

ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE

Explore Salmon Falls Creek Canyon.

SECOND-HALF SURGE

CSI women top Yakima Valley.

HOLDING STEADY

Christmas tree vendors' sales even.

OUTDOORS, O-1

Gooding's own city of rocks.

SPORTS, B1

MONEY, D4

Good Morning

High: 40
Low: 25

Rain and snow early, then cloudy. Details: B8

Times-News

FRIDAY

December 7, 2007

75 cents

MagicValley.com

State to revoke Gooding nursing home's license

Facility has 28 days to file appeal

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has revoked the license of the Gooding Rehabilitation and Living Center, nearly one month after a resident committed suicide on Nov. 11 and one week after the center was placed on a national list

underperforming nursing homes.

In a letter to the center dated Wednesday, Randy May, deputy administrator of the department's Division of Medicaid, said department staff determined that steps proposed by the nursing home on Nov. 16 removed the immediate danger to its residents. "But problems" still remained, the letter said, and citing a "history of serious deficiencies," the department decided there was no other alternative to pulling the cen-

INSIDE:

See a timeline chronicling investigations into the nursing home over the past decade.

See page A3

ter's state license.

The center's administrator now has 28 days to file an appeal with the state requesting an administrative review of the report, Health and Welfare spokeswoman Emily Simmitt said. If no appeal is filed by that date, the 80-bed

Ombudsmen offering help

Idaho Commission on Aging ombudsmen have offered their support to residents of the Gooding Rehabilitation and Living Center who are concerned about the state's decision to revoke the center's license.

To reach a regional ombudsman, call 736-2122 and ask for Mary. For the state ombudsman, call (208) 334-3833 and ask for Cathy.

center will be forced to close, requiring its residents to move.

That prospect disturbs some around the state. Robert Vande Merwe, executive director of the Idaho

Health Care Association, said the Gooding facility's behavioral health unit accepts some extremely difficult patients who come with different legal liabilities than the average resident.

"Other facilities will be very careful on who they take because of these licensing issues," he said. "If you don't do it just right ... (the state will) close you down too."

Cathy Hart, the state ombudsman for the Idaho Commission on Aging, said she thought it possible that residents could go to one of the center's sister facilities. Its management company, Northwest Rec-Corp, owns facilities in Buhl, Shoshone,

Please see **GOODING**, Page A3

BANDING TOGETHER



Joe Knight, the bar manager at Rock Creek Restaurant, clears away empty glasses during his shift Wednesday night at the Twin Falls establishment. In response to the governor's plans to make liquor license acquisition easier, those now holding licenses in Idaho are forming a new nonprofit to oppose his controversial proposal.

Liquor license owners form new group, oppose task force's proposal to eliminate quota system for licenses

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

Disgruntled owners of liquor licenses in Idaho are forming a new nonprofit to oppose a controversial proposal by a task force appointed by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter that expects to make license acquisition easier.

The new Idaho Beverage Coalition consists of bar owners and license holders who, among other things, disagree with the

concept of eliminating the state's quota system on licenses. Liquor licenses in Idaho are awarded by the state on a per capita basis; one license for every 1,500 population in a city.

The 2008 Idaho Legislature convenes Jan. 7.

Licenses can be sold or leased for an unlimited amount, and have led to people spending hundreds of thousands of dollars. The IBC stems not only from how license-holders feel wiping out

the quota system would devalue the licenses, but also how the task force is unwilling to disclose information. Otter's group, made up of lobbyists, lawmakers and businessmen, has met privately and asked members not to speak to the media.

The IBC is immediately focused on keeping the quota system in place and uniting those who would be affected by any changes, said Denise Rogers, who worked for the ABC for 13 years

and was executive director of the Idaho Licensed Beverage Association until she resigned this summer over the issue.

"We do want a consistent voice, absolutely," she said. "That's probably the best thing."

She said the group has nearly two dozen people signed on and expects more to follow.

The proposal — part of an effort to revise Idaho's Alcohol

Please see **GROUP**, Page A3

Nuclear plant planners get more money

Utah firm promises \$150M

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

A Utah-based investment company has promised \$150 million to the developers of a proposed nuclear power plant in Owyhee County.

Alternate Energy Holdings, which plans to build a 1,600-megawatt nuclear reactor and biofuels plant, announced Thursday that Silverleaf Capital Partners, a Salt Lake City-based investment firm, has committed the money for the AEH's federal application process.

AEH says the deal could be finalized by year's end.

"This provides the initial funding to launch an important project for Idaho and Western energy needs," said Don Gillespie, AEH's president and CEO. "We are now able to accept large equity investors who want to become minority owners in the West's only large, base-load nuclear power plant."

Please see **PLANT**, Page A3



Republican presidential hopeful, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney gives a speech Thursday at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas.

Romney says he'll serve nation, not Mormon church if elected president

By Glen Johnson
Associated Press writer

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — His campaign at a crossroads, Republican Mitt Romney said Thursday his Mormon faith should neither help nor hinder his quest for the White House and vowed to serve the interests of the nation, not the church, if elected president.

"When I place my hand on the Bible and take the oath of office, that oath

INSIDE:

Idahoans react to Romney's speech.

See page A4

Analysis of Romney's speech.

See page A7

Please see **ROMNEY**, Page A4

Anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack draws interest in civilian plight

By Audrey McRoy
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Children carried gas masks to the playground. Military officers commanded civilian courses under martial law. Residents feared enemy troops would parachute into the mountains and then swarm the beaches.

This year's 66th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor offers reminders of how the assault upended the lives of Hawaii's civilians, in addition to the severe damage inflicted on the military.

"It was scary," said Joan Martin Rodby, who

"Maybe the unsung heroes that we should remember and look at are the civilians that endured the attack on Pearl Harbor and the years after it."

— Daniel Martinez, chief historian at the USS Arizona Memorial

had to carry a gas mask everywhere as a 10-year-old — even as she sat for her fifth-grade class portrait in 1942. "It was more or less living in constant fear they were always going to come back."

Annual remembrances of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack often evoke images of burning ships in Pearl Harbor and exploding planes at Hickam

Field. This year's observance will be no different. But the plight of civilians who survived the attack has attracted more attention because of deepening interest in the home front during World War II.

"Maybe the unsung heroes that we should

Please see **PEARL HARBOR**, Page A3



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TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS		
Today	Tonight	Saturday
Early rain and snow, then cloudy	Mostly cloudy and chilly	Mostly cloudy and cold
High 40	Low 25	29 / 22

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Falling temperatures and developing snow showers. Highs low 40s, then turning colder.
 Tonight: Periods of light snow expected. Lows 20s.
 Tomorrow: Cold and cloudy with a diminishing threat of snow. Highs near 30

Complete weather report: See page B8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Twin Falls High School Drama Department Dessert Theater, a collection of competition selections and confections, musical entertainment and dessert beginning at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. curtain, Roper Auditorium, \$5, limited seating, 733-6900.

"The Night Throuse Spent in Jail," presented by the CSI Theater Department, 8 p.m., CSI Fine Arts Theater, Twin Falls, \$8 for adults and \$6 for students/seniors, 732-6781, 732-6788 or tickets.csi.edu.

First Fridays, featuring music by Henry Saunders and his band, Eric Ettesold in Rudy's live kitchen, free food tasting and beverages sold by the glass, 6 to 9 p.m., Rudy's A Cook's Paradise, 147 Main Ave. W., Twin Falls, 733-5477.
 First Fridays at Vinifera Wine Shop, with live music by Mirago, 7 to 9 p.m., 138 Main Ave. S., Twin Falls, 733-5047.

Coffeehouse Night at Hands On/The Divine Grind, with live music by Ethan Tucker from 8 to 10 p.m., 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., Hands On/The Divine Grind, 147 Shoshone St. N., Twin Falls, coffee drink specials to benefit Safe Kids of Magic Valley, studio-fee-free painting, 736-4475.

Arts' reception and gallery opening, with new works by member artists and the unique glass paintings and drumming entertainment of Ibrahim Faye, native of Senegal, in the Galeria Pequena, 7 to 9 p.m., Full Moon Gallery of Fine Art and Contemporary Craft, 132 Main Ave. S., Historic Downtown Twin Falls, no cost, 734-2787.

Gallery Walk, with solo and group exhibitions by impressionist David Kenning, western artist Ginger Vogt and photographer Jerry Mencke, 6 to 8 p.m., Jensen Ringmaker's & Gallery, 109 Main Ave. E., Twin Falls, refreshments served, 734-8091.
 "The Nutcracker" traditional holiday ballet, performed by students of Centre Stage Studios of Dance and Performing Arts and directed by Jennifer Sager, 7:30 p.m., King-Finer Arts Center, Burley, \$10 general admission, \$8 Senior Citizen (age 65 and older) and \$13 and \$18 Reserved Patron of the Arts seating, 678-4117 for reservations.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Festival of Trees "Angels Among Us," 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., CSI Northside Center Round building, Gooding, \$2, 934-5760.
 Gooding County Memorial Hospital Festival of Trees Luncheon and Style Show, Black Rock Clothiers and Sheepskin Coat Factory will supply the clothing modeled; presentation of mink fur jacket for raffie, two seatings: 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., CSI Northside Center Round building, Gooding, \$10 advanced luncheon/style show tickets, 934-5760.
 "First Friday Dinner," a buffet-style, traditional Basque-meal sponsored by the Gooding Basque Association, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Basque Cultural Center at the intersection of Highways 26 and 46 in Gooding, general donation of \$14 (seniors eat for \$12), 352-4266 or 306-9051.

BUSINESS

Buhl Business Open House, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Buhl Businesses, 543-6682.

CRAFTS AND BAZAARS

Juniper Street Farmhouse and Grandy's Christmas Gathering Open House, with over 20 local crafters; includes Christmas florals, candles, ornaments, and many unique gift ideas, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., east from Buhl on U.S. Highway 30 (1.75 miles), 543-4829.

The 4th annual Christmas Procrastination Sale, includes jewelry, sculptures, and wooden bowls, books and more by national and local artists and craftsmen, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Llon's Gate Gallery, 219 Main St., Filer, chili and cider available, 410-0034.

"Woodstock," the 18th annual Christmas show and auction for the CSI's cabinetmaking and welding programs, 1 to 9 p.m. open for viewing, Rick Alton Community Room, Herrett Center, CSI, Culinary Arts students will sell treats, refreshments and gingerbread houses, 732-6655.

CORRECTIONS

Incorrect e-mail
 The e-mail address listed for Terry West, Joyce coordinator for National Novel Writing Month, was incorrectly listed. In Thursday's TNF the correct address is: terencwest@gmail.com

Time of Buhl cantata incorrect
 In Thursday's TNF, the time listed for the Wednesday performance of the West End Community Singers at Buhl Methodist Church was incorrect. The correct time is 7:30 p.m. The Times-News regrets the errors.

MORNING BRIEFING

AROUND THE WORLD

IDAHO
 Lawyer asks Supreme Court to ignore case

BOISE — A lawyer for a man still being held on death row — despite a 5-year-old resentencing order from a federal court — is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to drop his case so the inmate can be resentenced and "ideally secure a better cell."

Maxwell Hoffmann was sentenced to death in 1989 for the revenge slaying of police drug informant Dennis Williams. In 2002, the U.S. District Court in Boise ordered that Hoffman had to be resentenced by the end of the year because his attorneys didn't adequately represent him during the sentencing phase of his original trial. But Hoffmann's case was also being appealed on other issues, and the resentencing never occurred.

Last year, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Hoffman had to be released or re-offered a plea deal that he originally turned down — allowing him to plead guilty in exchange for prosecutors no longer seeking the death penalty. The appellate court made the ruling because it found that Hoffmann's attorneys had been wrong in advising him to reject the plea deal during his original trial.

The Idaho attorney generally is still seeking a change of the U.S. District Court ruling. But it did ask the U.S. Supreme Court to vacate the appellate court's ruling on the plea deal, and earlier this year the Supreme Court justices agreed to take up the case.

N. CAROLINA

One dead after parking deck at mall collapses

CHARLOTTE — A portion of a parking deck at a busy shopping mall collapsed Thursday, and a motorist who may have triggered the accident by crashing into the structure died, police said. The woman's car crashed into the edge of the top level of the parking deck at SouthPark Mall, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police spokeswoman Jill Sall said. A small portion of the three-tier deck then collapsed, and the driver's car fell through the opening, Hill said.

The woman was pronounced dead at the scene, Mecklenburg EMS Agency spokesman Eric Morrison said. A police report identified her as Shirley Sutton Hawkins,



An elevated view of Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department personnel search the pile of rubble that remains here part of a parking garage under construction at Berkman Plaza 2 on Bay St. In downtown Jacksonville, Fla., collapsed Thursday morning. A parking deck also collapsed in North Carolina, killing one person. (See story below.)

64; it did not say how she died. Two cars under the collapsed concrete were destroyed, Charlotte Fire Department Capt. Iob Brisley said, but authorities said there were no other injuries.

Meanwhile, a parking garage under construction in Jacksonville, Fla., partially collapsed Thursday, injuring about two dozen people, officials said. One person was missing, but police did not know whether the worker was trapped or had escaped. Crews, with dogs were looking through the rubble. Misty Skipper, a spokeswoman for Mayor John Peyton, said that early searches had turned up nothing.

WASHINGTON

Sickle-cell anemia in mice reversed by stem cells

Taking the next step in a series of breakthrough stem-cell experiments, scientists have cured sickle-cell anemia in mice by reprogramming skin cells to an embryonic state and manipulating them to create healthy, genetically matched replacement tissue.

After the reprogrammed cells were transplanted into the animals, they soon began producing healthy blood cells free of the crippling deformities that deprive organs of oxygen, reported scientists from the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass., and the University of Alabama at Birmingham on Thursday. The experiments, published online by the journal Science, confirmed the therapeutic potential of a new class of reprogrammed stem cells, which can be custom-made for patients without creating and destroying human embryos.

The strategy should work to treat hemophilia, thalassemia and severe combined immunodeficiency disease, the "bubble boy" disease, according to researchers, and might also apply to disorders linked to mutations in a single gene, such as muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis. Scientists hope to use a similar approach to create cardiac cells to treat heart attack patients or nerve cells that could cure spinal cord injuries. Finding an abundant source of stem cells that could be used as a personalized biological repair kit is the goal of regenerative medicine.

The technique is a few years away from being used to treat humans, scientists said. Before it could be tried, several rounds of animal experiments would need to be done. Researchers also will need to overcome key technical hurdles, including finding a way to reprogram adult cells without using genes and viruses that could cause cancer.

CIA director: Agency destroyed tapes of suspect interrogations

WASHINGTON — The CIA videotaped its interrogations of two terror suspects in 2002 and destroyed the tapes three years later out of fear they would leak to the public and compromise the identities of U.S. questioners, the director of the agency told employees Thursday. CIA Director Michael Hayden said House and Senate intelligence committee leaders were informed of the existence of the tapes and the CIA's intention to destroy them. He also said the CIA's internal watchdog watched the tapes in 2003 and verified that the interro-

gation practices were legal. He said the CIA began taping the interrogations as an internal check on the program authorized by President Bush questioning methods. The methods included waterboarding, which simulates drowning; government officials said.

"The agency was determined that it proceed in accord with established legal and policy guidelines. So, on its own, CIA began to videotape interrogations," Hayden said in a written message to CIA employees, obtained by The Associated Press.

The CIA also decided to destroy the tapes in "the absence of any legal or internal reason to keep them," Hayden wrote.

Larry Craig, the verb

If he wasn't already, six-second-plaquee Sam, Larry Craig, R-Idaho, is now officially part of the pop culture lexicon.

Tuesday's episode of ABC's "Boston Legal" featured the show's leading character, Denny Crane, played by William Shatner, getting busted in a men's room sex sting. Shatner winds up a defendant after undercover cops mistake his wide stance for the international symbol to solicit sex in a bathroom stall. Crane's best buddy, played by James Spader, tells his client/friend that he's being "Larry Craig'd." They decide to file the charges in court (unlike Craig, who pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in a real-life men's room sex sting).

