

907 Travel Trailers

EVEREST '04 5' wheel by Keystone, 34' exc cond, 3 slides, lots of storage, microwave, 2007/2008/2009/2010/2011/2012/2013/2014/2015/2016/2017/2018/2019/2020/2021/2022/2023/2024/2025/2026/2027/2028/2029/2030/2031/2032/2033/2034/2035/2036/2037/2038/2039/2040/2041/2042/2043/2044/2045/2046/2047/2048/2049/2050/2051/2052/2053/2054/2055/2056/2057/2058/2059/2060/2061/2062/2063/2064/2065/2066/2067/2068/2069/2070/2071/2072/2073/2074/2075/2076/2077/2078/2079/2080/2081/2082/2083/2084/2085/2086/2087/2088/2089/2090/2091/2092/2093/2094/2095/2096/2097/2098/2099/2100/2101/2102/2103/2104/2105/2106/2107/2108/2109/2110/2111/2112/2113/2114/2115/2116/2117/2118/2119/2120/2121/2122/2123/2124/2125/2126/2127/2128/2129/2130/2131/2132/2133/2134/2135/2136/2137/2138/2139/2140/2141/2142/2143/2144/2145/2146/2147/2148/2149/2150/2151/2152/2153/2154/2155/2156/2157/2158/2159/2160/2161/2162/2163/2164/2165/2166/2167/2168/2169/2170/2171/2172/2173/2174/2175/2176/2177/2178/2179/2180/2181/2182/2183/2184/2185/2186/2187/2188/2189/2190/2191/2192/2193/2194/2195/2196/2197/2198/2199/2200/2201/2202/2203/2204/2205/2206/2207/2208/2209/2210/2211/2212/2213/2214/2215/2216/2217/2218/2219/2220/2221/2222/2223/2224/2225/2226/2227/2228/2229/2230/2231/2232/2233/2234/2235/2236/2237/2238/2239/2240/2241/2242/2243/2244/2245/2246/2247/2248/2249/2250/2251/2252/2253/2254/2255/2256/2257/2258/2259/2260/2261/2262/2263/2264/2265/2266/2267/2268/2269/2270/2271/2272/2273/2274/2275/2276/2277/2278/2279/2280/2281/2282/2283/2284/2285/2286/2287/2288/2289/2290/2291/2292/2293/2294/2295/2296/2297/2298/2299/2300/2301/2302/2303/2304/2305/2306/2307/2308/2309/2310/2311/2312/2313/2314/2315/2316/2317/2318/2319/2320/2321/2322/2323/2324/2325/2326/2327/2328/2329/2330/2331/2332/2333/2334/2335/2336/2337/2338/2339/2340/2341/2342/2343/2344/2345/2346/2347/2348/2349/2350/2351/2352/2353/2354/2355/2356/2357/2358/2359/2360/2361/2362/2363/2364/2365/2366/2367/2368/2369/2370/2371/2372/2373/2374/2375/2376/2377/2378/2379/2380/2381/2382/2383/2384/2385/2386/2387/2388/2389/2390/2391/2392/2393/2394/2395/2396/2397/2398/2399/2400/2401/2402/2403/2404/2405/2406/2407/2408/2409/2410/2411/2412/2413/2414/2415/2416/2417/2418/2419/2420/2421/2422/2423/2424/2425/2426/2427/2428/2429/2430/2431/2432/2433/2434/2435/2436/2437/2438/2439/2440/2441/2442/2443/2444/2445/2446/2447/2448/2449/2450/2451/2452/2453/2454/2455/2456/2457/2458/2459/2460/2461/2462/2463/2464/2465/2466/2467/2468/2469/2470/2471/2472/2473/2474/2475/2476/2477/2478/2479/2480/2481/2482/2483/2484/2485/2486/2487/2488/2489/2490/2491/2492/2493/2494/2495/2496/2497/2498/2499/2500/2501/2502/2503/2504/2505/2506/2507/2508/2509/2510/2511/2512/2513/2514/2515/2516/2517/2518/2519/2520/2521/2522/2523/2524/2525/2526/2527/2528/2529/2530/2531/2532/2533/2534/2535/2536/2537/2538/2539/2540/2541/2542/2543/2544/2545/2546/2547/2548/2549/2550/2551/2552/2553/2554/2555/2556/2557/2558/2559/2560/2561/2562/2563/2564/2565/2566/2567/2568/2569/2570/2571/2572/2573/2574/2575/2576/2577/2578/2579/2580/2581/2582/2583/2584/2585/2586/2587/2588/2589/2590/2591/2592/2593/2594/2595/2596/2597/2598/2599/2600/2601/2602/2603/2604/2605/2606/2607/2608/2609/2610/2611/2612/2613/2614/2615/2616/2617/2618/2619/2620/2621/2622/2623/2624/2625/2626/2627/2628/2629/2630/2631/2632/2633/2634/2635/2636/2637/2638/2639/2640/2641/2642/2643/2644/2645/2646/2647/2648/2649/2650/2651/2652/2653/2654/2655/2656/2657/2658/2659/2660/2661/2662/2663/2664/2665/2666/2667/2668/2669/2670/2671/2672/2673/2674/2675/2676/2677/2678/2679/2680/2681/2682/2683/2684/2685/2686/2687/2688/2689/2690/2691/2692/2693/2694/2695/2696/2697/2698/2699/2700/2701/2702/2703/2704/2705/2706/2707/2708/2709/2710/2711/2712/2713/2714/2715/2716/2717/2718/2719/2720/2721/2722/2723/2724/2725/2726/2727/2728/2729/2730/2731/2732/2733/2734/2735/2736/2737/2738/2739/2740/2741/2742/2743/2744/2745/2746/2747/2748/2749/2750/2751/2752/2753/2754/2755/2756/2757/2758/2759/2760/2761/2762/2763/2764/2765/2766/2767/2768/2769/2770/2771/2772/2773/2774/2775/2776/2777/2778/2779/2780/2781/2782/2783/2784/2785/2786/2787/2788/2789/2790/2791/2792/2793/2794/2795/2796/2797/2798/2799/2800/2801/2802/2803/2804/2805/2806/2807/2808/2809/2810/2811/2812/2813/2814/2815/2816/2817/2818/2819/2820/2821/2822/2823/2824/2825/2826/2827/2828/2829/2830/2831/2832/2833/2834/2835/2836/2837/2838/2839/2840/2841/2842/2843/2844/2845/2846/2847/2848/2849/2850/2851/2852/2853/2854/2855/2856/2857/2858/2859/2860/2861/2862/2863/2864/2865/2866/2867/2868/2869/2870/2871/2872/2873/2874/2875/2876/2877/2878/2879/2880/2881/2882/2883/2884/2885/2886/2887/2888/2889/2890/2891/2892/2893/2894/2895/2896/2897/2898/2899/2900/2901/2902/2903/2904/2905/2906/2907/2908/2909/2910/2911/2912/2913/2914/2915/2916/2917/2918/2919/2920/2921/2922/2923/2924/2925/2926/2927/2928/2929/2930/2931/2932/2933/2934/2935/2936/2937/2938/2939/2940/2941/2942/2943/2944/2945/2946/2947/2948/2949/2950/2951/2952/2953/2954/2955/2956/2957/2958/2959/2960/2961/2962/2963/2964/2965/2966/2967/2968/2969/2970/2971/2972/2973/2974/2975/2976/2977/2978/2979/2980/2981/2982/2983/2984/2985/2986/2987/2988/2989/2990/2991/2992/2993/2994/2995/2996/2997/2998/2999/3000/3001/3002/3003/3004/3005/3006/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2	6	1	4	9	8	7	3	5
8	3	7	1	2	5	6	9	4
3	9	5	8	1	4	2	6	7
1	8	2	5	7	6	3	4	9
6	7	4	9	3	2	5	1	8
5	4	3	2	8	1	9	7	6
9	2	6	7	4	3	8	5	1
7	1	8	6	5	9	4	2	3

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INSIDE: Options to fix an ailing blue spruce, D2 | Magic Valley, D3 | Obituaries, D4 | Nation/Idaho/West, D5 | World, D6

What makes winter?

The science of the season

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

At MagicValley.com

Think you know winter? Take a quiz to test your freezing facts.

Take a few steps outside, and there's no escaping it — it's winter. The air is crisp and cold, frost laces the grass, and dark clouds in earlier each day.

But why? What causes animals to develop thick coats, or water to run in a ditch when, all around, puddles are frozen? For a city dweller, winter can be a nuisance, causing snow days and sliding cars. But when crops or livestock are on the line, knowing the whys and hows of winter is more important — for even small farms, that can mean the difference between profit and loss, success and foreclosure.

Why winter in the first place?

Chalk that up to the tilt of the earth. The planet rotates on its axis once every 24 hours — that's what makes night and day — but it also tilts to one side. If the Northern Hemisphere is closer to the sun, it will be summer there and winter in the Southern Hemisphere, and vice versa. If the earth's axis were perpendicular to its orbit, there wouldn't be seasons.

"We could pick the climate we wanted based on how far away from the equator we were," said Todd Bronson, assistant professor of chemistry at the College of Southern Idaho. And if the earth didn't rotate, and the U.S. happened to be on the side turned away from the sun, we wouldn't have days. "If we didn't get any sun, we'd be frozen solid right now."

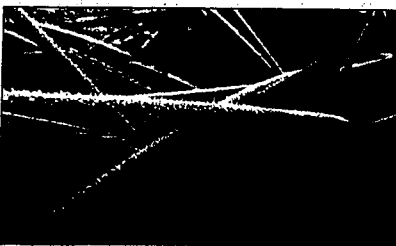
Because the earth does rotate, and it does tilt relative to the sun, the planet has seasons, and daylight hours get shorter for half the year. With less sun shining down, it gets colder.

Thus, winter. Of course, other factors play a role as well, including global changes in climate like the one most scientists agree the planet is undergoing. Longtime southern Idaho residents like retired farmer Francis Karel of Buhl have noticed a change in just a few decades.

"I don't think we're getting as much snow now as we used to, 20 or 25 years ago or earlier," Karel said. When he was growing up in the '40s and '50s, he said, his family had to shovel out after a big snow as many as a dozen times a year, while last year he had to break out the tractors only twice.

Thicker coats and shedding trees

It may be easier to get around



now, but Karel wishes winters would get harder again, because less snowfall means less water in the spring, which spells danger to crops.

"We're hoping we get more snow this year, and it'll turn around, because we need the water. If we don't get snow in the mountains, especially, we're in trouble," he said.

At Karel's farm, he has adjusted to accommodate cold weather. The pipes that bring water to his livestock troughs are buried three feet deep so they don't freeze, and he goes out each morning the mercury drops to break the ice at the top of the troughs. With no green pastures for grazing, he must put out alfalfa or hay to help the cows produce enough energy to fight the cold, and the diesel engines in his farm equipment require plug-in heaters to get them going on the coldest mornings.

Winter may not be Karel's favorite season. "A little bit of it goes a long ways," he said. "It's harder to get around and harder to work because you have to have more clothes on." But he has fond memories of the snowy cold, too, including the winter of 1948-49, when four feet of snow spurred him and his friends to build bobsleds out of fence posts and wooden boxes.

Dragging that bobsled was a horse, which undoubtedly had a thick winter coat. To survive, animals adapt to the same factors that cause the cold — shorter days and thus less warming sun.

"(The length of this day) has a big impact on the pineal gland. This gland secretes a hormone called melatonin that's secreted at night, not during the day," said Barry Pate, animal science instructor at CSI. This same hormone causes seasonal affective disorder in some humans, but in animals it regulates when thick-insulating winter hair begins to grow, when certain species become fertile, and when other species hibernate.

In southern Idaho, not many species truly hibernate. Some, like bears, may slow metabolism and sleep much more, but their body temperature does not approach freezing and they can be woken. In true hibernation, like that in bats or ground squirrels, the animal can't be woken until spring, and its metabolism all but stops.

"The other thing that affects coat length is cold temperatures," Pate said. Scientists believe that breathing in cold air past the thy-



roid gland is another trigger that winter is on the way, he said.

Plants make similar adjustments.

As soon as the days start to shorten, a lot of plants convert their sugar into carbohydrates for winter survival," said George Manne, general manager at Halley Wholesale Nursery in Gooding. "They start to lose their leaves so when they're dormant they will no longer be respirating or losing water."

Some plants grow well in cold weather, while others do not; this is attributable to differences in the composition of fluids and cell walls. "Some plants have more antifreeze in them than others," Manne said.

The biggest danger winter poses to trees and other plants is if they get cues that it's spring, and then are frozen again.

"For deciduous trees, it's a good idea to wrap the trunk with something that reflects light, especially in the later part of the winter when the sap starts to flow. At night (sap) will freeze and it can crack the bark," he said. The same is true for all live trees at Christmas time. "A Christmas light on a tree can give enough heat that it will break dormancy and the new growth will be killed by frost."

Most of Karel's trees have survived well over winter, except for a few. "If it gets down to 30 below or something for any length of time, it'll kill our peach trees and we have to start over," he said.

When water meets winter

The idea behind freezing sap in trees and freezing water on a lake is the same. At a certain temperature, every liquid becomes a solid. For water, that temperature is about 32 degrees, when it turns to ice.

When that water is vapor in the air, it turns to frost, falling onto lawns and windshields and leaving a fine white dusting of ice. When that water is high in the atmosphere, it falls as snow.

Depending on the temperature of the air and the ground, snow can be large, sticky flakes; tiny, smooth pellets; or a variety of other appearances. What's best for snowmen and snowball fights?

"If (flakes) form more densely or higher up, or at temperatures when they're partially liquid, they



Helping backyard critters through the season

Times-News

Make life a little easier for a squirrel. Or a raccoon. Or a skunk.

"Although wild animals are able to adapt to survive cold winter temperatures and food limitations, there are small things that people can do to help them this time of year," said Laura Simon, field director of urban wildlife for The Humane Society of the United States. "We suggest several gifts of the season that can give our backyard neighbors a warm boost during the holidays."

The society's tips:
• Keep bird feeders full in the winter, as food availability is limited for non-migratory birds.
• Fill large pine cones with peanut butter and roll them in sunflower

seeds. Attach a string to the top and hang from a branch for birds.
• Invest in a heated birdbath and keep it filled all winter. Birds need the water when most natural sources may be frozen.

• Put decorative snowflakes 4 inches apart on any windows where birds might hit, or have hit in the past.
• Put covers over window wells to prevent animals from becoming stuck. Animals with poor climbing abilities (think skunks) commonly fall into window wells.

• Use only environment-friendly sidewalk salt for melting ice, such as Safe Paws Ice Melt. Regular sidewalk salts pollute the environment and can irritate cats' and dogs' paws.

might be stickier at that point. If it's really cold, they're not going to stick together at all," Bronson said. So plan your snowball fights when the temperature is just 32 degrees for the stickiest snow.

Skiing, on the other hand, is better well below the freezing point when the snow isn't so sticky.

"When you ski, you're not sliding on snow," Bronson said. "The pressure from the blades causes the snow to melt between the skis and the snow, so you're really sliding on water."

If your pipes aren't buried as deep as Karel's, beware of using copper instead of plastic. Water expands when it freezes,

and plastic does a little but copper doesn't, so copper pipes may burst.

To prevent that, two solutions are to keep the water running a little or to empty the pipes. Motion gives the water molecules enough energy to keep them from freezing when the temperature is below 32. This is why you may see water moving in a ditch when the puddle next to it is frozen solid.

Frozen and cold, the winter landscape is a wonder of beauty and science. Enjoy it while it lasts, as spring isn't far behind.

Ariel Hansen may be reached at 735-3376 or ariel.hansen@lee.net.

4-H blends gender equality, technology for Jerome youth

Boy competes nationally in family, consumer science

By Candace Ball-Suyile
Times-News correspondent

4-H isn't just for farming kids anymore.

Fashion, technology, leadership and home sciences are all growing areas in what is

generally considered an agricultural youth organization.