Luckily, Craig wasn't watching the show Tuesday night, according his spokesman, Dan Whiting.

— Wire services

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

GOVERNMENT

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

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

College of Southern Idaho's Over 60 and Getting Fit programs, 9 to 10 a.m. at several Magic Valley locations: CSI gym, Gooding ISDB gym, Jerome Rec Center, Shoshone High (old gym), Rupert Civic Center and Blaine County Campus Gym; and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at CSI Burley Outreach Center Gym, no cost, 732-6475.

Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Ageless Senior Citizens, Inc., 301 Main St. N./Kimberly, 737-5988.
 Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Class, 11 to

11:45 a.m., Oakley Fire Station, 315 E. Main St., Oakley, 737-5988.

Celebrate Recovery, based on the 12 steps and eight biblical principles, 6 p.m., Cafe Agency, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, 259 Main Ave. E., Twin Falls, 737-4667.

"Youth Options," activities for young people ages 13-19 only, 7 to 10 p.m., The Salvation Army, 348 Fourth Ave. N., Twin Falls, \$2, 733-8720.

AA/Anon/Altean family groups, to help friends and families of alcoholics, hot line: 1-866-592-3198.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

A Community Nativity Celebration, includes special viewing for senior citizens and handicapped individuals from 2 to 3:30 p.m.; open to the public with nativity displays and "Live Nativity," 5 to

9 p.m., Parley West LDS Stake Center, 2420 Burke Ave., Burley, no cost, open to the public, 678-0459.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium, "Season of Light," 7 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

SPORTS

"Lost and Found," a ski and snowboard film and raffie by Teton Gravity Research hosted by the CSI Outdoor Program, 8 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, CSI campus, \$8, first 50 attendees receive free ski pass to Soldier Mountain, 732-6655.

Snowpack Levels

Watershed	% of season	% of peak
Salmon	103%	25%
Big Wood	89%	21%
Little Wood	73%	17%
Big Lost	80%	18%
Little Lost	87%	22%
Henrys Fork/Teton	73%	20%
Upper Snake Basin	79%	20%
Oakley	35%	7%
Salmon Falls	36%	8%

As of Dec. 6
 A comparison of snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average.
 *An indicator of early snowmelt for the entire snow-belt, which peaks in April.

Times-News

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MAIL INFORMATION
 The Times-News (ISSN 031-090) is published daily at 132 Parkside Dr., Twin Falls, Idaho. Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Life Enterprises. Officially published by the Times-News. Official city and county newspaper pursuant to Section 108-106 of the Idaho Code. Thursday is hereby designated as the day of the week on which legal notice will be published. Postmaster, please send change of address form to: P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83403.
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Gooding

Continued from page A1

Kimberly and Hurley that also provide psychiatric care. But the problem, she said, is residents would still be upset.

"People will have to leave their communities to go to any of those places," she said. "A lot of residents actually pass away from relocation trauma."

Northwest Bec-Corp president Dan Adamson could not be reached Thursday for his response to the letter. But the region's Office on Aging ombudsman visited the center on Thursday. Hart said, and reported that residents were upset about the news, which flew in the face of their experience.

"For the most part, very few feel like they're getting very good care," she said.

The center may have decent odds of avoiding closure and finding an alternate solution, based on state records. Simmitt said she only knew of one time when the state recommended closing a home and it actually closed, an incident in the 1970s. But, she said, the Gooding center's history makes for a "severe" case. Out of nine surveys of the facility performed since July 2004, she

Investigations into Gooding facility

- **September 1997:** Northwest Bec-Corp acquires the Gooding nursing home from Sun Rise Health.
- **March 2001:** State Health and Welfare finds Gooding staff wasn't responsible for the death of a 97-year-old woman. Facility is cited for failing to meet standards of practice and adequate supervision.
- **Summer 2004:** State finds the facility failed to supervise a resident who was sexually and physically harassing others. Another resident's leg is infected because staff was slow to assess a wound.
- **February 2005:** Northwest Bec-Corp fires the nursing home's administrator, assistant administrator, behavioral health unit director and a registered nurse. A state probe finds 37 violations, six involving "harm or immediate jeopardy to patients. The state puts the center on a provisional license and charges \$250 a day until problems are fixed 122 days later.
- **September 2006:** A resident dies from a urinary tract infection after a leg amputation.
- **December 2006:** September incident places the center back on a one-year provisional license.
- **June 2007:** State reports the facility is improving but says it likely would not extend its license if the center still struggles by year's end.
- **Sept. 20, 2007:** Investigation finds several violations that include problems with patient care and safety procedures.
- **Nov. 11, 2007:** One resident hangs himself with a window blind cord. Health and Welfare and Gooding police investigate.
- **Nov. 21, 2007:** Gooding police close their investigation with no charges filed.
- **Dec. 5, 2007:** Health and Welfare moves to revoke the center's license. The center has 28 days to appeal.

said, four have found situations endangering residents.

The department will ensure all residents find the care they need if the center closes, Simmitt said, and the news was discussed during the decision-making process. She could not say if any part of the discussions involved increased scrutiny of the company's other nursing homes.

Much of the criticism in the report centered on the facility's failure to properly monitor, care for and keep accurate clinical records on Gerald DeCoria, who hanged himself early in the

morning of Nov. 11.

The 52-page document, which will be posted online with the department's other facility surveys, details what investigators saw as a long history of suicidal and depressive tendencies in DeCoria and problems at the facility itself. Among other things, the investigation reveals that the certified nurse aide assigned to check on DeCoria and other residents every 15 minutes the night of his death was fired shortly after for neglecting her job.

Interviews with the investigation team, facility

administrators described how they were already overhauling their 15-minute inspections to ensure proper care. They also describe how DeCoria's actions — including one incident where he tried to open the door of a moving van, and a previous suicide attempt the month before his death — seemed to be aimed more at drawing attention to himself, an assertion they said his daughter, Monica Nelson, shared when they consulted her.

Nelson said Thursday she still didn't blame the center for her father's suicide and

Group

Continued from page A1

Beverage Control law — is for economic development and tourism. Otter's officials said. Although a 250-page draft proposes abolishing the quota, Otter's office said nothing is final.

"Decisions have not been made," said Otter spokesman Jon Hanlan. "We will still gather information from the folks who are on this panel and others."

The proposal is also expected to transfer oversight from the state to cities and counties — a con-

cept that Hanlan has said is consistent with Otter's philosophy of keeping government local and close to citizens.

Rogers said that idea could lead to problems since local officials are not as familiar with state liquor rules and personal emotions could seep into decisions.

"They're not equipped,"

she said. "They don't know or understand the laws."

Stan Thomas, who owns Rock Creek restaurant in Twin Falls and bought his license nearly 30 years ago, said he's unsure whether he'll join the IBC. But he said he would prefer licenses be

awarded through a fee lottery instead of a waiting list that just drives up prices.

"You wouldn't get people going after it if they didn't want it," he said of a lottery.

"The waiting list invites speculation as to what's similar to account for license value, the committee has said it might allow multi-year tax credits as a way of easing the loss to current license holders."

Daniel Fuchs, a pharmacist in Twin Falls, is listed 10 times on the city's waiting list. He and his three brothers made headlines a few years ago when they received licenses simultaneously in Nampa,

he said Monday that he'd likely join the IBC and it could be important since the committee hasn't been very open.

"Until anyone shows you what's going on it's just rumors," he said. "Why is our government operating behind closed doors?"

Dave Woodhead, who owns a building that operates under a single license, said he's undecided about the issue, mostly because he leases his license.

"I'm in the dead center, really," he said. "If you own one then you are probably against it. If you don't own one you are probably for it."

Pearl Harbor

Continued from page A1

remember and look at are the civilians that endured the attack on Pearl Harbor and the years after it," said Daniel Martinez, chief historian at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Civilian survivors who recall the attack include Hawaii's two U.S. senators, who both were 17-year-old boys at the time.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, now 83, said he served as a first-aid volunteer, helping treat civilians who were wounded in his Honolulu neighborhood. In 1943, he joined a celebrated all-Japanese-American unit and was highly decorated for combat valor.

Japanese planes did not bomb residential neighborhoods, but misfired U.S. anti-aircraft shells fell on homes and businesses.

"One shell fell into the dining room and this old Japanese lady was having her breakfast. When I got there she was slumped over in her food," Inouye said in an interview. "Shrapnel went through her head and killed

her. She didn't know what hit her."

Inouye said about a half-dozen storekeepers were killed when their shops were hit.

The National Park Service, which runs the USS Arizona Memorial, lists 48 civilians who died from the attack, mostly in Honolulu. Three firefighters and four federal government employees also perished.

Military casualties far outnumbered civilians, with more than 2,300 dead and

1,100 wounded. All the dead are to be remembered Friday in a ceremony at a Pearl Harbor pier overlooking the USS Arizona, which sank with more than 1,000 sailors aboard.

In the months after the attack, the war crept into all aspects of civilian life.

Leli-makers made camouflage nets instead of flower garlands. The U.S. military lined Waikiki beaches with barbed wire, giving the island-the-look-of-paradise under siege.

A blackout order was imposed to make sure invading Japanese forces

would not have any city lights to guide them in an attack.

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View the State Health and Welfare investigation report.

was disappointed Health and Welfare didn't contact her during the investigation. She was also concerned about the futures of the center's residents.

"I feel guilty for it because it was my father who caused this," she said from her

home in Boise.

Wardie Mervet, who said most abuse of the elderly takes place at home and not at nursing facilities, said he felt sorry for the Gooding center and criticized the move by the state.

"To close them down may not be the right answer," he said. "It's a big, punitive federal system that says, 'We will come in and second-guess your behavior.'"

Christmas Open House

Thursday, Dec. 6th - Monday, Dec. 10th

Our Entire Store will be

... 20% off ...

Holiday Gifts - Santa's, Snowmen, Ornaments, Nativity Sets
Office, Art & Teaching Supplies - Copy & Paper Center
Christmas Cards, Stationery, & Candles
Webkinz the virtual pet & accessories!

Believe in the Magic of Christmas!

1277 Pole Line Road East, Twin Falls - 731-5332

ALL SET FOR THE HOLIDAYS?



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Plant

Continued from page A1

AEH announced in June that Cobblestone Financial Group of Newark intended to fund the nearly \$3.5 billion construction project. A spokesman for AEH reaffirmed Thursday that Cobblestone remains committed to the project.

Silverleaf Capital's contribution will fund the application process to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which could cost more than \$100 million. AEH's has a deadline to complete the application process by the end of 2008.

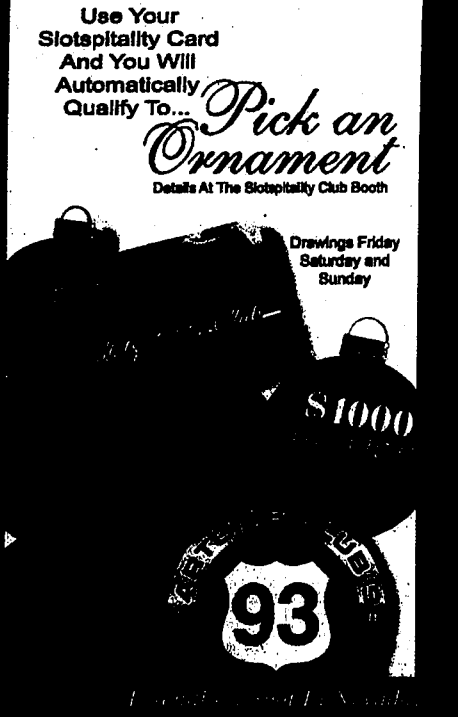
Shane Baldwin, Silverleaf Capital's co-CEO and managing director, confirmed the plan Thursday.

The announcement comes just days after news that another nuclear power plant could be coming to Idaho. A low-cost, low-based MIDAmerican Energy is considering a nuclear plant for Payette County.

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Romney's speech sparks interest among Idahoans

By David Cooper
Times-News writer

Presidential candidate Mitt Romney's Thursday speech on religion and politics wasn't targeted for Idaho voters. But in a state that is heavily populated by Republicans and members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it was bound to capture interest.

"Idahoans probably didn't need to hear this speech perhaps as much as the rest of the nation," said Sen. Bob Geddes, R-Booda Springs, state Senate Pro Tem and a former LDS bishop. "I think there's probably less fear or suspicion of anyone's religious beliefs in our state."

"I imagine most people in Idaho are more curious about

politics and religion, and there were those in the LDS community that were interested in what he was going to say."

Randy Hansen, a former State lawmaker for Twin Falls and an LDS stake president, applauded Romney's speech for balancing separation of church and state while defending principles of faith in politics.

"Choosing him as a candi-

date solely on a religion — or not choosing him because of religion — is wrong," Hansen said. "He should be chosen for his qualifications ... The debate is Mitt Romney, the best man to be president of the United States, not Mitt Romney, the Mormon."

Richard Stallings, chairman of the Idaho State Democratic Party and a former four-term Idaho congressman, said the fact that Romney gave the

speech after losing his lead in Iowa suggests "he's in somewhat of a dilemma."

"To many liberals or Democrats, they see Mormons as a right-wing community, like evangelicals," said Stallings, a lifelong Mormon. "But evangelicals, they see him as some kind of cult."

"I think it's unfortunate that he's being judged by his faith. But more importantly

was that he's been all over the map on so many issues," Stallings said. "Many people don't know which Mitt Romney they're voting for: the one who ran for governor in Massachusetts, or the one who's pandering to the Christian vote."

While some political analysts expected Romney to speak longer about his Mormon beliefs, Stallings said he took the wiser course.

"If you get into the tenets of the faith and you get into quicksand, you can't get into that without spending more time into it," Stallings said. "He said the right things. He'll follow his faith on ecclesiastical things, but they won't tell him how to make decisions for the country."

David Cooper may be reached at 735-3246 or dcooper@magicalvalley.com.

Romney

Continued from page A1

becomes my highest promise to God," Romney said in a speech that explicitly recalled remarks John F. Kennedy made in 1960 in an effort to quell anti-Catholic bias.

After declining for months to directly address his membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Romney switched course as polls showed widespread unease about his religion — and loss of his once-esteemed lead in Iowa to Mike Huckabee, a Baptist minister and past Arkansas governor.

Romney said some believe a forthright embrace of his religion will "sink my candidacy. If they are right, so be it. But I think they underestimate the American people."

"Americans tire of those who would jettison their beliefs, even to gain the world," he said.

The Jan. 3 Iowa caucuses are the first test of the race for the White House, followed closely by the Jan. 6 New Hampshire primary. Romney has spent and worked heavily in both states, and a defeat in Iowa would be particularly difficult to absorb, given Huckabee's stunning operation.

Polls show Romney's religion is a political drag on his campaign, and Huckabee has risen in surveys by gaining the support of evangelical Christians, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of likely caucus goers in Iowa.

"Let me assure you that no authorities of any church, or of any other church for that matter, will ever exert influence on presidential decisions," he pledged. "Their authority is theirs, within the province of church affairs, and it ends where the affairs of the nation begin."

He added: "If I am fortunate to become your president, I will serve no one religious, no one group, no one cause and no one interest. A president must serve only the common cause of the people of the United States."

Romney mentioned the word "Mormon" only once, and Huckabee not at all in his speech at the George Bush Presidential Library.

In speaking frankly about his beliefs, he hoped to reassure other Christians.

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the savior of mankind. My church's beliefs about Christ may not all be the same as those of other faiths," he said, adding that these differences are "not bases for criticism but rather a test of our tolerance."

"Religious tolerance would be a shallow principle indeed if it were reserved only for faiths with which we agree."

He assailed "the religion of secularism" he said was creeping into American life, and drew chuckles from his invited audience as he complained that Europe's cathedrals are largely empty amid societies "too busy or just too 'enlightened' to venture inside and kneel in prayer."

Romney said: "We should acknowledge the Creator as did the founders, in ceremony and word. He should remain on our currency, in our pledges, in the halls of our history and, during the holiday season, nativity scenes and menorahs should be welcome in our public places."