"The stereotype of 4-H is cows and cooking — but the beginning of 4-H was a corn club for the boys as a way to try and improve produce for farmers," said Mary Jean Craig, an Idaho state 4-H office extension associate. "Farmers didn't want to use new practices, and researchers realized if they taught the kids new processes and showed them they could

get better yields, then they'd show their parents and their parents would adopt the new processes."

In a way, 4-H is returning to its roots of testing cutting-edge technology and industry trends and providing youth with the skills to help them into adulthood. Last weekend Idaho 4-H held a robotics competition that utilizes solar power and Legos, Craig said.

With an increased focus on

technology, the organization is also taking strides to reach more urban children through after-school programs and day camps.

According to the Idaho 4-H Web site (www.4h.idaho.edu) — 6.5 million American children participate in the organization. Also according to the site, 4-H participants explore careers and positive leisure-time activities. The 4-H Youth Development program cre-

ates an educational environment for positive development of culturally diverse youth, that enables them to reach their fullest potential.

Boys and girls are becoming less concerned with gender roles, Craig said, with more girls participating in traditionally male programs like archery and more boys participating in traditionally female programs, like fashion.

The two Idaho 4-H delc-

gates representing the family and consumer sciences program at the national conference last month were both boys.

"It varies from one year to the next," Craig said. "We typically see more girls doing boys' things by about three to one."

Ten-year 4-H member Jared Gardner of Jerome just returned from the annual

Please see 4-H, Page D2

For your holiday house, here's a bouquet of lively houseplants

By Adrian Higgins
The Washington Post

Does the world need yet another variety of poinsettia? How many shades of red are there, anyway?

—Forgive—me—Scrooge moment: It's just that I'm scratching my head and wondering how we have allowed one plant to have such a defining role in the holiday season. Logic and reason have little traction here. The poinsettia's link to the sacred Christmas (as opposed to the secular consumerism of the holiday) is tenuous at best. Certainly no one in Bethlehem 2,007 years ago would have seen *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, a tropical shrub from the Americas, and definitely not one wrapped in foil.

The poinsettia became the holiday pot plant thanks to the marketing and growing skills of the Ecke family, four generations of nurserymen who succeeded in instilling the plant as a living icon of the season. Approximately 100 million poinsettias are found their way into the collective heart of the U.S. this Christmas, most of them varieties developed at the Paul Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, Calif. Hark off to the Eckes, I say. There's one of the great success stories of American floriculture.

You will have sensed that I am not a huge fan of poinsettias. I accept that many of the newer varieties reflect some brilliant hybridizing skills. Modern versions are more colorful, densely branched and tolerant of imperfect conditions than early varieties. However, the poinsettia is still fussy about its growing environment. I cringe when I see them kept in supermarkets in dark, dry corners, or stacked near the store entrance and subjected to cold drafts.

Are there alternatives? Yes, Dutch hybrid amaryllids come close to the poinsettia in their grandness. Red Lion is the ubiquitous scarlet variety, but I prefer some of the rarer ones, such as Picotee, with white with a fine red edge, or



Photo by Bill O'Leary/Photofest
Christmas cactus.

an orange bloomer called Solomon. The butterfly amaryllis (*Hippeastrum papilio*) is more refined, and with orchidlike striations on the petals. This species, though, is still hard to find, and expensive.

What we need is something cheap and cheerful. Fortunately, we have it in the Norfolk Island pine. For Holly Shimizu, who as executive director of the U.S. Botanic Garden is in daily contact with thousands of choice, rare plants, the common old Norfolk Island pine still works its charm. "You can put a red bow on it and some little white lights," she said. "It's Christmassy."

Its feathery foliage and graceful form are a plus, but what it really has going for it is its ease of care. It prefers a room with bright indirect light, temperatures on the cool side and some humidity, but it will take a lot of abuse and still look good.

Buy a healthy-looking plant and expect some needle drop if the tree is moved to lower light conditions, said Karl Gerecs, conservatory gardener at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa. Unlike a lot of holiday gift plants, the Norfolk Island pine is definitely a keeper. If it has a drawback, it is that in

the wild it grows to 200 feet. Indoors, it hits the ceiling after 15 or 20 years and doesn't take to a trunk reduction.

Another keeper, if fussier, is the gardenia. It is a tender shrub that doesn't like hot, dry, overheated rooms. It also needs even moisture. If you let it dry out to the point that the leaves are wilting, it will probably drop the developing flower buds and you will miss out on that waxy white blossom and its heady scent. Just bringing the plant home from the nursery can risk bud drop, Gerecs said. Keep it away from hot or cold blasts of air.

Assuming you keep a cool house with a bright room or two — buy a sweater and rejoice in your shrinking carbon footprint — you could also grow a cyclamen. I have a bright, waxy-fluting chining room where my houseplants and tropicals spend the winter. By closing the doors and shutting off both heat vents, I can get the temperature down to the low 60s. I throw in a humidifier for good measure, and the plants love it.

The cyclamen has attractive flaglike blossoms, held aloft from the clustered

leaves, in pinks, white and a deep red that fits the season.

Temperatures above 65 degrees are likely to stop the plant's continuous flowering cycle. Also, the cyclamen should be watered from below, its pot placed in lukewarm water for a few minutes and then drained. If you water it from above, you run the risk of rotting the crown, the bulblike organ at the soil line.

When spring temperatures rise above 70 degrees, the leaves yellow and die as the plant goes into summer dormancy. This is mistaken for death, Gerecs said. But if the crown is cured and stored, it can be replanted in October and started again.

After a few seasons, the crown grows large and a single plant can be as much as 24 inches across, bearing buds of blossoms, Gerecs said. Surely this is a much more rewarding way to nurture a holiday plant year to year than the effort needed to get a poinsettia to live and re-bloom.

The Christmas cactus (a tropical succulent from Brazil) makes a great gift



Thinking outside the potted poinsettia for some holiday cheer. Here, cyclamen.

plant and is easy to get to reflower if you don't keep it in a warm room in the fall, when you should be trying to initiate bloom. Summer the plant in a shady spot outside, and leave it out in the fall but protected from early frosts. After a month of nighttime temperatures in the low 50s, bring it into a room with bright but indirect light and allow the top inch or so of soil to dry out between waterings.

If you live in a house with warm rooms, pick a moth orchid, the common name for the phalaenopsis. The plant will accept temperatures in the 70s and dislikes it cooler than the low 60s, and it will adjust to average or low light. Don't remove the flower spike after the blooms drop. If the orchid is happy and the spent flower spike is as thick as a pencil, a second flower spike should grow from the first, Gerecs said. If a leaf begins to yellow, wait until it can be pulled off by hand rather than cutting it.

healthier for the plant. With all his enthusiasm for poinsettia alternatives, Gerecs might be a little wary of the Scarlet Screamer. Or so I thought. "They're wonderful plants," he said, and getting better with new variegated varieties "not as grating as those five, 10 years ago."

He likes the Winter Rose series, in red, pink and an off-white, in which the flowering bracts are small, downward at the tip and puckered. He also likes the Silverstar series, which also come in red, white or pink varieties, with variegated foliage.

He advises seeking out these and other unusual varieties, healthy robust plants available at independent garden centers. He suggests putting one in a large container with a cyclamen and a miniature rose, hiding their ankles with moss. "Very high impact for a very short amount of time."

You'll find me in the Norfolk Island pine section.

Several options to fix sickly blue spruce

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q. My Bakerli blue spruce has been losing its needles on its leader and other branches and generally looks sickly. It does have bagworms. I remove the ones I reach, but they don't want pachtysandra, ivy or vetch.

A. If you can't spray the trees, your options are very limited. The ever-popular

pesticide known generically as acephate is available for use on trees in the form of a systemic insecticide. Bullets, but you have to drill holes in the trunks of the trees to insert the insecticide cartridges. The resulting wounds can compromise the leader gardeners and may be an entry point for wood-decay organisms.

You also can contact with

an arborist to have the trees sprayed when the hatching bagworms emerge, usually around late June or early July. If they are sprayed shortly after they hatch, a pesticide containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* would be effective. Spinosad is another good option for control of bagworms and will control even the fully grown caterpillars as long as they

are still feeding.