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Omaha gunman released in 2006 after 4 years in treatment centers

By Anna Jo Bratton and Nate Jenkins
Associated Press writers

OMAHA, Neb. — The young man who killed eight people and committed suicide in a shooting rampage at a department store spent four years in a series of treatment centers, group homes and foster care after threatening to kill his stepmother in 2002.

Finally, in August 2006, social workers, the courts and

his father all agreed: It was time for the 19-year-old to be released — nine months before he turned 19 and would have been required to leave anyway. The group homes and treatment centers were for youths



Hawkins

"He should have gotten help, but I think he needed someone to help him ... Someone should have listened to him ..."

— Karissa Fox, who knew Hawkins through a friend

with substance abuse, mental or behavioral problems. Altogether, the state spent about \$205,000 on Hawkins, officials said.

On Thursday, while some of those who knew Hawkins

called the massacre Wednesday at a busy Omaha mall unexpected, not everyone was surprised.

"He should have gotten help, but I think he needed someone to help him and

needed someone to be there when in the past he's said he wanted to kill himself," said Karissa Fox, who said she knew Hawkins through a friend. "Someone should have listened to him."

After reviewing surveillance tape, a suicide note and Hawkins' last conversations with those close to him, police said they don't know — and may never know exactly why Hawkins went to the Von Maur store at Westroads Mall and shot more than a dozen people.

"It is my opinion, it was not a failure of the system to provide appropriate services," Landry said. "If that was an issue, any of the participants in the case would have brought that forward."

Police believe Hawkins was using that AK-47 when he stormed off a third-floor elevator at the store and started shooting. Police said they have found no connections between the 19-year-old and the six employees and two shoppers he killed.

"The shooting victims were randomly selected," as was the location of the shooting, Omaha Police Chief Thomas Warren said.

Acquaintances said that Hawkins was a drug user and that he had a history of depression. In 2005 and 2006, according to court records, he underwent psychiatric evaluations, the reasons for which Landry would not disclose, citing privacy rules.

In May 2002, he was sent to a treatment center in Waynesville, Mo., after threatening his stepmother. Four months later, a Nebraska court decided Hawkins' problems were serious enough that he should be under state supervision and made him a ward of the state.

He went through a series of institutions in Nebraska as he progressed through the system: months at a treatment center and group home in Omaha in 2003; time in a foster care program and treatment center in 2004 and 2005; then a felony drug-program charge later. In 2005, Landry said the court records do not identify the drug.

The drug charge was eventually dropped, but he was jailed in 2006 for not performing community service as required.

On Aug. 21, 2006, he was released from state custody. Under state law, Landry said, wards are released when all sides — parents, courts, social workers — agree it is time for them to go. Once Hawkins was set free, he was entirely on his own. He was no longer under state supervision, and was not released into anyone's custody.

"When our role is ended, we try to step out," said Chris Peterson, director of the state Department of Health and Human Services.

About an hour before the shootings, Hawkins called Maruca-Kovac and told her he had written a suicide note, Maruca-Kovac said. In the note, Hawkins wrote that he was "sorry for everything" and would not be a burden on his family anymore. More ominously, he wrote: "Now I'll be famous."

"He had said how much he loved his family and all his friends and how he was sorry he was a burden to everybody and his whole life he was a piece of (expletive) and now he'll be famous," Maruca-Kovac said on CBS' "The Early Show" describing the note. "I was fearful that he was going to try to commit suicide, but I had no idea that he would involve so many other families."

Bellevue police on Thursday arrested a 17-year-old friend of Hawkins' who she said threatened to kill a teenage girl.

The teen was being held in a juvenile detention center on suspicion of making a graphic threat. Stacey said, "Fox found a rifle and two shotguns at the teen's house."

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EDITORIAL

Twin Falls must hold its water, so why not for fun?

You'll forgive us if we the dub Twin Falls mayor's proposal for a man-made impoundment south of town "Lake Lance."

But the idea floated in Mayor Lance Clow's recent "2010 Initiative" is worth a look. As the mayor sees it, the reservoir would be a dual solution to not only provide a new recreational facility, but also store water without building a big dull tank.

The lake, Clow points out, would be near downtown Twin Falls — close enough to lure people into restaurants and retail businesses.

A man-made lake wouldn't be unprecedented in Twin Falls County. Murtaugh Lake is a Twin Falls Canal Company project used as a re-regulating reservoir to refine flows from Milner Dam to the company's main canal system. It doubles as a recreational facility, just as do many larger and older reservoirs in the area.

Our concern about Clow's proposal is sustainability. Twin Falls is going to be thirsty in the next decade, and potential water supplies aren't unlimited. For practical reasons, it may not be possible to meet the city's growing water demands and to sustain a year-round pond.

Plus, there are legal concerns. Under Idaho law, if a storage facility is too big to be filled within 24 hours a new water right is required.

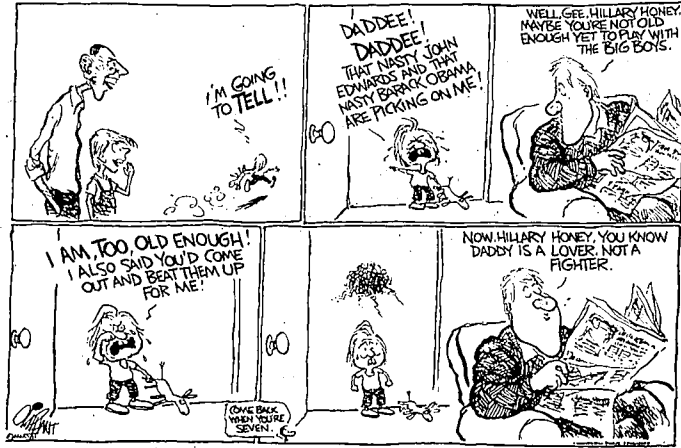
An alternative might be a water park, one of those water slide-and-splash-around facilities like Lagoon north of Salt Lake City, Wild Waters in Meridian and Couer d'Alene and at Six Flags amusement parks nationwide.

And instead of using farmland, perhaps it could be located in downtown Twin Falls' warehouse district, a true destination attraction for a revitalizing neighborhood.

Still, Clow's notion is intriguing. He's absolutely correct that Twin Falls will have to store more water somewhere, and it might as well have fun while doing it.

Good for the mayor for thinking outside the box about the city's future.

Our view:
A Murtaugh Lake for Twin Falls? It's an interesting idea.
What do you think?
We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.



Obama, Huckabee lurking in the tall weeds

Our politics lesson for today is *tertius gaudens* — Latin for "the happy third." That is, the one who gets to sit on the sidelines as two others duke it out. We can see the main event happening now in Iowa.

So the smart strategy in a crowded presidential caucus is this: Stay out of the way of enemies destroying each other — and then dash to victory.

The idea of *tertius gaudens* goes way back, of course, to ancient wars and balance-of-power politics. Britain, for example, was always happy to see its rivals on the European continent — France, Spain, Germany — fight each other, and thus weaken each other, as the British mostly sat back and watched.

Meanwhile, in political wars, the would-be victor must calibrate the need to beat back rivals with the need to beat likeable — because to become unlikely is to open a path to some new rival. As Gary Hart said during the 1984 presidential campaign, those who "go negative" risk having those negatives come back on them, in a "Greek or



JAMES PINKERTON

biblical sense." So, yes, for lots of reasons, it's best to stay above the fray — if you can. But whether candidates like it or not, sometimes it's necessary to body-check one's opponent out of the way. And so the "happy third" is often the happy-by-product of other candidates' miscalculation. That was the case for John Kerry four years ago, when the Massachusetts Democrat was trailing badly in the run-up to the 2004 Iowa caucus. The front-runners were Dick Gephardt and Howard Dean, who naturally squared off against each other. But instead of either Gephardt or Dean winning, they both lost: Kerry dashed in between the falling bodies to emerge as the caucus winner.

Gephardt and Dean must have known what was happening as they went into their mutual death dance, but in

politics, as in any other aspect of human nature, once the adrenal chain reaction starts, it's tough to shut it down.

Today, in Iowa, the leading contenders are once again hurting each other — and letting happy thirds emerge. On the Democratic side, Hillary Rodham Clinton and John Edwards have typically been ranked first and second in the Ioway State. And so they've been avidly cllobbering each other for months now. But the beneficiary has been a third hopeful, Barack Obama, who has eschewed negative campaigning.

Now Obama is in first place, according to the latest poll in the Des Moines Register. So with a month to go, will the top Democrats be able to wheel around their political guns, targeting the new No. 1? And if they do, will some other Democrat — say, Bill Richardson — emerge as the happiest one of all?

The same phenomenon could be happening on the Republican side, to the advantage of dark-horse Mike Huckabee. In the wake of last week's CNN-YouTube debate, pundit Dick Morris observed of the two GOP front-run-

ners, "Romney and Rudy ripped each other apart to the likely benefit of Huckabee, who ... remained serene atop the debate while others kicked and clawed below."

For his part, Huckabee seemed to understand his situation perfectly. In a recent session with reporters he applied an analogy: "I've got a car in the back of the truck with me from NASCAR." "When you've got several cars on the track, and they get to bumping each other, there's a good chance that one or both of them are going to run or bump each other off the track." So, the ex-Arkansas governor explained, "what you want to do is to make sure you're not in the path of the wreck when it happens." Got that, drivers? But now Huckabee and Obama are no longer happy thirds. According to the latest Iowa numbers, they are happy firsts. And that of course, is the best place to be — if they can avoid further tangles as they race toward the Jan. 3 finish line.

James Pinkerton is a columnist for Newsday. Write to him at jim@jamespinkerton.com.

Times-News

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

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

Gooding nursing home residents express support for facility

We are the residents from the Gooding Rehab and Living Center, and we would like to express our opinions.

The news has made a mountain out of a mole hill. We could not ask for better staff that works here. We feel loved and taken care of; to us, this is home.

The aides and nurses treat us with great care.

When we have concerns, we let our social worker know and they are addressed immediately. Once a month, we have council meetings and they inform us of the changes being made and keep addressing it monthly to make sure they are satisfied.

We get church services and a beautician comes in weekly. Also, we get the opportunity to have our nails done, not just trimmed and filed but painted. They spoil us here with pedicures and give us the quality of life we deserve. Several of us walk up and down the halls daily and have never heard or seen anyone being mistreated. Our families and we res-

READER COMMENT

dents feel that this is a good place and are pleased and satisfied. If we did not feel this way, we would not be here.

"I've been here four years and prior to my stay here, my husband was a resident. No one could have taken better care of him than the Gooding Rehab. We are blessed to be here. I have family come periodically from all over — Nampa, Boise, Twin and Gooding. They are always pleased with the care I receive here and the friendly staff." (Barbara Osborne)

"I've been here three years and at times have been very ill. All of these times, I have been taken extremely good care of and the staff have gone out of their way to make sure I was comfortable. When I asked not to have a roommate so that I could rest and gain my strength, they respected my wishes until I was ready. They make sure I have my

showers and get to the appointments I need to." (Shirley Worden)

"A former friend and resident that was with us told us and time again that she had been in several nursing homes and this by far was the best she had ever been in." (Nadine Turcotte)

"I also have been in other facilities, and I have more to do here than I did in the others. They take us out of the building and provide several activities that we enjoy. My family comes from Nampa and Boise and is pleased to know all the activities that we do and the care I receive." (Gene Schneider)

Our wish is that the media not be so hard on our home. They do not see the wonderful care that we receive here and the love that we feel.

Barbara Osborne, Shirley Worden, Nadine Turcotte, Gene Schneider, Jessie Litz and Pat Hinozosa are residents at the Gooding Rehabilitation and Living Center. They submitted this letter as the help of their activities director, Alecia Brooks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Community residents appreciate rehab center

In response to your editorial of Dec. 3 regarding Gooding Rehab, we would like to voice our opinion.

Our father has been an Alzheimer's patient at Gooding Rehab for more than six years. Yes, we are aware of the many problems this facility has had over the years. We have watched this facility work hard to improve in all areas. We have seen a tremendous turnover in staff. But we have never seen any neglect, mental nor physical abuse to any patient. We have only seen a very caring and concerned staff that seems to truly dedicate their lives to the welfare of their patients. We tip our hats to anyone who can work in this field of care. They have our utmost respect.

Our father has no recollection of any family member but he sure can smile and laugh when a staff member approaches him. We feel comfortable with his care and attention he receives at Gooding Rehab. The staff continues to notify us of any situation that occurs with him no matter

how small. We feel they continually try to do their best.

In addition to writing this letter to the Times-News, we have also telephoned the Bureau of Facility Services in Boise to voice our opinion. Apparently that is the department which will make the determination as to closure. We hope they will do it twice, if not three or four times, before they close this facility. As we all know, no one is perfect.

Thank you to all employees at Gooding Rehab! We truly appreciate all you do!
DON STARK
ALLYSON STARK
Twin Falls

Thank those who give back to the community

What did I do? This is in reply to Ron Ostermiller's Friday letter (Nov. 30) about whining or something.

He is complaining at the Wrights and next thing I know, he has intercepted my name twice in the letter about stepping out the front door and thinking everyone does me something. Trust me, I was not in town during the fireworks and have no idea what you are raving about.

After you got done telling the Wrights what they should do instead of putting on the fireworks display, you said, "... then go hang out with Danny." Danny? So what? Don't you know you, never heard of you, have no idea if you have ever done anything for the community or if you even care, but give me a break.

Some people do care about the community and do try to give back and maybe, just maybe, you should try to thank them once in awhile instead of being critical.

I for one would like to thank all the thousands of people in the Magic Valley who do step up and give back to our community. This is a great community and wonderful country we live in, and we should be proud of what folks do to try and help.

I still don't know what I did to be included in your letter, but thank you for notifying. And, Ronnie, I hope you have a nice holiday season. I'm not a doctor, so I would not recommend you get more fiber in your diet and try to get a life.
DAN WILLIS
Twin Falls

Get in your two cents

ONLINE: At MagValley.com, you can respond to any of the local opinions or stories in today's edition. First register online for free and then give us your two cents.

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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 83403; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magvalley.com.

Why Romney had to make his speech

WASHINGTON — When Mitt Romney's father ran for the presidency 40 years ago, his Mormonism was not an issue. When Mo Udall was a major challenger for the Democratic nomination in 1976, his religion was so irrelevant that today most people don't even remember that Udall was a Mormon.



CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

camera, "it really defines me." The ad then hails him as a "Christian leader."

Forget the implications of the idea that being a "Christian leader" is some special qualification for the presidency whose Constitution rejects any religious test for office.

Just imagine that Huckabee was running one-on-one in Iowa against Joe Lieberman. (It's a thought experiment. Stay with me.) If he had run the same ad in those circumstances, it would have raised an outcry. The subtext — who's the Christian in this race? — would have been too obvious to ignore, the appeal to bigotry too clear.

Well, Huckabee is running against Romney (the other GOP candidates are non-factors in Iowa) and he knows that many Christian conservatives, particularly those who have an affinity with Huckabee's highly paraded evangelical Christianity, consider Romney's faith a decidedly non-Christian cult.

Huckabee has been asked about this view that Mormonism is a cult. He dodges and dances. "I'm invited to be the president of a theological school, that'll be a perfectly appropriate question," he says, "but to be the president of the United States, I don't know that that's going to be the most important issue that I'll be facing when I'm sworn in."

Hmm. So it is an issue, Huckabee avers. But not a very important one.

And he's not going to pronounce upon it. Nice straddle, leaving the question unanswered and still open — the kind of maneuver one comes to expect from slick former governors of Arkansas

hustling for the presidency. And by Huckabee's own logic, since he is not running for head of a theological college, what is he doing proclaiming himself a "Christian leader" in an ad promoting himself for president?

Answer: Having the issue every which way. Seemingly to take the high road of tolerance by refusing to declare Mormonism a cult, indeed declaring himself about the issue — yet clearly playing to that prejudice by leaving the question ambiguous, while making sure everyone knows that he, far one, is a "Christian leader."