If evergreens are completely defoliated by bagworms, they seldom recover. You might want to assess the damage to see whether you need to invest your effort into replacement of the trees or treatment of the bagworms.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Thinning boxwoods in the winter will help them in the spring

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q. I have four large American boxwoods as foundation plants. They need to be reduced in size but they are bare inside and would look ugly if cut back hard. Would they regenerate, and when should this be done?

A. Boxwoods can withstand severe pruning if they are healthy. Even if

cut to the ground, they can be expected to grow back. The best time to do severe pruning is during the late winter or early spring. If you find this too drastic a step, you can gradually thin out the branches in the canopy in winter. The thinning will spur new growth in the crown of the shrub. You can then cut the large branches back to reveal this new inner growth.

Use mosaic to cover broad area

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q. Do you have any suggestions for an evergreen ground cover for a large shady slope, 70 feet by 10 feet? I don't want pachysandra, ivy or vetch.

A. For a space that size, I'd suggest a mosaic of several different plants. If you take this approach, the failing of a few plants in a particularly shady or dry part of the area won't be so obvious.

Christmas fern is a nice option; and you may be able to succeed with creeping raspberry, *Rubus coccineus*, which will spread over a broad area with time. Mondo grass, though it spreads more slowly, also would work in this situation. Add a few epimediums and some daffodils, and your ground-cover area can be a four-season garden that has a lot more interest than an expanse of a single plant.

Bleeding heart transplant

By Scott Aker
Special to The Washington Post

Q. My cousin has an incredibly beautiful and large bleeding heart plant. I would like to take a division of it for my garden. Can I dig up part of the root, and when should this be done?

A. Now is a good time. Bleeding hearts go dormant in summer heat and may be divided any time after the foliage begins to yellow and

dle back. The job must be completed before winter sets in, to allow the transplant's roots to grow in the fall.

Bleeding hearts have very brittle roots, so dig carefully. Don't attempt to keep all fragments of root; only pieces attached to buds will grow into new plants. Take care not to plant them too deeply. The buds should lie just below the soil when you are done.

4-H

Continued from page D1

National 4-H Congress in Atlanta where he competed in family and consumer science activities such as putting together outfits and modeling them for judges.

"There was a little tiny stage and I had to strut my stuff but I was pretty good at it," Gardner said. "I had to model stuff I made and go buy clothes ... we were judged on what looks best, what can be used over and over things like that."

The skills involved, Gardner said, will help him become an independent adult because he won't have to ask anyone for help with

shopping or cooking. "I can live on my own now; I don't need my parents to help or anything," he said. 4-H has also given him the confidence to pursue a pre-pharmacy major at the College of Southern Idaho.

"4-H ties you in with the community and weeding makes you aware of the world," Gardner said. "Instead of just being part of a little Idaho town, you get to see and do things; it opens your eyes, you can do anything you want."

Candace Baltz-Smylie may be reached at candacebaltz@gmail.com.

Autumn in the country



More of our readers' best fall photos.
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Outside help Office on Aging searches for volunteers to represent the elderly, infirm

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

There are 12 licensed nursing homes in the eight counties comprising south-central Idaho, and 34 assisted-living facilities. The 46 homes hold a combined 1,618 residents.

And Mary Edgar visits all of them. Edgar, head of the College of Southern Idaho Office on Aging's ombudsman program, and assistant ombudsman Sandy Kevan are nursing-home residents' best friends.

The office is one of six regional agencies run by the Idaho Commission on Aging, all created by the 1965 Older

Americans Act. Among other things, Edgar said, it's the agency's job to stop by all 46 care facilities at least once every three months and make sure everything's running fine.

Sometimes that means answering a quick question from a resident. Other times, it means alerting administrators to something they're not doing. It's a job they take seriously. But it's become one, Edgar said, she's afraid they can't do without help.

"That's a lot of work for two people to do in Magic Valley," Edgar said.

That's why when Idaho decided the various Offices on Aging could hire volunteer

Learn more

Interested in volunteering as an ombudsman? Call 736-2122 and ask for Laurene Trastel.

ombudsmen, Edgar and Kevan pounced on the idea, recruiting six to spread out the work. It was good while it lasted, Edgar said, but now her office is down to one volunteer and she's looking for more.

The issue is about more than just covering all 46 facilities, Edgar said. The region is home to four of the state's seven centers with behavioral health units. While mentally ill residents only make up 10 percent

of the population, she said, they definitely account for much more than 10 percent of the ombudsman's work.

Incidents involving mentally ill residents can take far longer to resolve, especially if they have no family. And the large number of beds for behavioral-unit patients draws residents from across Idaho, Oregon and Nevada—the last of which has no nursing homes that accept such patients, Edgar said.

Working with out-of-area family members can complicate a case even more.

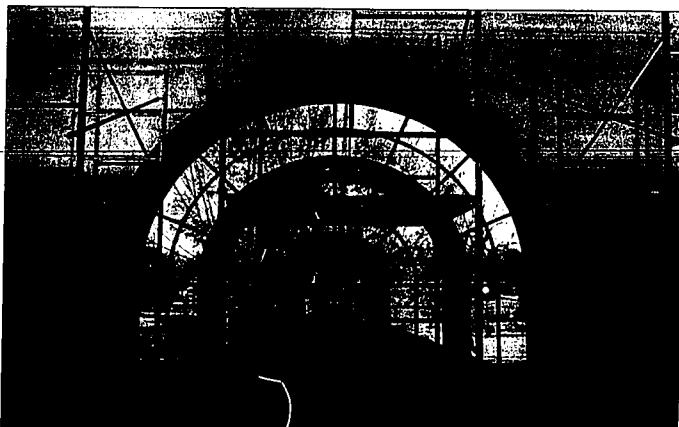
"Their cases are more complicated," Edgar said of

Please see AGENCY, Page D4



Mary Edgar, left, and Sandy Kevan, who both work with the College of Southern Idaho's Office on Aging ombudsman program, stand next to some of the 154 open complaints for residents in local nursing homes. The office is looking for additional volunteers to visit nursing homes and talk with residents.

COSTLY LEAK



DAVID COOPER/Times-News

The Twin Falls County Courthouse has sprouted a forest of scaffolding as workers repair damage from a water leak last month.

A pipe on the fourth floor oozed hot water from a steam-broiler in the basement and overflowed a drainage system. The water leaked through the third floor over the grand staircase, causing boils that chipped paint on the ceiling and hot water than ran down the walls.

Two weeks ago, workers brought in fans to blow air over soggy spots. Late last week they installed scaffolding to reach the ceiling to chip and repaint.

The cost of the repairs is not yet known.

Arts center funding on course despite delays

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

One month after a public plea for donations, the fundraising campaign for the Twin Falls Center for the Arts is right on course, organizers say.

The Magic Valley Arts Council, the force behind the permanent arts center, has already raised \$766,000 in private donations, according to a letter last month. But the group could need as much as \$740,000 more to complete work on the structure—which would include auditorium and classroom space.

The bad news is that's about the same amount the council reported in July. But the good news, Executive Director Suey Madsen said, is the community has responded to the Nov. 1 call for help, and donations ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars have been coming into the council's Main Avenue office.

The money, Madsen said, will hopefully be combined with outside grants to finish the center, planned for the first two floors of the River Vista Office Towers at Federation Point in north Twin Falls.

"I think that we're doing really good," especially if the grants come through, Madsen said Monday. "I think this is all coming together very nicely for us."

The council ended up with a little more fundraising time after planning for its floors and the rest of the two buildings set the construction date for the project back to next spring. Construction was originally to begin by mid-August, but Fran Florence, one of the project's developers, said the towers were a bit more complicated than expected.

"It's taken a lot more design time than anticipated," Florence said.

Developers plan to submit the building permit by the end of the month, Florence said, and construction could start in spring once the weather warms up. Basic construction could take about one year, he said, with an additional six months to finish off the floors.

The towers will be the centerpiece of the River Vista development, which includes six existing buildings and two for which excavation began Monday, Florence said.