The God of the Founders, the God on the coinage, the God for whom Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving Day is the inflexible, ecumenical, nonsectarian Providence of the American civil religion whose relation to this blessed land is without appeal to any particular testament or ritual.

Every mention of God in every inaugural address in American history refers to the deity in this kind of all-encompassing, universal, non-denominational way. The one exception: William Henry Harrison. He caught cold delivering that inaugural address. Thirty-one days later, he was dead. Draw your own conclusions. I suspect that neither Jefferson's Providence nor Washington's Almighty would look kindly on the exploitation of religious differences for political gain. It is un-American. It is unfortunate that Romney has had to justify himself in response.

Analysis: Romney addresses authenticity question, not just LDS faith, in speech

By Ron Fournier
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Mitt Romney's religion is only part of his problem. A bigger threat to his presidential candidacy, advisers say, is a record of policy flip-flops and nagging doubts about his credibility.

And so Romney's highly anticipated address was as much about his character. He used an intensely personal issue — religion — to address voters' concerns about his authenticity, integrity and the strength of his convictions.

No single speech is likely to fix such a big concern.

Indeed, there was intense debate inside the campaign about whether to deliver a religion address. Romney was torn from the start, telling advisers that he had a "problem." Political journalists always follow his name by a comma, the words "a Mormon," and another comma, Romney said, according to two advisers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they're not supposed to reveal private talks.

"If I give a speech about Mormonism," he complained privately, "I'll never get beyond the comma problem."

In the end, with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee threatening his lead in Iowa, Romney and his advisers agreed that the "comma problem" wasn't his biggest worry. Beyond explaining or defending his faith, aides said, Romney needed a high-profile event to show that he has a moral and political core — that he's not somebody who will say or do anything to get elected.

Thus, he mentioned the word "Mormon" just once in the address, and that

was a promise not to run from his faith.

"Americans do not respect believers of convenience," Romney said. "Americans tire of those who would jettison their beliefs, even to gain the world."

This from a man who campaigned for governor of Democratic-leaning Massachusetts as a supporter

of abortion rights, gay rights and gun control — only to switch sides on those and other issues in time for the GOP presidential race.

The first thing he did as a presidential contender in January was sign the same no-tax pledge an aide dismissed as

"government by gimmickry" during the 2002 campaign.

"The Romney strategy with the speech appeared to be to try to kill two birds with one stone — to placate voters who are apprehensive about him as a Mormon or as a flip-flopper," said Carlos Panagopolous, a political scientist at Fordham University.

"But I am not convinced he was successful in doing either," Panagopolous said. "At the end of the day, it is very difficult to change voters' pre-existing beliefs, and it would probably take a much more powerful speech than the one Romney delivered today."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Visitor says thanks, hello to local friends

I live in Azul, a city in the center of Buenos Aires province in Argentina. I've been four times in your beautiful city, visiting my friends David and Martha Mead and Roy and Marge Sloten. I've had a very nice time there. The people are very kind and the city and the Magle Valley are really beautiful. My friends drove me to some near cities and also took me to the Sawtooths area.

I read your bulletin, and I usually read your Web page. It is possible that this letter appears on your newspaper so as to send greetings to my friends and tell them that next time I'll visit them again! Thank you very much for your time. Muchas gracias.
DAVID CALA
Azul, Buenos Aires
Argentina

Thank you to those who support soldiers

I am writing on behalf of the soldiers, sailors and airmen currently serving in Task Force ODIN, Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Salah Ah Din Province, Republic of Iraq.

We are deeply grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support we have received from the people of Idaho, in particular, Clear Channel Radio of Twin Falls, Brenda, Thibault, and the individuals and organizations that contributed and continue to contribute to the Let Freedom Ring for Christmas campaign for deployed soldiers.

Most of us get into a rhythm and many days feel like Groundhog Day, where each day is exactly the same as the day before. Your packages brought welcome relief from that feeling and definitely brightened the day for everyone within Task Force ODIN. One of the soldiers stated, "This is exactly what we need to keep going some days."

I also wanted to specifically thank Brenda Thibault, whose brother, Curtis Hall, was killed here in Iraq earlier this year. Her family's sacrifice to this country will not be forgotten. Their efforts to bring Christmas cheer to the

deployed service members within Task Force ODIN are a wonderful tribute to the sacrifices many families have

made. Thanks again.
CPT JUSTIN HOPKINS
Task Force ODIN
Iraq

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Neighbors shun Missouri family over Internet hoax and suicide

By Christopher Leonard
Associated Press writer



Tina Meier, 37, holds two pictures of her daughter Megan who committed suicide last October after receiving cruel messages on MySpace, on Nov. 19, in St. Charles, Mo.

DARDENNE PRAIRIE, Mo. — Waterford Crystal Drive is one of those suburban streets that seem so new as to have no history at all, but the suicide of a teenage girl — and allegations she had been tormented by a neighbor over the Internet — have brought a reaction that is old, almost tribal, in its nature.

Residents of the middle-class subdivision have turned against the neighbor, Lori Drew, and her family, demanding the Drews move out. In interviews, they have warned darkly that someone might be tempted to "take matters into their own hands."

"It's like they tried to do in the 1700s and 1800s. If you wronged a community you were basically shunned. That's basically what happened to her," said Trevor Buckles, a 40-year-old who lives next door to the Drews.

Drew became an outcast after she participated in a hoax in which a fictional teenager by the name of "Lori Evans" exchanged online messages with 13-year-old Megan Meier. Megan received cruel messages from Josh that apparently drove her to hang herself in her closet in 2006.

Through her lawyer, Drew, a mother of two in her 40s, has denied saying harmful things to the girl over the Internet, and prosecutors have said they found no grounds for charges against the woman. Nevertheless, the community reaction has been vengeful and the pressure on the Drews intense.

More than 100 residents gathered in front of their home on a recent evening, holding candles and reciting stories about Megan.

Last December, after neighbors learned of the Internet hoax, someone threw a brick through a window in the Drew home. A few weeks ago, some-

one made a prank call to police reporting that there had been a shooting inside the Drews' house, prompting squad cars to arrive with sirens flashing.

Someone recently obtained the password to change the Drews' outgoing cell phone recording, and replaced it with a disturbing message. Police would not detail the content.

Clients have fled from Drew's home-based advertising business, so she had to close it. Neighbors have not seen Drew outside her home in weeks.

Death threats and ugly insults have been hurled at Drew over the Internet, where she has been portrayed as a monster who should go to prison, lose custody of her children, or worse. Her name and address have been posted online, and a Web site with satellite images of the home said the Drews should "rot in hell."

Some of the threats "really freak me out," Buckles said while standing on his front porch after dark Tuesday night. As he spoke, a car slowed and stopped in front of Drew's home. It sat there idling for a few long minutes, then sped away. Buckles said it is a common occurrence.

She said, "I just really hope that no one comes out here and does something insane," Buckles said. "If they do, I hope they get the right house."

Sheriff's Lt. David Tiefenbrunn said patrols have been stepped up around Drew's house. "There could be individuals out there with a vigilante-type attitude that might want to take revenge," he said.

Ron and Tina Meier's home is four houses away from the Drews. The breach between the once-friendly families seems beyond repair.

"I think that what they have done is so despicable, that I think it absolutely disgusts people," Tina Meier said. "I can't take one minute of worry worrying about who does not like Lori Drew or who hates Lori Drew. I could not care less."

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INSIDE: Allen Iverson's big night sends Denver Nuggets past Dallas Mavericks, B5



INSIDE: Prep Rally, B2 | Local roundup, B4 | NFL, B5 | Comics, B6-7- | Weather, B8

Confident Bruins make quick work of Kimberly



Twin Falls High School's Brent Martinez puts a hold on Kimberly's Allen Hutz during their wrestling match Thursday night in Twin Falls. The Bruins beat the Bulldogs 67-6.

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

Things weren't going well, according to Twin Falls sophomore Zak Slotten. The junior varsity Bruin wrestlers saw their session dominated by Kimberly, and something needed to change.

"We needed to go out there and show that we were for real," Slotten said. You can safely say the Bruins proved their point.

Slotten, opening the varsity proceedings at 152 pounds, took all of 28 seconds to register a pin of Kimberly's Tom Butler. Moments later Grayson Stone, one of the favorites to take the Class 5A 160-pound championship, dispatched Evan Albright in 54 seconds, and the romp was on as Twin Falls defended its home mat and crushed Kimberly

67-6 on Thursday.

Albright looked to have an opening on Stone in the early going, but the Bruin senior quickly turned the tables with a lateral leg-drop move he called the "Said," in reference to Twin Falls coach Said Dabestani. Stone forced Albright to his back and within seconds scored the pin.

"It's funny, because we used to make fun of that move because it never worked," said Stone. "I had about a 15-percent success rate with it last year, but I threw it at state and it's been working ever since."

Twin Falls went on to win the next six matches, and would have scored a shutout but for a pair of one-point victories for Kimberly, grabbed by Chandler Holcomb at 119 pounds and Tucker Mulberry at 130.

last-round reversals to nab their wins, and Mulberry got his within the final 15 seconds of his match with Tyler Hite.

"I was in the down position, and I thought maybe it wouldn't be a big deal if I lost, because I have something like 30 matches left this year," said Mulberry. "But when I saw everyone looking at me (from the edge of the mat), it got the going. It went straight to my heart and I knew I had to get it."

That was one of few bright spots for Kimberly, but there were a whole lot for the Bruins, including pins by Joe Hamilton, Todd Anderson, Chance Requa, Brent Martinez and Kevin Hurd. Such was the performance that Stone said good things are in store if things keep as they are.

"We're 3-0 as a team, and that's

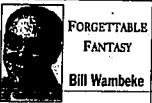
Please see **WRESTLING**, Page B4

March to the fantasy postseason

It's almost sad how much like a real general manager you become when the playoffs of fantasy football approach.

While I held a slim lead heading into Monday night's game, I needed some help from others to take down some teams so I could improve my standing. I was watching scores and keeping track of who was playing who so that I could still be "mathematically" in the playoffs.

A two-win team was in line to get a victory but needed his opponent's Monday night player to have a subpar game. He didn't and moved onto a 8-5 record.



FORGETTABLE FANTASY

Bill Wambeke

Sitting at 6-7 now, I still stand a decent chance of making the top-tier playoffs and not having to settle for consolation champion. However, I play another 6-7 team and the guy in the No. 4 slot (who has a 7-6 record) is facing an almost-certain loss. If he loses by enough, I win and the other 6-7 team loses, I could sneak into the playoffs with a 7-7 record. The league I play in is like the NFL: 500 teams can make the playoffs.

The most frustrating part to last week is that bad teams had a chance to upset good teams but just didn't put in the right players. It makes you wonder if they just haven't checked their team in a while or just don't care if they can get a win. It's kind of like the real National Football League where teams start tanking to get high draft picks or if a team's season is lost, start throwing in the ruckles to get them experience. I'm sure many a fantasy owner has had to deal with this late in the season.

The flip side is when teams that clinch playoff berths early start sitting players. Teams who loaded up on players from the Colts, Patriots, Cowboys, Packers and Steelers could find themselves in a bit of the pickle in the coming weeks if their stars are left to sit on the bench because they won't be playing for anything. The key is to find the hot players on hot teams making a playoff push.

While it's a gamble, picking up Bears, Redskins, Cardinals and Bills players could help a team in need because those teams' players

Please see **FANTASY**, Page B5



The College of Southern Idaho's Soann Lucet (53) attempts a jump shot during the Golden Eagles' game against Yakima Valley Community College Thursday night in Twin Falls.

Yakity-Yak, no comeback

Golden Eagles surge past Yakima Valley

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

Some would call it a tale of two halves, a night and day performance, or a halftime pep talk-inspired turnaround. In all actuality, it was simply better execution.

The No. 8 College of Southern Idaho women's basketball team broke out of a tight battle with visiting Yakima Valley Community College (Wash.) to win Thursday's Coca-Cola Classic opener 86-62.

The 9-1 Golden Eagles struggled through 20 minutes that featured 14

At CSI gymnasium
Thursday's scores
Eastern Utah 85, Sheridan 82, OT
Northwest College 87, Colorado NW 54
No. 8 CSI 86, Yakima Valley 62.
Today
Yakima Valley vs. Colorado NW, 4 p.m.

turnovers, and no fewer than four shots missed from within two feet of the basket, before taking a 48-41 lead to the break. However, CSI outscored Yakima Valley 38-21 after the half to hand the 3-1 Yaks their first loss of the season.

"We switched up how we guarded their screens," CSI head coach Randy Rogers said. "Their guards were very good at dribbling out to extend our

Coca-Cola Classic

Northwest College vs. Eastern Utah, 6 p.m.
No. 8 CSI vs. Sheridan, 8 p.m.

Saturday
Sheridan vs. Colorado NW, 4 p.m.
Eastern Utah vs. Yakima Valley, 6 p.m.
No. 8 CSI vs. Northwest College, 8 p.m.

defense and open up the middle for their posts, but we switched a lot on their ball screens, which gave us a better chance on preventing their entry passes."

CSI committed 33 turnovers for the game but held Yakima Valley scoreless for the first 3:59 of the second half and put the game away with a 20-7 run to

Please see **EAGLES**, Page B4

Twin Falls makes it 12 straight vs. HCC foes

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

A dozen doesn't sound nice for the 11th Country Conference given that it means the Twin Falls Bruins girls basketball team won't start its 12th straight game over a conference opponent.

The Bruins continued the streak Thursday against the Skyline Bruins with a 79-46 trip behind the wood shed. To put it in a larger perspective, Twin Falls has not lost to a conference opponent since the 2005-06 regional tournament when, ironically, it was eliminated by Skyline. Only Kelly Vriesman and Amber Petersen were around for that postseason.

Obviously, a lot has changed, even since last postseason.

"It's constant defense," junior Devan Matkin said of practices. "Zig-zag, up the court or shut from behind. It's coming together."

Matkin created many turnovers, mostly on her line steals. Instead of hard time in the slammer for the thefts, she earned praise from coach Nancy Jones.

"I do," Jones said when asked if that behavior is expected of her starting guard. "She's playing on defense, but she's got a long way to go."

Matkin contributed 15 points for the Bruins, as did Brooke Robinette. The girls, who played together for years, assisted each other well and mostly worked from inside the arc for their points.

"They've played together for a long time," Jones said. "They're good. This is ESP (extrasensory perception)

Please see **BRUINS**, Page B4

Backup QB helps weary Redskins best Bears



Chicago Bears linebackers Lance Briggs and Brian Urlacher (54) chase Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis, right, during the second quarter of their football game on Thursday in Landover, Md.

The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Only days removed from burying a teammate, and without the benefit of a full practice, the Washington Redskins managed to win thanks to a backup quarterback who last completed a pass in 2004.

Todd Collins came on for the injured Jason Campbell and threw two touchdowns Thursday night, leading Washington to a 24-16 victory over the fading Chicago Bears that ended the Redskins' four-game losing streak.

"It seems like it's been forever since we won a game," Washington coach Joe Gibbs

said. "This team's overcome so much. ... It's been an emotional roller coaster for us."

In a rough-and-tumble game befitting two teams that entered on the very fringe of the playoff chase in the 2006 NFL, both starting quarterbacks left in the first half. Campbell departed in the second quarter with a dislocated left kneecap a few plays after hurting his throwing elbow, and Rex Grossman never returned from a left knee injury on Chicago's second possession.

Grossman's replacement, Brian Griese, threw interceptions on consecutive passes in the second quarter, both picked off by Shawn Springs.

The comeback returned the first 53 yards, setting up Collins' 21-yard touchdown pass to another backup, tight end Todd Yoder, to put Washington (6-7) ahead 7-0.

Collins wound up 15-16 for 224 yards and his first two scores since 2002, when he played for Kansas City.

"I don't know that I've ever had a better performance come off the bench. Ever," Gibbs said.

Griese was 21-for-45 for 235 yards and one TD, but also raised his interception total to 17 in seven appearances this season for the reigning NFC champion

Please see **REDSKINS**, Page B5

VARSITY BASKETBALL STANDINGS

As of Dec. 5

Boys			Girls		
Team	Conf.	All	Team	Conf.	All
Class 5A					
Region Four-Five-Six					
Skyline	0-0	3-0	Twin Falls	0-0	6-1
Highland	0-0	1-0	Highland	0-0	3-1
Idaho Falls	0-0	2-1	Skyline	0-0	2-3
Madison	0-0	2-1	Madison	0-0	0-6
Twin Falls	0-0	2-1	Idaho Falls	0-0	0-7
Class 4A					
Great Basin Conference					
West Division			West Division		
Burley	0-0	2-0	Jerome	1-0	7-0
Wood River	0-0	1-0	Minico	1-0	3-3
Jerome	0-0	2-1	Burley	1-1	5-3
Minico	0-0	2-1	Wood River	0-2	1-6
Class 3A					
Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference					
Declo	0-0	1-1	Kimberly	1-0	7-0
Kimberly	0-0	1-1	Declo	1-0	5-0
Gooding	0-0	1-3	Gooding	1-1	4-3
Buhl	0-0	0-2	Filer	1-1	3-3
Filer	0-0	0-3	Buhl	1-0	2-16
Class 2A					
Canyon Conference					
Valley	0-0	3-0	Valley	0-0	5-1
Glenns Ferry	0-0	2-0	Wendell	0-0	2-4
Wendell	0-0	1-3	Glenns Ferry	0-0	1-5
Class 1A					
Magie Valley Northside Conference					
Richfield	1-0	4-0	Richfield	3-0	5-1
Comm. School	0-0	4-0	Dietrich	1-0	4-2
Carey	0-0	2-0	Carey	1-1	2-1
Shoshone	0-0	1-1	Shoshone	1-1	3-4
Bliss	0-0	0-1	Comm. School	0-2	1-4
Camas County	0-0	0-2	Camas County	0-3	4-5
Dietrich	0-1	0-3			
Class 1A					
Magie Valley Southside Conference					
Murtaugh	2-0	3-0	Hagerman	2-0	5-0
Oakley	0-0	0-1	Hansen	2-0	5-1
Raft River	0-0	1-1	Raft River	2-0	5-3
Lighthouse Chr.	0-0	0-2	Castleford	1-1	3-3
Castleford	0-0	0-2	Oakley	0-1	1-3
Hansen	0-0	0-3	Lighthouse Chr.	0-2	0-6
Hagerman	0-1	0-2	Murtaugh	0-3	0-7
Magie Valley Chr.	0-1	0-4			
Independent					
Twin Falls Chr.	—	2-1			

Coaches: To report game results, call 1-800-658-3883, Exts. 235, 230, 229 or 220, or 735-3239.

Speedy Rodriguez leading Glenns Ferry

By Mike Christensen
Times-News writer

Maybe size does matter. But it certainly doesn't matter as much when you're fast. And Jesus Rodriguez is fast. Very fast.

Standing just 5-foot-8, the Glenns Ferry senior guard has lit up the competition in the early going, helping the Pilots to a 3-1 record through four games. Rodriguez has been steady for Glenns Ferry, scoring 14 points in each of the first three games before exploding for 23 against Gooding this week.



Rodriguez

"It was fun," Rodriguez said of the effort against the Senators. "We came prepared and played the best we have all season."

A three-sport athlete at Glenns Ferry, Rodriguez labels quickness as his best strength.

"His coach agrees. 'The main thing with him is his speed,'" said Pilots coach Jeremiah Johnston. "He can use his speed out

there on the wing and get to the bucket before the other team can bring any help defense over."

And when the Pilots run the floor, Rodriguez often beats the defense up the floor for easy transition baskets. While Rodriguez's offensive prowess draws the most attention, his value isn't limited to that end of the court. He typically gets the assignment to harass the opposition's best outside shooter, another job he excels at.

Offense, defense, practice or timeouts, Johnston said Rodriguez serves as a positive influence on his teammates. His willingness to play hard at both ends of the court stands out in Johnston's eyes.

"Whatever honors or awards he receives are well deserved," said

Magic Valley Prep Athletes of the Week

Johnston. The biggest honors the soft-spoken Rodriguez wants this fall are a repeat Canyon Conference championship and a run to the Class 2A state title.

"It's on us to stick together and play as a team," said Rodriguez. "And if the Pilots do that, those lofty goals will start coming into focus. It's possible to reach," said Rodriguez.

With his speed, it'd be foolish to doubt him.

Idaho High School Boys Basketball Media Poll

Week 1 (Records through Dec. 3)	Class 5A	Class 4A	Class 3A	Class 2A	Class 1A
4. Century 2-0 9	1. Timberline (4) 2-0 33	1. Burley (9) 1-0 40	1. Snake River (5) 1-0 37	1. West Jefferson (3) 2-0 33	1. Lewis County (4) 5-0 60
5. Bishop Kelly 0-1 8	2. Valley (3) 3-0 28	2. Hillier (8) 2-0 25	2. Shelley (2) 1-1 32	2. Fir (2) 1-1 27	2. Garden Valley (1) 6-2 56
Others: Bonnaville 7, Minico 4, Lakeland 3, Middleton 3, Skyview 2, Emmett 2, Rigby 1, Preston 1.	3. Coeur d'Alene (1) 3-0 25	3. Moscow 1-0 11	3. Fruitland (1) 1-1 24	3. Aberdeen (1) 4-0 25	3. Hagerman (1) 5-0 50
	4. Madison 1-1 15		4. South Fremont 1-1 9	4. West Side (2) 4-0 21	4. Rimrock 5-1 42
	5. Tule Lake City 1-1 5		5. Bonners Ferry 0-2 4	5. Glenns Ferry 3-1 14	5. Richfield (3) 5-2 42
	Skyline 3-0 5		5. Sugar-Salem 1-1 4	5. Glenns Ferry 3-1 14	5. Kendrick (2) 2-1 16
Others: Highland 3, Mountain View 3, Borah 2, Eagle 1.			Others: Marsh Valley 3, Weiser 3, Kellogg 2, Buhl 2, Kimberly 1, Homedale 1.	Others: Valley 4, Soda Springs 3, Malbo 2.	Others: Troy 8, Carey 6, Garden 2.

Idaho High School Girls Basketball Media Poll

Week 4	Class 5A	Class 4A	Class 3A	Class 2A	Class 1A
1. Coeur d'Alene (7) 4-0 82	1. Sugar-Salem (5) 5-1 68	1. Lewis County (4) 5-0 60	1. Sugar-Salem (5) 5-1 68	1. Grace (3) 6-0 72	1. Lewis County (4) 5-0 60
2. Centennial (2) 8-0 74	2. Kimberly (4) 7-0 58	2. Garden Valley (1) 6-2 56	2. Kimberly (4) 7-0 58	3. Fir (1) 3-2 50	2. Garden Valley (1) 6-2 56
3. Lake City 5-1 42	3. Bear Lake 5-1 46	3. Hagerman (1) 5-0 50	3. Bear Lake 5-1 46	4. Valley 6-1 28	3. Hagerman (1) 5-0 50
4. Valluave 6-1 34	4. Kellogg 4-1 38	4. Rimrock 5-1 42	4. Kellogg 4-1 38	5. Butte County 3-3 14	4. Rimrock 5-1 42
5. Boise 7-1 24	Others: Post Falls 6, Highland 6, Eagle 2.	5. Richfield (3) 5-2 42	Others: Post Falls 6, Highland 6, Eagle 2.	Others: Plymouth 6, Soda Springs 4, Malad 4.	5. Richfield (3) 5-2 42
		5. Kendrick (2) 2-1 16			5. Kendrick (2) 2-1 16
		1. Grangeville (5) 6-1 78			1. Grangeville (5) 6-1 78

Daniel keys Missouri's rise

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A week after Missouri's unexpected national title run ended, Chase Daniel has a chance to bring the Tigers another honor the program has never achieved.

The junior quarterback is one of four finalists for the Heisman Trophy, along with Florida's Tim Tebow, Hawaii's Colt Brennan and Arkansas running back Darren McFadden.

Daniel wasn't the only reason Missouri came within one victory of playing for its first national championship and was the No. 1 team in the country for the first time in 38 years. He was the most important reason.

"We always felt football is the greatest team sport there is, they all have different skills and they make it work." Except for one position, quarterback," coach Gary Pinkel said. "He's got it all."

Including an invite to the Heisman presentation in New York on Saturday night.

Daniel and Missouri (11-2) were bounced from a shot at the national title — and a spot in the Bowl Championship Series — by Oklahoma in the Big 12 championship game last Saturday.

It was a disappointing end to one of the greatest regular seasons in Missouri history, but the loss did little to diminish what Daniel has done.

Not your prototypical quarterback coming out of powerhouse Southlake Carroll High near Dallas, the 6-footer had to look outside Texas for a school to play for.

With a steely resolve, Daniel has developed into one of the best in the nation. He was one of six quarterbacks to reach 4,000 yards passing this season (4,170 yards), throwing 33 TDs and completing 70 percent of his passes.

"If you can play, if you prepare well, it shouldn't matter," Daniel said, referring to his height. "Nowadays, a 6-5 guy has to show he can't play and a 6-foot guy has to show he can."

Unflappable in the pocket, unerring in his decision-making, one of Daniel's greatest strengths has been spreading the ball around in Missouri's potent spread offense. Big-play threat Jeremy Maclin set an NCAA



Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel (10) sprays for short yards against Mississippi in Oxford, Miss., on Sept. 8. Daniel is a finalist for this year's Heisman Trophy, which will be awarded Saturday.

Editor's note: This is the last story in a series of 2007 Heisman Trophy finalists written by the Associated Press.

freshman record for all-purpose yards, tight ends Martin Rucker and Chase Coffman were kept busy and running back Tony Temple usually kept defenses honest.

It helps that Daniel is operating virtually the same offense he ran in high school.

"He knows the thing inside and out as well as the coach," offensive coordinator Dave Christensen said. "I think he's probably the best guy in the country to run this offense."

Daniel's best game might have been a week before the loss to Oklahoma, when he wowed Kansas by going 40-for-49 for 361 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions in a victory that gave Missouri its first Big 12 North title.

"I'm sure we just sent him to New York," Kansas cornerback Aqib Talib said. "He's got my vote."

Hawaii facing shortfall of Sugar Bowl tickets after relinquishing 4,000 seats

HONOLULU — Georgia's apparent home-field advantage at the upcoming Sugar Bowl just grew by 4,000 fans — thanks to Hawaii.

The University of Hawaii decided against taking its full 17,500-ticket allotment for the Jan. 1 game because it was concerned it could not sell them all, so 4,000 tickets were given away by Georgia.

With Hawaii quickly selling out its reduced allotment of 13,500 tickets by Tuesday, many angry Warriors' fans and season-ticket holders were left scrambling to find tickets to the school's first bowl game outside the Aloha State since the 1992 Holiday Bowl.

Tickets, ranging from \$125 to \$145, were first made available to the Warriors' 23,000 season-ticket holders and sold out quickly. Tickets were supposed to go on sale to the general public Wednesday, but that never happened.

World Resort.

McFadden won the Doak Walker Award for best running back for the second year.

Penn State linebacker Dan Connor won the Bednarik Trophy as the nation's best defensive player.

LSU defensive tackle Clason Dorsey won the Outland Trophy as college football's best interior lineman.

Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree became the first freshman to win the Heisman trophy award, given to the top receiver, while Arizona cornerback Antoine Casson won the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's best defensive back. Thomas Weber of Arizona State took the Lou Groza Award for best kicker, and Georgia Tech's Durrant Brooks won the Ray Guy Award as the best punter.

The coach of the year was Kansas' Mark Mangino.

Wake Forest's Grobe not headed to Arkansas

RALEIGH, N.C. — Coach Jim Grobe will return next season to Wake Forest, having apparently rebuffed an attempt by Arkansas to hire him to replace Houston Nutt.

"He called and said he wants to continue as our football coach," Demon Deacons athletic director Ron Wellman said Thursday.

2 Texas A&M football players arrested

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Texas A&M indefinitely suspended two football players Thursday after their arrests a day earlier on felony robbery and drug counts.

Yermi Babalola was charged with two aggravated robbery counts and one count of misdemeanor marijuana possession, according to a College Station police statement.

Brandon Joiner was charged with three drug possession counts, one a felony.

South Alabama to start football program

MOBILE, Ala. — The University of South Alabama's board of trustees voted unanimously Thursday to start a football program in a long-discussed move for the university.

The university plans to field a team starting in 2009.

— The Associated Press

Oakley boys outlast rival Raft River

By Zach Kyle
For the Times-Herald



DECEMBER 6 (Times-Herald) Raft River's Jordan Scott, left, and Oakley's Cole Washburn, center, battle for control of the ball as Oakley's Payson Bedke, right, looks on Thursday at Raft River High School.

Each team's tallest player led his respective team in scoring, but in the end Raft River's Jacob Williams and Oakley's Mitch Bedke cancelled each other out. Williams finished with 19 and Bedke with 18 before fouling out halfway through the fourth quarter. Colton Belkitt hit two 3-pointers and several pull-up jumpers on his way to 13 points, and he grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

No other Raft River player scored in double digits.

Oakley coach Scott Arnell was pleased with the team's ninth win. "We have improved a lot from the Hornets' sloppy first game against Carey," he said. "Oakley did a better job executing its offense."

"We had movement and some screens," Arnell said. "I'm excited just throwing up shots from all over the place and doing everything by ourselves. It was a team effort."

The difference in the game, Raft River coach Jeff Greenwood said, was that the Hornets executed better than the Trojans during the stretch.

"Our lack of execution was the difference," Greenwood said. "Every time we'd make a run and

make it a four-point game, we'd shoot ourselves in the foot. We'd do something like not switch on an out-of-bounds and give them an easy basket. It was frustrating."

Oakley shot 9-for-11 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter and beat Raft River's press to score a few easy baskets.

All rights to Mitch Bedke and Williams went at each other on the low post. Arnell said Oakley intended to go in for 60-70 minutes to get him in foul-trouble. Bedke stayed aggressive even after Williams blocked several of his shots early.

"Our goal was to get the ball to Mitch because we felt he would either score or Williams would foul him," Arnell said. "Williams blocked a couple shots, but he

jumping at everything and we could get fouls on him. We spread it out and worked it inside."

Oakley, improved to 1-1 with the win while Raft River dropped to 1-3. Greenwood said he isn't overly concerned about the Trojans' record.

"We started slow last year," Greenwood said. "We'll match up with anybody in the conference."

Rank	Team	W-L	PTS	REB	AST	STL	BLK
1	Oakley 59, Raft River 47	1-1	78	14	4	1	0

Head coach: Scott Arnell. Coaches: Jeff Greenwood, Scott Arnell. Game: 20:00. Location: Raft River High School.

Undeclared Bulldogs top Wildcats with defense

Times-News

2007-08 Season, Division I, Class 3A, Dec 6, 2007

A well played defensive game earned Kimberly its second conference win, 45-34 over visiting Filer on Thursday.

Alex Pfeiffer led the Bulldogs with 12 points. Kassie Newberry helped out with eight rebounds and Kayla Hutchison notched five steals.

The Wildcats' Jill Haney had eight points and eight boards, and Arianna Wight chipped in six points.

Kimberly (8-0, 2-0 Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference) plays at American Falls tonight, Fri. (3-4, 0-2 SCI) at Wood River on Tuesday.

RICHFIELD 60, DIETRICH 36
Junior Michelle Kent scored a game-high 18 points and was one of four Richfield players to score in double figures as the Tigers beat the host Dietrich 60-36 in Magic Valley Northside Conference play.

Lisa Pieper had 16 points, leading with 13 and Kimberly Bivell added 11 points for the Tigers.

"The score was 21-19 at the half and we felt we had Richfield kind of flustered," said Dietrich coach Acey Shaw. "We got down by eight points quick in the third quarter and it seemed to take the wind out of us."