Please see CENTER, Page D4



An artist's rendering of the lower floor public lobby of the Twin Falls Center for the Arts.

Twin Falls City Council doles out grant money

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

After a Twin Falls City Council subcommittee prioritized eight community-oriented agencies that applied for more than \$100,000 of grant money, the council on Monday approved a request by the applicant that ranked lowest.

The 5-1 vote approved a

\$5,000 funding request by the South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Development Association. The council denied requests by Family Health Services and Interfaith Volunteers Caregivers, both of which ranked higher than SCITR-DA. Both asked for \$10,000.

A three-member subcommittee-of-council-members and a city finance official

made recommendations based on their involvement with the city and the city's goals, the group's financial needs, and strategy, among other things.

The granted amounts are as follows, with requests in parentheses:

- Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley — \$25,000 (\$25,000)
- Twin Falls Municipal

- Band — \$21,161 (\$21,161)
- Trans IV Buses — \$30,000 (\$40,000)
- Magic Valley Arts Council — \$10,000 (\$10,000)
- Crisis Center of Magic Valley — \$14,000 (\$15,000)
- South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Development Association — \$5,000 (\$5,000)

Please see GRANTS, Page D4

AROUND THE VALLEY

Matheny pleads not guilty on rape charges

The Rev. Ron Matheny pleaded not guilty Monday in district court to four felonies and one misdemeanor stemming from his wife's allegations that he raped her, beat her, and stopped her from calling for help, all on one summer night.

Matheny, pastor of Jerome's First Presbyterian Church, is accused of walking his wife Darlene in the middle of the night on Aug. 13 and forcing her to have sex, beating her and preventing her from calling police. Ron maintains Darlene was the aggressor and threw the first punch, although he admits hitting

her twice during the fight. Fifth District Judge Randy Stoker scheduled Matheny's trial for March 12.

Matheny denied to the Jerome County Undersheriff Jocelynn Nunnally he had raped his wife. Although he said she resisted him that night, he thought her reluctance was part of a game until she hit him.

Florida court records obtained by the Times-News show Matheny has a prior conviction of domestic violence.

Judge delays

Landry's sentencing

A man who pleaded guilty to stabbing two brothers who

blocked him and other unwitting guests from entering a Filer late-night house party in June, will spend one more week in jail before he hears a judge's sentence.

Fifth District Judge Randy Stoker reset Jason Landry's sentencing hearing on Monday back to Dec. 12 at the request of the public defender, who said he had not been given an opportunity to review a pre-sentence report.

Landry, 30, had been awaiting trial, in jail on a \$100,000 bond, when he pleaded guilty on Nov. 16 on two counts of aggravated battery in the stabbings of Zachary and Joshua Lymard of Filer.

Twin Falls County prosecu-

tors had charged only Landry in the June 9 altercation, and chose to seek an enhanced sentencing penalty, including a persistent violator enhancement.

Nuclear power firm moves to Idaho

A company planning to build Idaho's first commercial nuclear power plant announced Monday that it will move its offices from Virginia to Eagle.

Alternate Energy Holdings, which plans to build an energy complex in Owyhee County that could include a 1,600-megawatt nuclear reactor, said the move will help it handle the company's

primary venture.

The project, called the Idaho Energy Complex, could also include a biofuels plant.

"The IEC is one of the largest and most advanced nuclear power plants currently proposed in the United States and such an initiative requires our headquarters move to Idaho," said the company's president and CEO Don Gillespie. "I've pretty much been living here for the past six months, and I've found Idaho is a terrific place to live and run a business."

Buhl man killed in wreck Friday night

A Buhl man was killed

Friday night northeast of Filer when he lost control of his 1999 Ford pickup on an icy road.

At 9:45 p.m., William Mason, 68, came across a portion of the road that falls under regular shade by trees along the westside of 4100 North and 2450 East.

"There's an icy patch because of the trees," said Nancy Howell, spokeswoman for the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office. "It stays shaded and so it is a really hazardous."

Mason was pronounced dead at the scene. No other information was available Monday.

— from staff reports

Dean "Dino" Colvin

JEROME — Dean "Dino" Colvin, 67, of Jerome, died Friday, Nov. 30, 2007, at his home, following a short illness.

He was born Jan. 7, 1940, at Whittier, Iowa, the son of Don and Elsie Bowles Colvin and was reared and educated in Iowa and California, where the family had moved. In 1953, he was inducted into the U.S. Army and was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion of the 29th Infantry Division. Following his discharge, he married Carrie McManis at Huntington Park, Calif., and they later moved to Jerome, where he has since resided. Dino worked as a contractor for many years, doing painting and drywall work. In



addition, he also owned the well-known "Dino's" burger and brew.

Survivors include his wife, Carrie Colvin; his mother, Elsie Colvin of Kingman, Ariz.; and two sons, Floyd and Mike (Annie) Colvin, both of Jerome. Also surviving are two sisters, Ann Colvin of Phoenix and Sue Colvin of Boise; and four grandchildren, Spencer, Jeffrey, Jeremy and Hannah. He was preceded in death by his father and one grandson, Jared.

A viewing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the Hove Robertson Funeral Chapel, with a graveside committal service to be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at the Jerome Cemetery, with military rites.

Funeral services and cremation are under the direction of the Hove Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

DEATH NOTICES

Guadalupe Castro

PAUL — Guadalupe Castro, 16, of Paul, died Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007, in Rupert.

Mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Rupert; rosary will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

Thelma M. Caldwell

Thelma Mae Caldwell, 90, of Twin Falls, died Friday,

SERVICES

Jack Leonard Jensen Sr. of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Rupert LDS 7th Ward Chapel, 324 E. 18th St.; visitation from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

Vernon Olden Miller of Gooding, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Demary Funeral Service, Gooding Chapel.

Donald Wayne Black of Eden, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Jerome LDS Stake Center, 26 N. 100 E.; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.

Athelia M. Llewellyn Green

Athelia M. Llewellyn Green died Dec. 1, 2007.

She was born Aug. 30, 1928, to Evan John and Leona Llewellyn. She married Warren Green on Feb. 8, 1949.

She was preceded in death by her husband; in daughter, Shirley VinSant; grandson, David; six brothers and five sisters. She

survived by a sister, Rachel Garff; and two brothers, Evan Llewellyn and Frank Llewellyn.

A visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, at Larkin Sunset Gardens Mortuary, 1950 E. 1060th St., Sandy, Utah, with a graveside service to follow in the cemetery.

Delbert Hartley

KIMBERLY — Delbert Hartley, 71, of Kimberly, died Monday, Dec. 3, 2007, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Wednesday at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome, and one hour before the funeral Thursday at the church.

Christina Ann Cuevas of Declo, funeral at 1 p.m. today at the Burley LDS 3rd, 7th and Spanish Branch Chapel, 2200 Oakley Ave.; visitation from noon to 12:45 p.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Rudy Bernard Kipp of Hagerman, memorial service at 2 p.m. today at the Billingsley Creek Lodge.

Depot rehab nears completion in Potlatch

POTLATCH (AP) — Residents are nearing completion of an eight-year, \$550,000 effort to rehabilitate the exterior of their century-old railroad depot once the hub of commerce in this northcentral Idaho timber town.

The project, which some in 2000 called "money down the drain" as plans took shape, has now been embraced by the community as a link to Potlatch's heyday when steam trains chugged in empty, then left laden with white pine from the region's forests.

"There's been no negative. It's all positive," Don Somers, president of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway History Preservation Group, told the *Lewiston Tribune* of the reaction now. "Half the town has come by to watch what's going on."

The depot was among Potlatch's first commercial structures, where the second floor was home to the business offices of the wood-products company that today has become the

Potlatch Corp., now based in Spokane, Wash.

The historical society acquired the depot in 2000. After negotiations with its owner, Water Companies, which operates the local railroad, the building was left in place.

After years shrouded in protective tarps and decorated with only a "Save Our Depot" sign, the depot is now painted deep maroon and trimmed in green to match its original appearance.

"Since it is an historical building, we have to preserve it to a historical level," Somers said.

The main funding came from \$500,000 in federal highway money that came through the Idaho Department of Transportation. Potlatch's historians had to come up with a \$57,000 match, which they raised through several sources, including another \$20,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's program to help rural, often economically disadvantaged communities.

CDA cruise raises money for N. Idaho raptor center

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — A northern Idaho raptor center held a week-end bird-watching cruise to raise \$5 million to build a visitors center on Lake Coeur d'Alene where bald eagles hunt for kokanee salmon every fall.

Birds of Prey Northwest wants to build the 10,000-square-foot education center starting in 2009 in Wolf Lodge, just off U.S. Interstate 90 east of Coeur d'Alene. There, the organization would display its collection of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons that have been rehabilitated from injuries.

Jane Cantwell, president of the group and a raptor biologist, said completing the complex would give residents and tourists a place where they could see eagles year-round — not

just in the fall when the bald eagles swoop over the lake or sit in trees waiting for a glimpse of the spawning landlocked salmon.

On Sunday's cruise, Cantwell described to participants how the eagles come to the region for its fish and relatively mild temperatures.

"You might think it's cold out there," Cantwell told the *Coeur d'Alene Press*, while holding "Liberty," a rescued bald eagle. "But to the eagles, Wolf Lodge is like Miami."

Earlier this year, the bald eagle was removed from Endangered Species Act protections because its national population increased to 9,789 breeding pairs in the lower 48 states. In Idaho, bald eagle nests numbered 216 in 2006.

Verta D. Rainwater

FOREST GROVE, Ore. — Verta D. Rainwater, 86, a resident of the Forest Grove community, died Thursday morning, Nov. 29, 2007, at The Hove Robertson Living Center in Forest Grove.

A private interment will be held.

Verta Darlene Rainwater was born May 9, 1921, in Milton, Ore., the daughter of Ellsworth L. Stowell and Alice (Biggs) Stowell. She was raised and received her early education in Milton, later moving with her family to Central Point, Ore., where she graduated from high school. Verta later attended Culinary School in Portland, Ore., where she received her training as a chef. She worked in

the restaurant industry for many years. Verta was a member of the Women's Professional Business Group, having served in several capacities over the years. Among her interests, Verta enjoyed sewing, crocheting, quilting and cooking.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Verna Rhodes and Bonnie Holmick; and a son, Richard Dudley Hinkley. Verta is survived by two sons, Loren Hammon and Ronald M. "Ron" Lesson, both of Forest Grove, Ore.; two daughters, Katherine R. Sherman and April D. Lesson, both of Twin Falls; 16 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Fulton, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home (503-357-2161) in Forest Grove, Ore., is in charge of the arrangements.

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 obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Filer student organizes book fair

By John E. Swazey
Times-News correspondent

FILER — When Filer High School senior Kelsey Richards started considering options for a graduation project, the decision came easy.

"I really love reading and want to share that with my fellow students," she said. "I'm planning on majoring in literature or English and music in college."

Assisted by Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Richards has organized a book fair at the Twin Falls bookstore from 1 to 10 p.m. on Friday.

Customers will be allowed to designate 10 percent of their book purchases to go to

the Filer High library.

"We can use that money to purchase books in the store," Richards said. "We'll also have a table with a list of books that people can purchase for the school."

The book fair will also include a special Christmas music program. The Filer High School Madrigals and Jazz Band will perform from 5 to 8 p.m.

This is the third year that Filer High and Barnes & Noble have held a book fair to benefit the library. "Something like this is great because last year we were able to receive about \$1,000 and buy 156 books," said school librarian Judy Youngman. "I'm hopeful that we can do the same thing this year."

Breakfast With Santa Saturday at CSI Student Union

The College of Southern Idaho will hold its Breakfast With Santa event for local children from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday in the CSI Student Union.

The event will include a buffet breakfast and a coloring contest. Prizes will be awarded to boys and girls in three age groups from 2 to 12.

A photographer will be available for pictures with Santa.

The event is free of charge for CSI students with current ID cards; \$5 per person for the general public. Children under 3 admitted free.

Group taking donations for food baskets

Valley Community Helpers are taking applications for Christmas food baskets for Eden and Hazelton-area residents. Applications are available at U.S. Bank, 255 Main, Hazelton; Lakeview Apartments, 856 S. 1900 E.,

Hazelton; or Silver and Gold Senior Center, 210 Wilson, Eden. Applications are due by Dec. 7.

Donations of food, money or an unwrapped toy can be dropped off at U.S. Bank in Hazelton. More information: Diane, 829-5441.

Agency

Continued from page D3

patients in behavioral units. Their needs are greater."

"And the ombudsmen would save time to handle their cases if they had more volunteers to handle the smaller things — complaints about food, for example, or questions about nursing-home regulations. A revitalized volunteer program could also make it eas-

ier for the agency to visit homes in Halley, the Mini-Cassia area and Gooding, all a fair drive away from Twin Falls—and all like the others, requiring a significant time investment.

"We really want to get the program out away from Twin Falls," Edgar said.

Volunteers have to go through a criminal background check and can't be

motivated to help by a personal grudge against a facility or resident, Edgar said. But once they meet those qualifications, she said, the job is perfect for those with good people skills who would enjoy talking to residents. And the agency recommends it for retired people.

"It seems to work best if we find people who are retired,

because otherwise jobs interfere," volunteer coordinator Laurene Trostel said.

Volunteers get to be certified as assistants/ombudsmen by the state. But they also get the satisfaction, Edgar said, of helping others.

"(Residents are) dealing with situations they don't know how to handle, and they just want someone who can help them."

Center

Continued from page D3

Blueprints for the arts center's floors are almost complete, Madsen said. But even without "final" prints, "the council has already received some large donations, including some people who signed stocks over to the nonprofit."

The remaining funds are a sizeable sum. But Madsen said she's confident the council will find the money it needs, especially if some of the grants — several of which

look promising — come through. The council is currently gathering architectural drawings and cost estimates to submit to some of the grant organizations.

"When you make it to the next level like we have, you're getting closer," Madsen said. "It's not guaranteed, but it's a step in the right direction for us."

Nate Poppino may be reached at 735-3237 or nppoppino@magicvalley.com.

Grants

Continued from page D3

Councilman David E. Johnson, who was not on the subcommittee, proposed granting the SCIT-DRA because he felt the city would get a higher "return on investment" than the other two groups. Johnson serves as an ex-officio member to the North Rim Park planning committee, which is under the SCIT-DRA.

Councilman Trip Craig, who opposed the measure, said all the denied requests should be reviewed.

"They might have just as

compelling arguments," he said.

Last year the council doled out more than \$84,000 in grant money to six agencies.

In related news, officials from the Downtown Business Improvement District, the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, and the city of Twin Falls discussed the future of the BID and its responsibilities.

At issue was who would enforce downtown policies — or if anyone has the authority to do so.

Officials struggled to determine who should oversee long-term BID responsibilities, including the enforcement of parking penalties, landscaping and event planning and marketing.

Some said business owners should be responsible for their store fronts, but others suggested that some business owners would simply let their storefronts deteriorate — causing an eyesore for nearby businesses.

Some even asked if the

BID was still relevant to the downtown area.

"Today we need to determine whether or not the BID serves a function," said Shawn Barigar, president of the chamber of commerce. "If it doesn't serve the function, then the organization should go away — that's my opinion."

Jared S. Hopkins can be reached at 735-3204 or jhopkins@magicvalley.com. Times-News writer Joshua Palmer contributed to this report.

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Duncan pleads guilty to 10 felonies for abductions, slaying

By Rebecca Boone
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Convicted sex offender Joseph Edward Duncan III, who beat a northern Idaho mother, her fiancé and oldest son to death in 2005 before abducting her two youngest children, pleaded guilty to 10 federal counts Monday in the kidnapping and lengthy sexual abuse of the children and the murder of one of them.

Duncan, 44, faces a possible death penalty for the slayings, when a sentencing jury hears arguments scheduled for Jan. 28.

He told U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge that he has never tried to shun accounts

bility for his actions.