For Dietrich, junior Jesse Dill registered a double-double with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Dill also had three steals. Senior Tammy Anderson registered seven boards and four steals for the Blue Devils (7-3, 1-1).

Dietrich plays in the Jockpot Tournament this weekend. Richfield travels to Carey on Tuesday.

2007 Class 4A All-Great Basin Conference West Division Football Team

- Offensive Player of the Year:** Dane Broadhead, QB, Minico
- Defensive Player of the Year:** Brett Wagner, DE, Jerome
- Coaches of the Year:** Gary Krumm, Jerome; Tim Penigot, Minico
- First Team**
- QB:** Jake Lammons, Jerome
- RB:** Skyler Morgan, Minico; Jason Stokes, Jerome; Tyler Shockey, Burley
- WR:** Zach Ingraham, Jerome
- TE:** Justin Stokes, Jerome
- TE:** Bill Carney, Minico
- Linebacker:** Brady Cooper, Minico; Brandon Clayson, Burley; Nate Francisco, Minico; Andy McDowell, Jerome; Justin Praegeritz, Jerome
- Defensive Linebacker:** Nathan Broadhead, Burley; Kyle Novis, Jerome; Curtis Timmons, Minico; Casey Stone, Jerome
- DE:** Kris Cook, Jerome; Erik Jacobson, Wood River
- MLB:** Jared Rade, Wood River
- Jordan Reed, Minico**
- LB:** Lonnie Barnes, Minico; Mark Olmos, Minico; Sam Yoshida, Burley; Zach Ingraham, Jerome
- Special Teams**
- P:** Collin Johnson, Minico
- K:** Sergio Mendoza, Zach Ingraham, Jerome

DECL 61, GOODING 44

The Senators took the loss against the visiting Hornets, 61-44 on Thursday.

Decla's McKell Webb and Macey Jones each scored 15 points and Sidney Christensen added 12.

The Senators were led by 15 points from Tiffany Jackson, while Brittany Wirth pulled down 10 rebounds and placed several blocks.

On Saturday (Gooding 44-1, 1-2; Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference) travels to Shoshone, while Declo (6-0, 2-0 SCI) is at Burley.

Richfield 60, Dietrich 36

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Dietrich plays in the Jockpot Tournament this weekend. Richfield travels to Carey on Tuesday.

Bliss 56, Camas County 52

Bliss won its second conference game, 56-52 over Camas County on Thursday.

Bliss' Jordan Jarvis was the big scorer for Magic Valley Christian with 12 points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Magic Valley Christian hosts Hansen on Saturday.

Hansen (1-2, 1-1 Magic Valley Southside Conference) allowed just three field goals all game for the Conquers (0-1, 0-2 MVSC) and held a 30-4 lead at halftime.

Jordan Jarvis was the big scorer for Magic Valley Christian with 12 points, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Magic Valley Christian hosts Hansen on Saturday.

Eagles

Continued from page B1

to up 81-56 with four minutes remaining in the game. Sophomore guard Ayden Lucet led the Golden Eagles with 19 rebounds and added nine points while Maddy Plunkett added 15 points and eight boards.

Sophomore Anita Burdick aided in CSI's inside domination, finishing with a 14-point, 11-rebound double-double.

"I really thought they got tired and couldn't run their offense," Lucet said of the second half. "It was a good game. When we knew we had that competition, we wanted to show that we could work just as hard and be competitive too."

CSI hit over 57 percent of its second-half shots while holding Yakima Valley to 6-for-30 shooting after the break. Sophomore guard Ayden Ornelas added in CSI's effort with 14 points and seven rebounds.

Yakima Valley was led by Andre Bloodgood's 13 points while Chelsey Hill added 12 points. CSI's size afforded it a decided advantage in the post, as the Yaks were outrebounded 57-35. CSI also took 16 more trips to the charity stripe, hitting 27 of 38 free-throw attempts. However, King added a pair of free throws for the win for the CSI coaching staff.

Glenns Ferry 25, Liberty Charter 21

The Golden Eagles won their first game of the season Thursday night to the College of Eastern Idaho.

"They're going to be hungry and they're going to be fired up and ready to get back on the winning track," Rogers said.

CSI will have to contend with Sheridan's relatively undersized yet active post duo of Tonisha Mack and Talmee Robinson. The two combined for 50 rebounds in their loss to CRU.

"They're a very active," Rogers said. "My next step is stop and she has great hands."

EASTERN IDAHO 65, SHERIDAN 62, OT

Maquette Pitts' offensive putback of a Brandt King miss put the College of Eastern Idaho up for good as the Golden Eagles handed Sheridan its first loss of the season, 65-62 in overtime. King added a pair of free throws before Tonisha Mack's last-second 3-point

Boys basketball

HANSEN 74, LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN 47

Hansen won its first game of the season and also its opening Magic Valley Southside Conference game in a big fashion as the Huskies defeated the visiting Lighthouse Christian 74-47.

"We finally put a ball game together for 32 minutes," said Hansen coach Mike Pfeiffer. "We did a good job of boxing out and we ran the floor good."

Hansen (1-3) had three players in double figures scoring with junior Jesus Guerrero scoring a game-high 21 points. Senior Nick Uribe followed with 20 including four 3-pointers and Carlos Vargas

Bruins

Continued from page B1

Ferly enough, the way in which the girls scored their points mirrored each other. Robinette made five buckets and one 3-pointer in the first half with another bucket in the second. Matkin made one field goal in the first half with five more and a 3-pointer in the second half. In Robinette's case, it's a noteworthy expansion of her point production compared to last season.

"It's a whole new game, new plays," Robinette said. "I've practiced shooting much more."

Veterans Petersen and Vriesman led team scoring with 16 points each, and Petersen beat the boards like they owned her game, grabbing 10 for the double-double. Skyline's Ashley Ward led all scorers with 17 points.

Wrestling

Continued from page B1

great," Stone said. "If we keep wrestling like we have been, we will be fine."

Comm

Continued from page B1

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Comm

Continued from page B1

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Northwest College 87, COLORADO NW 54

Despite a game-high 30 points and seven 3-pointers from Colorado Northwestern Community College sophomore Brittany Whiteman, 2-7 Northwest College (Wyo.) rolled to an 87-54 victory.

Shenna Ryan scored 20 points for the victorious Trappers while Gita Vargas, Erin Cooke and Megan Jung all notched double-doubles for Northwest.

Colorado Northwestern fell to 0-7 with the loss.

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Patriots focus on Sunday's game, not player's guarantee

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — The New England Patriots have their own guarantee: They'll never guarantee a victory like Pittsburgh's Anthony Smith did.

Some of them can't even guarantee they'll recognize him.

"I know Anthony Smith," Patriots defensive end Ty Warren said Thursday. "I don't know Anthony Smith."

Aaron Smith is in his ninth season with the Steelers, a standard defensive end who made the 2005 Pro Bowl and will be presiding from Brady on Sunday when the NFL's best team meets the league's top-rated defense.

Anthony Smith is a free safety in his second pro season and starting only because Ryan Clark's season

ended in late October with an inflamed spleen that was removed last month.

"I didn't know who he was until we started preparing for them," Tom Brady said.

Some background: Smith is a third-round draft choice of the 10 games he played last season and had two interceptions. This year he's started the last six games, has one interception and is sixth on the Steelers in tackles.

He's also the guy who may be too sane of himself.

"We're going to win," he said Wednesday. "Yeah, I can guarantee a win. As long as we come out and do what we got to do, both sides of the ball are rolling, and if our special

teams come through for us, we've got a good chance to win."

Any Patriots player who said that would be guaranteed one thing: sharp tongue-lashings from his teammates and coach Bill Belichick.

"That wouldn't happen in this locker room. It just wouldn't," junior Sean said. "We won't allow it. We don't talk. What we try to do is just work every day and build for tomorrow. That's all we do."

He knows teams can use such pronouncements as bulletin-board material to provide extra motivation.

But Belichick suggested that wasn't part of his prep work plan.

"We can sit around and put a bunch of stuff up on a board and write stuff down on paper and all of

that," he said. "I think in the end it comes down to whether you can outplay the other team on Sunday or not on play them. On a priority basis, that's what our priority is, trying to prepare well and play well."

As usual, his attitude was the players' attitude. They reacted calmly to Smith's remarks.

Linebacker Mike Vrabel: "I don't think that prediction's going to have much bearing on the outcome."

Running back Floyd Evans: "I don't see why anyone's comments outside of our head coaches and our position coaches should affect how we do things."

Brady: "Well done is better than well said. That's been the motto of the team."

Smith, though, has reason to be

confident. The Steelers (9-3) have allowed the fewest points and fewest yards of any NFL team. The Patriots (12-0) are coming off a pair of three-point wins that came down to the final minutes.

Then Smith made his guarantee. "I agree with it," Evans said. "If we don't get better, they're going to beat us."

The Patriots have used opponents' remarks to motivate themselves in the past.

Philadelphia wide receiver Freddie Mitchell said he knew only the numbers, not the names, of New England's cornerbacks.

"If he doesn't (know the names), he'll be in a tight end Christian Fauria responded.

Viewers flock to tune into games as New England chases history

NEW YORK (AP) — The largest cable audience in history. The highest rating for a regular-season Sunday afternoon game in more than a decade.

Seems every time the undefeated New England Patriots pull out a tight win, viewers tune in at a record pace.

"At this point, with the body of work they've put up, I don't want to miss it when they lose," said Monday Night Football announcer Mike Tirico.

Good teams will always attract a lot of attention, but rarely to this extent. Most don't burst with as many dramatic elements as the Patriots do, say TV executives and commentators.

The sparkle of Hollywood in the supermodel-dating quack. The intrigue and a spying scandal. The classic villain in the polarizing, mysterious coach.

And the specter of history. Jim Nantz, the CBS anchor for the NFL (and golf), calls it the Tiger Woods factor."

"People understand they may be watching something they've never seen again in their lifetimes," Nantz said.

That lures even casual fans.

Nantz will be in the booth when another highly anticipated matchup kicks off Sunday: the Patriots face the Pittsburgh Steelers, the traditional franchise with big stars, recent Super Bowl triumph and a 9-3 record.

This will be another monster rating," Nantz predicted, hardly going out on a limb.

Before New England's 20 meetings with undefeated teams earlier this season —



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady is surrounded by reporters as he stands in front of his locker answering questions at the NFL football team's facility in Foxborough, Mass., Thursday morning. The 12-0 Patriots will face the 9-3 Pittsburgh Steelers in Foxborough Sunday afternoon.

The Dallas Cowboys and the Indianapolis Colts — fans knew there was a chance the Patriots might lose. Both games earned huge ratings for CBS.

The last two weeks, New England was a heavy favorite against the Philadelphia Eagles and the Baltimore Ravens. As each contest rolled on and the underdog put New England on the brink of defeat, viewership soared.

Fans hear the score and think, "Maybe this is the night," said Fred Gaudelli, the producer for NBC's "Sunday Night Football."

The network attracted strong ratings for the Eagles game.

At the start of Monday night's Patriots-Ravens matchup, ESPN received an 8.0 rating, its highest this season for a 6:30 p.m. Eastern kickoff. Between

10:15 and 10:30, the rating was a 12.1. From 11:30-11:45, it peaked at a 17.6. The game ended at 11:49.

"It's not every week you have a jump like that," said John Willard, ESPN's executive vice president for programming.

On most Monday nights this season, the ratings peaked between 9:30 and 10.

"Obviously everyone in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island areas are hoping they go undefeated," Gaudelli said.

As for everybody else?

"Like any great team, there's no more satisfaction for a sports fan than to see Gollath go down."

Just two years ago, the Colts opened the season 13-0, but their run at history didn't generate the same amount of buzz. They

weren't embroiled in a spying scandal, for one thing. Nor are they from a large market.

The Patriots are, and more home fans mean bigger ratings.

New England's allure also stems from the fact the franchise has been lodged in the nation's football consciousness since the off-season, Tirico said.

Already the closest thing to a dynasty in the salary cap era, the Patriots made a splash on draft day, trading for mercurial receiver Randy Moss.

Fans were speculating about how good this team could be before it ever played a game. Between the spying scandal and a string of dominant early-season wins, New England remained the center of attention throughout September and October.

Iverson has another big night for Denver

DALLAS — Allen Iverson scored 35 points a night after putting up 51, and this time it was enough to lead the Denver Nuggets to victory.

Standing there just in front of Mavericks 122-109 Thursday.

Iverson's big effort came against the Los Angeles Lakers, and it came in defeat.

This time, he missed in 12 assists as the Nuggets won for the third time in seven games.

Linus Kleibitz benefited from Iverson's passing, scoring a season-best 23. Carmelo Anthony had 23 points and Marcus Camby added 14 rebounds and eight points.

Dirk Nowitzki tied his season high with 32 points and had 12 rebounds. For Dallas, Jerry Stackhouse scored a season-high 23 points. The Mavericks lost their second straight, third in four games and sixth in the last nine.

Dallas gave up its most points this season in a quarter (39, the first), a half (64) and a game.



Denver Nuggets guard Allen Iverson, left, drives into the key to score. Mavericks guard Jason Terry, on his way to the basket in the first half in Dallas, Thursday.

Sebastian Telfair and pulled up to shoot over Michael Doleac's outstretched arms.

Josh Smith had 20 points and seven blocked shots to lead Atlanta. Johnson added 21 points, and Marvin Williams finished with 20.

Craig Smith scored 20 points, and Jason Terry led the Timberwolves. Koolha Corey Brewer had 18 rebounds — two more than Al Jefferson's previous season high in a loss to Atlanta on Nov. 24. Despite having their reserves outscore Atlanta's by 46 points, the Timberwolves lost for the 22nd time in 24 games overall since winning at New York last April 6.

— The Associated Press

HAWS GO, TIMBERWOLVES 89

ATLANTA — Jose Johnson's 18-footer at the buzzer helped Atlanta avoid an embarrassing defeat.

Minnesota, which lost its fifth straight, lost to the Hawks 89-82. Johnson scored a league-low 2.5 and a career-high 15 points in a quarter.

However, after an Atlanta timeout, Johnson took the key and dribbled to the right past Timberwolves guard

Kidd says migraine put him out of Knicks game

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Jason Kidd insisted a migraine caused him to miss a New Jersey Nets game, brushing aside reports he was skipping a personal one-day strike to induce a trade or force a new contract.

"I didn't miss a game due to unhappiness, that's the first thing to clear up," the All-Star guard said Thursday.

The Nets' headquarter news conference he called at the Nets' headquarters.

Kidd said he was hit in the mouth Tuesday night in a game against Cleveland, and he later developed a migraine.

He alerted trainer Tim Walsh about the problem Wednesday about noon, and he later called out, said he could not play against the New York Knicks. The Nets lost 100-93.

"I am human, at the end of the day, I am human," said Kidd, who didn't seem angry with the reports created. "I went out and played with one leg. I played with a broken rib and yesterday, I just couldn't go. There was no plan of me not going. It was felt that I couldn't help the team."

Kidd's unexpected absence created instant headlines.

A source told the New York Post that Kidd was "on strike."

Yasuo reported that he was looking to be traded to Cleveland to play with

LeBron James. There also were reports that Kidd wanted his contract renegotiated.

Kidd said he learned of the fuss after receiving a telephone call from his mother.

He insisted he never asked to be traded, noting recent comments he made about playing with James and Kobe Bryant were just noise.

Kidd answers to questions posed about whether he would like to play with them at some point.

"I am having one of my best seasons," Kidd said. "Why would I want to be asked to be traded? And as a team (10) we are doing better than last year."

Kidd is under contract through the end of next season, making \$19.7 million this year and \$21.3 million next. He and Nets president Rod Thorn refused to discuss any current contract talks.

"I'm not upset," said Kidd, who was the subject of trade rumors involving the Los Angeles Lakers in February.

"Anything has been taken out of context. I was sick."

Fantasy

Continued from page B1. will be giving everything to get victories. And victories for them, can equal victories for you.

Bill Wambeke may be reached at 735-2322 or buwambeke@magicalvalley.com.