"I just wanted to say that since my arrest I have never made any attempt to deny my responsibility," he said, reading from a yellow legal tablet. My plea today is not a confession for the sense that I already confessed ... I will continue to accept that responsibility to the death."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy Whelan told the court that Duncan held 11-year-old Shasta Groene and her 9-year-old brother, Dylan, at a remote Montana campsite, sexually abusing them for nearly two months and threatening them with death if they disobeyed him. Whelan said Duncan used recording and computer

equipment to videotape the abuse of Dylan before shooting the child to death with a saved-off .12 gauge shotgun. Duncan did not make a plea deal. It faces a possible death penalty on three of the felonies: kidnapping resulting in death, sexual exploitation of a child resulting in death, and using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence resulting in death.

He also pleaded guilty to kidnapping, two counts of aggravated sexual abuse of a minor, being a felon in possession of a firearm, transportation of a stolen firearm, possession of an unregistered firearm, and transportation of a stolen vehicle.

Duncan's plea means that

Shasta, now 11 and the only survivor of the attack on her family, will be spared the trauma of testifying at his trial. It was not clear if she will be expected to give a victim impact statement for a federal sentencing jury.

Duncan also has been charged in California with the 1997 slaying of 10-year-old Anthony Martinez in India, Calif. Prosecutors there have said they intend to seek the death penalty. In addition, he is a suspect in the 1996 Seattle-area killings of 9-year-old Carmen Cubias and 11-year-old Samuel White.

Neither Shasta, nor her father, Steve Groene, attended Monday's hearing. Steve Groene, reached by tele-

phone in Coeur d'Alene, was relieved by the news.

"For my family, we're happy," Groene said. "Shasta" does not have to testify in this phase of this."

Shasta was at school Monday and Groene said he would tell her of Duncan's plea later in the day. He declined additional comment, citing a gag order that Lodge issued for all parties.

Lodge did not consider a media request Monday to lift or modify the gag order. Attorneys on both sides declined to comment because of it.

Duncan is a Tacoma, Wash., native who spent most of his adult life in Washington state prisons for sexual crimes

against children.

Court documents say he was on the run from a child molestation charge in Minnesota in May 2005 when he drove past the Groene home on Interstate 90 east of Coeur d'Alene, spotting Shasta, then 8, and her 9-year-old brother, Dylan, playing outside. Duncan stalked the Groene family for several days before attacking the family.

In his plea, Duncan admitted kidnapping Shasta and Dylan from the home and driving them into the mountains near St. Regis, Mont., where he sexually abused them. He also admitted killing Dylan. The boy's body was found at a remote campsite.

Victim of Evel Knievel bat attack to try to collect

By John Rogers
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — Of all the bones Evel Knievel broke over the years, the costliest may have been the left arm of a 19-year-old son in a rage over a book Saltman had written about the showman.

Saltman won \$12.75 million in damages against Knievel after the motorcycle daredevil attacked his son with a baseball bat in 1977 in a rage over a book Saltman had written about the showman.

With interest, the still-uncollected sum has grown to more than \$100 million by Saltman's estimate, and he intends to try to collect it.

"We are going hot and heavy after his estate," Saltman told The Associated Press after Knievel died Friday at 69. "What he tried to do to me and how it hurt my family, I'm owed that."

Whether Knievel's estate has that kind of money is unclear.

Knievel's son Kelly would not discuss the size of his father's estate or comment on the dispute. The daredevil's longtime friend and promoter, Billy Rundle, declined to discuss the incident in detail. Knievel's widow, Kristal, was not granting interviews.

Although little remembered today, the incident made headlines worldwide when the death-defying motorcycle star approached Shasta in the parking lot of the 20th Century Fox on Sept. 21, 1977, and suddenly started swinging a bat. Saltman, then a studio executive, raised his arm to protect his head, a move he says doctors told him probably saved his life.

His arm was shattered and is held together today with a steel plate and screws. Knievel, who broke nearly 40 of his own bones during his many motorcycle stunts, served six months in jail and would never again enjoy the public acclaim he had when he tried unsuccessfully to jump Idaho's Snake River Canyon on a jet-powered motorcycle in 1974 — an event Saltman had promoted.

"I've always felt pity for him," said Saltman, 76. "Because of this foolish act, he ruined his career."



Three grizzly bears cross a meadow in Montana in this undated file photo.

Grizzlies surge in Rockies; some want to push back

By Matthew Brown
Associated Press writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — Grizzly bears, the West's largest and most fearsome predators, are back in a big way in the Northern Rockies — rising in numbers, pushing into new territories and mauling hunters who stumble across them in the wild.

While state and federal officials laud the bear's remarkable comeback from near-extinction last century — others say it's time to lift the remaining protections that helped them recover and point to the recent grizzly encounters as evidence.

"We've got grizzly bears coming here to hunt," said Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commissioner Vic Workman, who fended off a grizzly during Nov. 25 hunting trip near Whitefish. "It's getting out of whack. We've got too many bears."

The grizzly charged after Workman, stumbled upon it guarding his son's carcass. Workman fired a shot from his rifle and was not injured. It was not known what happened to the bear, which ran off.

Workman said, if hunters could kill some bears, the rest of the population would learn to steer clear of humans. The biologist in charge of restoring grizzlies acknowledges they appear to be on track toward recovery in some areas. For example, in central and western Montana, they've expanded their range by more than 2,300 square miles over the last two decades.

But Christopher Serveen, grizzly recovery coordinator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said it will take at least five more years of research to show the bear's progress is not fleeting. He added that recovery is not just measured by the number of bears. Also important is how widely they are distributed, whether females

breed at an adequate rate and that not too many are killed cross highways or in other human-related accidents.

Workman's close-call was the latest in a string of bear attacks and near-misses this year in Montana and portions of Idaho and Wyoming near Yellowstone National Park. While there is no comprehensive data on grizzly-human conflicts, an Associated Press tally shows at least a dozen grizzly bear attacks reported since April.

Seven victims were injured, including several severely. No one was killed but at least five grizzlies were, either during the attacks or later by wildlife agents.

Serveen said it would be a mistake to tie those run-ins to whether protections should be lifted.

"That wouldn't have changed what happened to Mr. Workman in any way shape or form," he said. "If you walk close to a bear that's over a carcass, it doesn't care if it's a delisted bear or not. It's going to charge."

Romney to speak out about religion

By Glen Johnson
Associated Press writer

MANCHESTER, N.H. — In mid-November, Mitt Romney dismissed the prospect of a speech discussing his Mormon faith, using his businessman's button-line logic to say, "There's no public urgency because I'm making progress in the states where I'm campaigning."

Three weeks later, with rival Mike Huckabee, the one-time Southern Baptist minister, surging in Iowa, Romney's calculus has changed.

On Thursday, he'll draw national attention to his religion, a subject curiosity for many people, with a speech at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas.

There are risks, which helps explain why the strategy hasn't been employed during the previous 11 months of his campaign.

"The risk is that it brings to the fore the way Mormonism diverges from conventional Christianity, and it will make people ask the question, 'Do I really want to vote for someone who believes that conventional Christianity are apostate?'" said Matthew Schmalz, a religious studies professor at the College of the Holy Cross.

Mormons, for example, believe that authentic Christianity vanished a century after Jesus and was restored only

News analysis

through Joseph Smith, whom Mormons consider prophet. Smith also revised — and in his view, corrected — large sections of the Bible in the 19th century, an act of treachery in the eyes of Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders.

In a poll last month by The Associated Press and Yahoo, half of those surveyed expressed disapproval for a presidential candidate who is a Mormon, including 20 percent who said that would make them very uncomfortable. Slightly more Democrats than Republicans said it gave them pause.

So why is Romney bringing it up now?

Ken Dinkins shows the Republican former Massachusetts governor has surrendered his Iowa lead and is now in a dead heat with Huckabee there.

"I've been hearing Romney has got too dead of a lead," said Dennis Goldford, a political science professor at Drake University in Iowa. "He's not a Democrat, it's by underplaying it and not mentioning it, but the emergence of Huckabee — who has defined himself in terms of — his religious background — has forced Romney's hand."