'Pacman' Jones pleads no contest in Vegas melee

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Suspended NFL player Adam "Pacman" Jones pleaded no contest Thursday to a reduced charge in a Las Vegas strip club melee which preceded a triple shooting that left a man paralyzed.

The Tennessee Titans cornerback appeared in Clark County District Court to sign a plea deal that officials said will get him probation in return for his testimony about the gunman who opened fire outside the club at the end of NBA All-Star weekend in February.

The 24-year-old Jones, who is seeking reinstatement to the Titans, said little during the brief arraignment. He donned a blue Texas Rangers baseball cap as he walked into court, handed it to a lawyer, and answered "Yes,

sir," to a judge who asked him if he understood the plea deal.

Jones will be sentenced to one year of probation for agreeing not to contest a charge of conspiracy to commit disorderly conduct, a gross misdemeanor, and to testify about the gunman.

Prosecutors dropped two charges of coercion, a felony carrying a possible sentence of one to six years in prison.

Clark County prosecutor Victoria Villegas has said authorities hope Jones can help identify the gunman.

Defense attorney Robert Langford has declined to say if Jones knows the shooter's identity.

No one has been charged in shooting, and Las Vegas police have not linked Jones to the gunfire.

Villanova rallies past LSU

PHILADELPHIA — Dante Cunningham's rebound layup with 5.3 seconds left capped No. 25 Villanova's rally from a 21-point deficit that stunned LSU 68-67 on Thursday night.

The Wildcats (6-1) seemed out of the game that was part of the Big East/SEC Invitational, trailing 54-33 with eight minutes to play.

Reserve guard Malcolm Grant finished with 18 points, and Cunningham had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

PHILADELPHIA — Donte Cunningham's rebound layup with 5.3 seconds left capped No. 25 Villanova's rally from a 21-point deficit that stunned LSU 68-67 on Thursday night.

The Wildcats (6-1) seemed out of the game that was part of the Big East/SEC Invitational, trailing 54-33 with eight minutes to play.

Reserve guard Malcolm Grant finished with 18 points, and Cunningham had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

DETROIT — Freshman center Matt Howard had 13 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks for Butler in the Horizon League opener for both teams.

Tom Crooks had 21 points and seven assists for the Titans (4-1), who lost their third straight to Butler.

Arizona's Olson to take rest of year off

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona basketball coach Lute Olson said Thursday night he would extend his leave of absence through the end of this season, citing undisclosed family matters that require his attention.

In a statement released by the university, Olson said he plans to return to coach the Wildcats for the 2008-09 season.

"There are personal issues within my family that need to be addressed and I must devote my full energy to that," Olson said in the statement.

spot Wednesday, other than some piles of snow.

The temperature was 26 degrees at kickoff, and perhaps a combination of the cold and the lack of regular rest contributed to all of the injuries. It wasn't the case that someone was forced off the field after each play, but it sure seemed that way.

Redskins

Continued from page B1

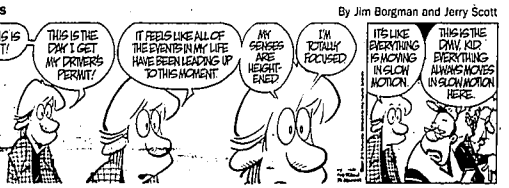
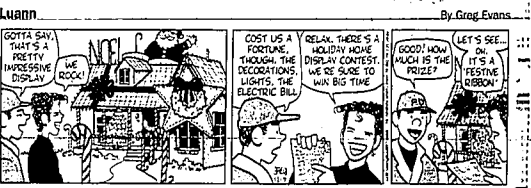
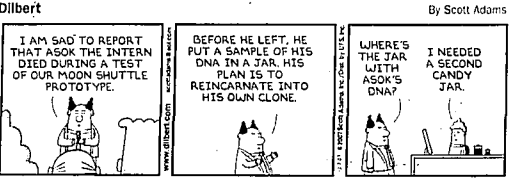
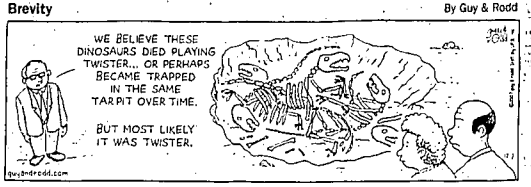
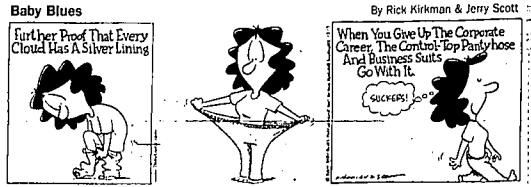
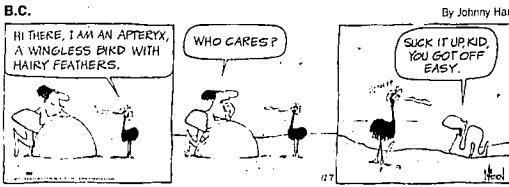
Bears (8-8). Bears fans had a short turnaround from their previous games Sunday, but the Redskins' preparation was even more limited. The entire organization traveled to the Bears' site for the funeral of safety Sean Taylor.

One sign of moving forward to Taylor, set up on a patch of grass outside the stadium where his number 21 was painted, is gone. Fans drenched off flowers, candles, teddy bears, homemade signs and other tokens before Sunday's game, but nothing remained in that

spot Wednesday, other than some piles of snow.

The temperature was 26 degrees at kickoff, and perhaps a combination of the cold and the lack of regular rest contributed to all of the injuries. It wasn't the case that someone was forced off the field after each play, but it sure seemed that way.

Several players and coaches spoke about feeling a sense of closure after paying their respects and being able to focus on football.



It's best to correct mistakes, Cancer

HOROSCOPE
Jeraline Saunders

21: Time is money. It is good to be cooperative, but heavy demands on your time could put you at a disadvantage. Sometimes you just must say no. Don't squander your savings to prove a point.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Start roughing it. Some event could remind you that security is tenuous. It could be a good time to economize or cut back on certain expenses. Stick to window shopping.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get back to counting your beans. You could experience the urge to try something utterly different this weekend. You will be happiest in the long run if you save money instead of spending it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't dig in your heels. The only issue that you refuse to budge about is the very issue that requires flexibility. If you hang out with friends, you may spend more than time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Maintain serenity. Impulsive actions can throw a wrench in weekend plans, but there is probably a silver lining to any change. Surprise phone calls or visitors are likely this evening.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Adapt and grow. Even a plant must make allowances for the changing seasons and the direction of the wind. If a mistake was pointed out to you, it is in your best interests to correct it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It is time to walk away from a tenuous situation and those who do not have your best interests at heart. Although you may think other people are to blame, there is something you can change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Eat humble pie. The very thing you are most certain about could surprise you in the end. Rather than harboring a grudge, you should investigate the facts. It is possible to own apologies.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you feel invisible, be aware that those in high places are aware of your peaceful, soothing ways. You are an asset to the community and a valued member of any work group or team.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Act in haste, repent in leisure. If it seems you are carrying a heavier load than usual, it's because you haven't taken the time to be thorough. Complete all deadlines as promised.

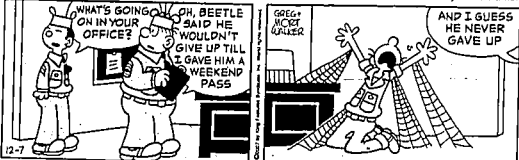
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put business hassles on the back burner and concentrate on friendly contacts. If you give people enough time, they will come around to your way of thinking.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A minor roadblock may impede your progress, but behind the scenes there is abundant help and assistance for any project you envision. You are able to safely navigate around



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



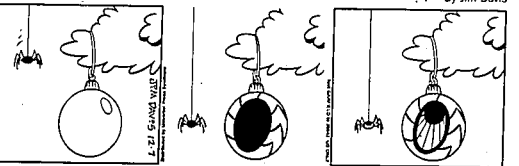
The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



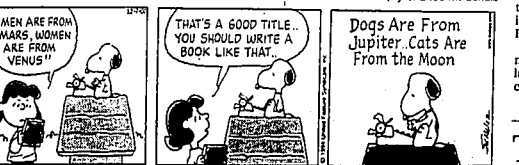
Hi and Lois

By Chanco Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Briant Parker & Johnny Hart



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Mother feels awkward being friends with stay-at-home dad



DEAR ABBY: Jeane Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a stay-at-home mother with three young children. I have become friends with another stay-at-home parent. We share many things in common, and our children are great playmates. The problem is, my friend is a man. Even though both of us are happily married, sometimes we feel awkward spending time together. Our spouses are not thrilled about us hanging out together, but they haven't forbidden it because they trust us to be faithful.

Is it appropriate for a man and a woman to spend time together while their spouses are at work? — AT HOME WITH ANOTHER WOMAN'S HUSBAND DEAR AT HOME: It depends upon the individuals involved and whether there is a physical attraction. In your case, because you "sometimes feel awkward spending time together," I suggest you limit it — because what you're feeling may be sexual tension. Has it occurred to you to include other stay-at-home parents in these visits? That might be a way to diffuse the situation without ending the friendship.

DEAR ABBY: I have a courtesy question regarding personal (not business) e-mails. Should a person's e-mail be "private" and accessible to others only after they are signed on and have given permission? Or are e-mail messages "open season," in that anyone with access to someone's PC and password can open the e-mail and browse at will? I recently discovered my wife reading my e-mail, and I was upset that she had opened it without asking my permission. Her response was "Well, I've got nothing to hide," but that misses the point of privacy and courtesy between married partners. Shouldn't courtesy require someone — even a trusted spouse — to ask before opening someone else's e-mail? — FEELS INVADED, ST. PETERS, MO. DEAR FEELS INVADED: If you and your wife share a joint e-mail account and the e-mail is addressed to both of

you, then your wife is within her rights to read it. If not, she should respect your privacy. And vice versa.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are having a minor disagreement, and I hope you'll respond to this letter in the paper so he sees it. (We're both frequent readers of your column.)

We're arguing over what would be an appropriate curfew for our 18-year-old son. My husband believes 2 a.m. is appropriate for weekends, as long as he knows where he is and what he'll be doing. I believe it should be 1 a.m.

Our son is a good person. He dabbled with alcohol when he was a bit younger, but he hasn't done it since. He is doing well in life. He also has good friends. Of course, he thinks the 2 a.m. curfew is better. Like father, like son, huh? Abby, which time do you believe is more appropriate as a curfew for our son? — CURFEW PATRIOT, MOM. DEAR CURFEW PATRIOT: Mom, at 18, your son has become a young man. There is very little difference between a 1 or 2 o'clock curfew on a weekend night. Why not split the difference and make it 1:30?

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 2007. There are 24 days left in this year.

Today's highlight:

On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked American and British territories and possessions in the Pacific, including the home base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

On this date:

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1796, electors chose John Adams to be the second president of the United States.

In 1836, Martin Van Buren was elected the eighth president of the United States. In 1907, the first Christmas Seals to help the fight against tuberculosis were sold in Wilmington, Del. (Some sources say Dec. 9.)

In 1946, fire broke out at the Wincoff Hotel in Atlanta; the blaze killed 119 people, including hotel founder W. Frank Wincoff. In 1972, America's last moon mission date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral. In 1982, convicted murderer Charlie Brooks Jr. became the first U.S. prisoner to be executed by injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas. In 1983, in Madrid, Spain, an Aviac DC-9 collided on a runway with an Iberia Air Lines Boeing 727 that was accelerating for takeoff, killing all 42 people aboard the DC-9 and 51 aboard the Iberia jet. In 1987, 43 people were killed after a gunman aboard a Pacific Southwest Airlines jetliner in California apparently opened fire on a fellow passenger, the two pilots and himself, causing the plane to crash. In 1987, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving for a Washington summit with President Reagan. Ten years ago, Republicans threatened Attorney General Janet Reno with contempt of Congress over her decision to forgo an investigation of White House campaign fund raising. Singer Bob Dylan, actor Charlton Heston, actress Lauren Bacall, opera singer Jessye Norman and ballet master Edward Villella shared the 20th annual Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C.

Five years ago, Iraq handed over its long-awaited arms declaration to the United Nations, denying it had doomsday weapons. President Saddam Hussein grudgingly apologized to Kuwait for his 1990 invasion. Shuttle Endeavour returned to Earth, bringing an astronaut and a pair of cosmonauts home from a six-month space station voyage. Bombs tore through four movie theaters in Bangladesh, killing 13. Azra Akh, Miss Turkey, won the Miss World contest in London, bringing to a close an International pageant that had incited deadly rioting in Nigeria, the original site of the event. One year ago, President Bush gave a chilly response to the Iraq Study Group's proposals for reshaping his policy, objecting to talks with Iran and Syria, refusing to endorse a major troop withdrawal and vowing no retreat from embattled U.S. goals in the Mideast. The U.S. military transferred the first group of Guantanamo Bay detainees to a new maximum-security prison on the naval base. Jeanne J. Kirkpatrick, the first woman U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, died in Bethesda, Md., at age 80.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Actor Eli Wallach is 92. Billings, Wyo. Billings Osborne is 76. Actress Ellen Burstyn is 75. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., is 70. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 67. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Johnny Bench is 60. Country singer Gary Morris is 59. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 58. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 55. Actress Patsy Cline is 52. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Larry Bird is 51. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Ed Hall is 49.

Rock musician Steve Nieve is 69. Actor Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 49. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 42. Actor Tom Sizemore is 41. Pop singer H a m a s Howell is 41. Pop singer N i c o l e Appleton (All Saints) is 32. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 31. Actress Shiri Appleby is 29. Singer Aaron Carter is 20.

THOUGHT

"There are no warlike peoples — just warlike leaders."

— Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace laureate (1904-1971)

Doctors deliver triplet boys and quadruplet girls

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — What do you have with three of a kind and four of a kind? A full hospital. Doctors at Ochsner Medical Center delivered triplet boys and quadruplet girls within 24 hours. Pamela Kocke made their appearance early Tuesday, while Alisha Murphy's girls began showing up about 12 hours later, according to a hospital news release. All were doing well Wednesday. "The trips were natural," hospital spokeswoman Katherine Voss said. The odds of naturally born

triplets are about one in 8,000. Linus, Oliver and Miles Kocke were delivered at 33 weeks and two days, the average gestation time for triplets. Babies born after 37 weeks' gestation are considered term. The boys weigh from 4 pounds, 2 1/2 ounces to 4 pounds, 10 ounces. Doctors won't know whether any of them are identical until they get lab results from the babies' placentas, Voss said. She said Murphy's girls, Molly, Elizabeth, Margaret and Carolyn, were conceived by in-vitro fertilization.

An ultrasound early during the pregnancy found that two of the girls are identical twins, indicating one of three fertilized eggs split after it was implanted, said Murphy's obstetrician, Dr. Sherri Longo. She didn't know which two are identical. The girls were delivered at 32 weeks, weighing from 3 pounds, 6 ounces to 4 pounds, 3 ounces. The average gestation for quadruplets is 29 1/2 weeks. "All the infants will stay in the neonatal intensive care unit for a few weeks — standard for premature babies.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Early rain and snow showers, then cloudy. Highs near 40.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy and chilly. Lows middle 20s.

BURLEIGH/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Falling temperatures and developing snow showers. Highs near 40. Then turning cloudy.
Tonight: Forecast of light snow expected. Lows 20s.
Tomorrow: Cold and cloudy with a distinct band of snow. Highs near 30.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, HI Lo Prep. Lists weather for Boise, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes monthly and yearly data.

Barometric Pressure

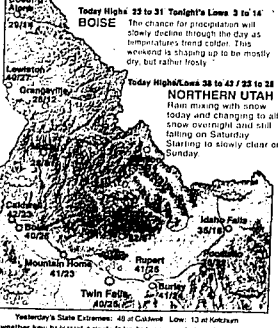
Table with 2 columns: Today, Yesterday. Shows pressure readings.