Romney has argued that many questions about religion and politics were answered when John F. Kennedy — the first Catholic elected president — allayed concerns that he would take directions from Rome. He dismissed the question head-on in 1960 in Houston as he campaigned for the presidency.

Romney said Monday his speech will not focus on the tenets of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the formal name for his Utah-based faith.

Man convicted of destroying more than 500 trees

By Ashley Powers
Los Angeles Times

HENDERSON, Nev. — Cloaked by darkness, a saw

nailed under his jacket, Douglas Hoffman stalked through suburbia, methodically killing trees.

He severed some. Others he sliced just enough so they would slowly die. In a year's time, authorities said, he whiped out more than 500 trees near an upscale retirement community just south of Las Vegas.

Hoffman, who had complained to a homeowners' committee, was blocking his view of the Strip.

In November, a jury convicted Hoffman, 50, on 10 charges in the destruction of a quarter-million dollars' worth of mesquite and Texas honey trees. He likely will face sentencing next month and could receive up to 35 years in prison.

The "arbicide," as one attorney dubbed it, has resonated in Clark County, where hillside in recent years have been overrun with sand-colored homes and transplanted trees. In

many neighborhoods, glimpses of the Spring and Muddy Mountain ranges — and The Strip's neon skyline — have vanished.

The retirement haven of Sun City, Ariz., is typical of the neighborhoods that have ballooned. Henderson's population from almost 65,000 in 1990 to more than 240,000 last year. The development's 7,000 or so homes are governed by a list of rules that took a real-estate agent more than an hour to explain, said Charles Davis, a resident who runs a Sun City website.

Aside from the bridge and opera clubs, neighbors take an active role in community policies and politics — sometimes trading insults on several blogs. Five years ago, Hoffman and his wife, Debbie — who live most of the year in Goodyear, Ariz. — bought a 1.632-acre home on Colvin Run Drive.

Douglas Hoffman, who had retired from military base construction work, had taken large

scaping classes and spent hours pruning in the Henderson yard. "Plant life is precious to him," said Debbie Hoffman, 44. "It's not a human life, but it's a life. When a bush would die, he wouldn't be crying-upset, but he'd be upset."

Sun City was in its infancy when they moved into their

home, with a back deck that overlooked the peaks rimming the valley and The Strip. Soon the trees, some of which had grown 8 feet tall, marred the couple's view. The Hoffmans asked if they could swap them out for shrubs but were told no, Davis said.

In October 2004, the tops of about 60 nearby trees were lopped off. "We thought it was a

fluke thing, maybe teenagers," said Susan Jackowitz, an spokeswoman for the community's developer, Pulte Homes.

Over the next year, even more trees — some worth \$1,500 apiece — were felled. The developer hired a private security company.

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Film executive Sheldon Saltman is seen in a September 1977 file photo in a hospital bed in Los Angeles, Calif., after he alleged that Evel Knievel and an unidentified man attacked him on a studio lot with a baseball bat.

Chavez not pulling back from agenda after loss

By Ian James
Associated Press writer

CARACAS, Venezuela — In gracefully accepting his first electoral defeat, Hugo Chavez is casting himself as a true democrat and deflecting charges of despotism from Washington and critics at home.

But the Venezuelan president is not pulling back from his socialist agenda, and his opponents — for now — have neither the cohesion nor the clout to stop him.

Chavez narrowly lost a constitutional referendum Sunday that would have enabled him to remain in power for life and drive changes throughout Venezuelan society.

Some leaders might react to such a setback by toning down their rhetoric and adopting a more moderate approach to

News analysis

woo their citizens. Not Chavez. "I want you all to know I'm not withdrawing a single comma of this proposal," a sober and introspective Chavez said early Monday as he conceded defeat. "I will continue making this proposal to the Venezuelan people. The proposal is still alive."

Even without the constitutional overhaul he had hoped for, Chavez already has far-reaching authority to single-handedly reshape the government, the economy and society.

He wields special powers granted by the National Assembly this year to enact laws by decree in areas from the economy to the justice system.

Those powers, which



Men walk past graffiti depicting Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, Monday. Humbled by his first electoral defeat, President Hugo Chavez said Monday he may have been too ambitious in asking voters to let him stand indefinitely for re-election.

remain in effect until mid-2008, could enable Chavez to restructure state institutions, raise taxes on the rich and adapt existing legislation to

larger-than-life personality leaves little room for compromise, ensuring more friction in a country now deeply polarized by his vision of a socialist utopia.

Chavez said perhaps the country was not yet ready for the revisions he proposed. "Did Hugo Chavez choose the wrong timing? It could be. It could be that we aren't mature enough," Chavez told state television Monday night. "Before searching for guilty ones, I have to say that I could have made a mistake in my selection of a time to make the proposal."

Gibbons blamed his loss on low turnout among his supporters, even as many poor and working class Venezuelans continue to see their leader as a savior.

"He's a man who doesn't want to see his people suffer," said Carlos Orlando Vega, 47,

who received his home from Chavez's government.

But critics who previously hacked Chavez were less forgiving of rampant crime, corruption and shortages of basic supplies such as milk.

And some feared the implications of the 59 proposed constitutional changes, which included indefinite decree power for the president to make changes in the economy, new forms of communal property and the ability to detain citizens without charge during states of emergency.

"I refuse to be part of a communist regime," said Cecilia Gibberger, a 56-year-old housewife.

A narrow victory could have opened Chavez to accusations of forcing reforms on a dissenting public. Chavez acknowledged as much, saying, "I wouldn't have wanted that Pyrrhic victory."

British teacher leaves Sudan after being pardoned in teddy bear case

By Rob Harris
Associated Press writer

LIVERPOOL, England — Gillian Gibbons' family, scattered with beer, wine and flowers Monday, waiting to welcome home the British teacher jailed by Sudan for allowing her students to name a teddy bear Muhammad.

"It's been a strange old week, very stressful and particularly bad for the family, but now she's coming home, fingers crossed," her son, John Gibbons, said after it was announced his mother had been pardoned and left Sudan. "If this week has taught me anything, it is that anything can happen."

Foreign Secretary David Miliband praised the 54-year-old teacher.

"I did say to her that it must have been very tough over the last week and she did say, 'Well, it was prison but it wasn't too bad a prison, or word a prison to that effect,'" he said. "She's

shown very good British grit." Sudan's ambassador in London, Khalid al-Mubarak, said he was "overjoyed" that Gibbons was pardoned, by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, ending a case that set off an international outcry and angered many moderate Muslims.

"What has happened was a cultural misunderstanding, a minor one, and I hope she, her family and the British people won't be affected by what has happened," he said.

The envoy called a demonstration in Sudan's capital on Friday in which some participants called for Gibbons' execution "an argument from the fringe."

Gibbons' case was the latest in a tense relationship



Al-Bashir

between the West and Sudan's hard-line leader, who has been accused by the U.N. of dragging his feet on the deployment of peacekeepers to the country's war-torn Darfur region.

She was freed after two Muslim members of Britain's House of Lords met with al-Bashir and the teacher sent her president's statement saying she didn't mean to offend anyone with her class project.

"I have a great respect for the Islamic religion and would not knowingly offend anyone," Gibbons said in the

statement, which was released by al-Bashir's office and read to journalists by British Baroness Sayeeda Warsi. "I am looking forward to seeing my family and friends, but I am very sorry that I will be unable to return to Sudan," Gibbons wrote.

Al-Bashir insisted Gibbons had a fair trial, in which she was convicted of insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad, but the president agreed to pardon her during the meeting with the British delegation, said Ghazi Saladin, a senior

presidential adviser.

Gibbons flew out of the country Monday evening, landing several hours later in Dubai. She was expected in London this morning.

Gibbons slept for much of the flight, telling reporters: "I just want to relax, I don't want to say any more. I'm too tired," according to *The Times* of London, whose reporter was on the plane.

The show of outrage in Sudan puzzled many in the West.

Hard-line Muslim clerics

denounced Gibbons, saying she intentionally aimed to insult Islam.

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Mr. Magorium 7:15-9:30
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