Sunrise and Sunset

Table with 2 columns: Today, Yesterday. Shows sunrise and sunset times.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. The chance for snow will subside through the weekend...



MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Dec 9, 17, 24, 31.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for today and tomorrow.

U.V. INDEX

Table showing U.V. index for today and tomorrow.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Boise, Burley, etc.

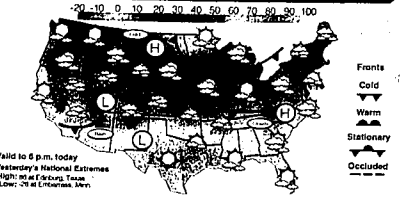
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Denver, Chicago, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for London, Tokyo, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

...do the very best I know how... the very best I can do... is to be happy...

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Calgary, Toronto, etc.

Cup stars' inclusion in Busch Series questioned

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) There's something about the roar of the engines that makes Greg Biffle itch to climb inside a race car...

Large advertisement for Motorola RAZR V3i featuring the slogan 'rock the holidays' and 'This phone ROCKS! MOTOROLA NOW ONLY \$79.99'. Includes images of the phone and gift cards.

INSIDE:
It's a living
—driving
in circles
on the
Alaskan
tundra, C3



INSIDE: Obituaries, C2 | Community, C2 | Idaho/West, C3 | Nation, C4-5 | World, C6-7

CLEANING UP DOWNTOWN



Lauro Pina works with other members of a Twin Falls County Work Detail Thursday to paint over graffiti in downtown Twin Falls. If you see graffiti, you can report it on the county's hotline, 737-4399.

A fish fight

Trout farm appeals to state board over pollution regulations

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

A Magic Valley fish farm is asking a state board to review an Idaho Department of Environmental Quality decision to limit how much the facility can pollute Warm Springs, a tributary of the Snake River.

Pristine Springs, a company that raises rainbow trout and tilapia on Warm Springs, says the DEQ's certification of a pollution management plan could hurt its ability to raise fish.

The company wants the state Board of Environmental Quality to overrule the DEQ and require the department to order a new certification with less-stringent controls.

Essentially, the company wants to pollute more than the government is willing to allow.

The pollution plan limits how much phosphorus, among other pollutants, the farm can discharge into the tributary.

Phosphorus is known to cause algae blooms that can diminish water quality and reduce oxygen critical to wild fish and aquatic plants.

Both the state and federal government have clamped down on phos-

phorus in recent years.

In December, the federal Environmental Protection Agency began testing a new set of permits to decrease aquaculture pollution in the Snake and its tributaries.

The EPA wants to cut phosphorus pollution by 40 percent.

The EPA permits include a pollution cap-and-trade program — similar to another federal program for mercury — that allows producers to trade pollution credits on an open market.

Pristine Springs made a similar plea to the state board two years ago, saying a DEQ pollution plan that set phosphorus limits for 99 fish farms, mostly on the Snake, should not apply to Warm Springs. The company also argued the department was too strict in its limits.

The board sided with the DEQ and Pristine Springs appeared in district court, where the case is pending. Pristine Springs' most recent appeal awaits a hearing before the state board.

Calls to the company's Jerome offices were not returned.

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

Comment period opens on Friedman relocation

By Kathleen L. Turner
For the Times-News

HAILEY — Representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration, consulting firm Landrum Brown, and the Friedman Memorial Airport Board convened Monday for the purpose of answering

questions regarding the Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, under way regarding the siting and construction of a replacement airport for the current facility at the south end of the city of Hailey.

Public comment for Phase I of the EIS will continue to be

accepted for inclusion in this phase until Jan. 15, 2008. The EIS process can be reviewed online at www.airportsites.net/SON-EIS with updates and contacts for anyone wishing to register comment.

Attendees from the tip to the toe of the valley, and from left to right of the county and

beyond, addressed questions to Cayla Morgan, the FAA Project Manager assigned to the study, covering topics such as economic viability, progress, siting options, passenger preference survey and weather certification at various sites.

Please see FRIEDMAN, Page C2

Agencies create visitation home for foster kids

By Nate Pospina
Times-News writer

By the end of February, Twin Falls County's status offender program will be comfortably housed in a larger building. But it won't leave its former 6th Avenue North home empty.

The small house, now crammed full of desks and computers, will be turned into a comfortable visiting center for foster children to visit their parents in a supervised setting, County Commissioner Tom Mikessell said Thursday.

The home, Mikessell said, will also be used for court-ordered visitations and visits through the county's Safe Home program, and will provide a less-sterile environ-

“(Health and Welfare) would like a more homely environment for visitation rather than an office with a window in it that the people can look through.”

— Tom Mikessell, Twin Falls County Commissioner

ment for families. The project was the suggestion of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare administrators curious what the county would do with the empty building.

“(Health and Welfare) would like a more homely environment for visitation rather than an office with a window in it that the people can look through,” Mikessell said.

And the home will provide just that, said Kathy James,

regional head of Health and Welfare's foster child program. Holding visits in a home-like atmosphere, she said, may help reestablish family bonds.

“The county was just amazingly gracious (in offering the home),” James said.

The project, in the works for six months, will require minimal remodeling, Mikessell said. James said she is currently working on furniture

Please see FOSTER, Page C2



Hizzi Stanger, left, and Thelma Arambula take care of work Thursday afternoon at the 5th Judicial District Status Offender Services office in Twin Falls.

AROUND THE VALLEY

BLM announces new advisory members

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced Thursday the appointment of 21 new members to Idaho's citizen-based Resource Advisory Councils, which advise the Bureau of Land Management on public land issues.

Three members from south-central Idaho, Marc Brackett of Rogerson, Scott Boettger of Hailey, and Kevin LaVarr Bell of Jerome, will serve on the Twin Falls District RAC.

“The BLM's Resource Advisory Councils are excellent examples of a collaborative approach to public land management and conservation,” said Kempthorne. “I welcome our new RAC members, commend them for their willingness to serve and look forward to their counsel as we work together to improve the health and

productivity of the public lands.”

The BLM's RACs, composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the BLM carry out its stewardship of 259 million acres of public lands.

The BLM has 24 RACs across the West, with each RAC consisting of 12 to 15 members with an interest in public land management.

BLM Director Jim Caswell said, “RAC members come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a wide range of perspectives to each of our councils. This diversity results in a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses.”

Christmas parade is tonight in downtown

Christmas season goes into full swing tonight at

6 p.m. with the Historic Downtown Festival of Lights Parade, held on Main Avenue.

The parade is expected to include between 20 and 25 floats, featuring Santa Claus on a fire truck.

The parade route is from Krengle's True Value Hardware at 626 Main Ave. S., to the Magic Valley Alternative High School parking lot at 512 Main Ave. N.

Downtown shops will be open later than standard business hours to accommodate holiday shoppers. Artists, classes and other performances will be at Vinifera Wine Shop, Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise, Hands On, The Divine Grind, Jensen Ringmakers, Magic Valley Arts Council and Full Moon Gallery of Fine Art, and Galeria Piquena.

For information: Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, 735-3974.

— Staff reports

Castleford resident addresses council with concerns about sewer drains

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Corina Bell has lived in Castleford for more than 20 years, and on Wednesday night she made her first appearance before the City Council to state her concerns about large holes around town.

The sewer drains in question have large metal sheets that cover them, Bell said, but the covers are easily moved about by vehicles driving over them. She said that on more than one occasion she has had to move covers back into place, fearing that if she didn't that someone, including her own children, might get hurt.

“The city is so worried about messy yards and our city isn't even to code, and that's dangerous,” Bell said. “The city has several sewer outlets around town, includ-

“It is a big deal to me and my family. We have one of those holes basically in our front yard.”

— Corina Bell, of Castleford

ing in front of businesses, an apartment building and the post office.

“The simplest solution,” suggested Darrel Edson, the city's code enforcement officer, “may be to place bars in front of the holes to keep cars from driving over them.”

loss of parking spaces to businesses due to where the holes are located.

“They (the covers) are part of what will be replaced,” Ruffing said.

In the meantime, city personnel will explore options on how to keep the covers in place. Councilman Richard Schlund thanked Bell for bringing the issue to the council's attention.

“It is a big deal to me and my family,” Bell said. “We have one of those holes basically in our front yard.”

Blair Koch may be reached at 316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

Thelma Robinson Nanz

Thelma Nanz, 100, died peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 3, 2007, in McKin Falls, Idaho. She was born Feb. 23, 1907, in Marysville, Kan., to Geraldine (Randel) and Edmund R. A. Robinson.



At age 2, Thelma and her family moved to Jerome, where she grew up and graduated from high school. She attended college at Princeton and then completed a course at Link's Business School in Boise. After her business classes, she became a bookkeeper at Burns Chevrolet in Nampa, where she met Charles Arthur Nanz, a mechanic there. They were married Jan. 1, 1930.

They bought an acreage south of Twin Falls, where they raised two daughters, Geraldine (Garry) Alice and Mary Elizabeth. Her Christian faith was a very important part of her life. She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Twin Falls, where she served in many capacities. She was also an active volunteer with

the Migrant Ministry for several years. After the girls were grown, Thelma and Charles sold the acreage and moved into town, where Thelma continued to enjoy flower gardening and traveling with her husband. In 1978, after 49 years of marriage, Thelma lost her beloved husband, Charles. Eventually Thelma moved into Chaparrile House and later to the Twin Falls Care Center.

She is survived by her daughters, Geraldine (George) of Wolf Point, Mont., and Mary Keith of Friday Harbor, Wash.; a brother William Robinson of Cumberland, Md.; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews, including Jim and Janis Eibert who served as faithful caregivers during her later years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; one brother and one sister.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, and the funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 8. Arrangements are under the direction of Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Friedman

Continued from page C1 During this portion of the process, all sites are back on the table for review.

The FAA reviewed the deficiencies of the current airfield in Halley, noting that the runway and taxiways are too close together to allow for a safe aircraft using the field, the runway and State Highway 75 are also too close together to meet standards; buildings, roads and other non-essential objects fall into areas restricted by FAA regulations; runway length is not adequate for current regional jet service including the CRJ type aircraft; frequent diversions rates because of high approach-minimums or weather are a concern; head-to-head operations allowing aircraft to land and depart from both north and south approaches to runway severely limit capacity and expansion space is constrained at the current facility.

Mark Heuschke, director of forecasting and financial planning for Landrum & Brown, the firm hired to complete the tasks associated with the process, said he would be conducting sur-

veys for two weeks in January. Heuschke will contact between 500 and 700 passengers to determine passenger preferences related to airport choice, cost, schedule, carrier and amenities. Results of the survey will be complete by May 1 and will guide the current phase of the study.

The EIS will provide information regarding site location, layout, access, socioeconomic conditions, management of public lands, tribal and treaty rights, natural and cultural impacts and the overall, cumulative impact the facility would have at a particular location. Morgan said that discussions with four Indian tribes have found some common ground. Meetings are scheduled for the last two weeks in January with the Paiute and Wind River tribes.

Bill Watson, FAA supervisor, added that he had not seen any "show stoppers" that would appear as serious roadblocks on the way through the EIS process.

Bill Watson of the FAA addressed possibilities surrounding any consideration for a regional facility that

might surface, confirming that any cities wishing to consolidate service into a larger, shared facility would need to approach the FAA with a consensus to do so.

The FAA would not make such a request unless parties involved were in agreement to approach the FAA.

The site ultimately selected would satisfy criteria such as minimizing impact on the environment, providing access to the communities of the Wood River Region, allow for future growth providing at least 1,200 acres, address carrier needs and deliver reliable, safe access to users in all weather conditions using a Category I instrument approach system. It would also meet design and safety standards for current and future use of the facility.

Watson said the EIS process will likely take a minimum of two years with additional time required should the process require more detailed analysis for any particular criteria.

"The concern here is a consensus," Watson concluded.

Kathleen Turner writes for the Wood River Journal.

Foster

Continued from page C1 donations for the home. Once her program moves in, she said, she expects it to be used every day for some of the 270 children in foster care in the region.

Not all of them with visitation rights will be able to use the home, she said — only those who earn it through good behavior and progress. "We see it as a privilege to (visit) there," she said.

Safe House director Val Stotts said she's excited about the new home as visitations at the Safe House currently have to take place in the home's office space.

"There's not as much privacy over here when there are visits," she said.

The concept, James said, is being tried in other states and could be a boon to the area. The home will complement the county counseling and treatment services in the half-block around it, including the Safe House next door. And it will provide a completely new service for health and welfare.

"We've been real fortunate," James said.

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

Rodolfo 'Rudy' G. Rodriguez

CHILDRESS, Texas — Rodolfo "Rudy" G. Rodriguez, age 69, of Childress, Texas, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007. "Rudy" was born Oct. 10, 1938, in Tamahopa, Mexico, to Martin and Manuella Garza — Rodriguez. Rudy loved all his grandchildren. He drove a modular truck for the Cotton Gin and was the maintenance man for the Reformed Church in Twin Falls. His passion was ministering the word of God. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters, one brother and two sons. He is survived by three daughters, Dece Jones and

Marcella Ruiz (Ted Sanchez), all of Childress, Texas, and Katy Sanchez of Colorado; three sons, Martin (Donna) Rodriguez, and Manuel Rodriguez, all of Childress, Texas, and David (Lucy) Rodriguez of McAllen, Texas; 17 grandchildren — and 12 great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Trinity Worship Center, with the Rev. Ronnie Schoffner officiating. Interment will be at Childress Cemetery in Childress, Texas. Arrangements are being handled by Johnson Funeral Home, 307 Ave. C NW, Childress, TX 79201.

DEATH NOTICES

Rodney W. Johnson

HEYBURN — Rodney Wayne "Bimpey" Johnson, 65, of Heyburn, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, at Countryside Care and Rehabilitation.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, at the Cottonwood Gardens, 2435 Overland Ave. in Burley; visitation from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Monday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley.

Cletus Trueblood

Cletus Trueblood, 66, of Twin Falls and formerly of Burley died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, at his daughter's home in Twin Falls.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, with visitation from 1 to 2 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 515 W. 27th St. in Burley (Hansen-Payne Mortuary in Burley).

James P. Gathings

James "Jim" P. Gathings, 84, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Gary H. Andreason

FILER — Gary H. Andreason, 66, of Filer, died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007.

The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, with

visitation one hour before the service, at the Filer LDS Stake Center (Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Berta Turner

Berta Turner, 77, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Laurence M. Rawson

Laurence M. Rawson, 72, of Twin Falls, died Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by Demaray Funeral Service, Gooding, Chapel.

Buster Visalia

GOODING — Buster Visalia, 84, of Gooding, died Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by Demaray Funeral Service, Gooding Chapel.

Hubert L. Hansen

OAKLEY — Hubert L. Hansen, 74, of Oakley, died Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007, at his home.

Arrangements will be announced by Hansen-Payne Mortuary in Burley.

Christmas season kicks off in Albion

A Christmas season kickoff sponsored by the Albion Four Leaf Clover Club will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday in front of Albion City Office and Library, 235 S. Main St.

Santa will come to town riding on a fire engine. Christmas lights on the trees in front of the city office and library will be turned on.

The city's Centennial Tree becomes a Memory Tree for December. It is lit with white lights and decorated with wooden angels with

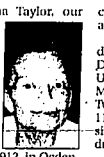
the names of deceased loved ones painted on them. Family members of those who died during the previous year can hang their angels on the tree that night. Group singing and a prayer accompany the dedication.

Children can then visit Santa in the library and receive a treat. To conclude the evening, Santa will deliver special gifts to shut-ins in the valley.

For more information: Eddie Fitzgerald, 673-6280.

Edith Leona Taylor

Edith Leona Taylor, our beloved mother and grandmother, passed peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007, at the age of 95.



Edith was born Oct. 30, 1912, in Ogden, Utah. She enjoyed gardening

and ceramics and family picnics at Twin Falls Park. She is survived by four children, Jerry (Sally) Taylor and Dave (Barb) Taylor, all of Utah, and Gayle Egbert and Mary (Peter) Jacobs, all of Twin Falls; 11 grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

A private family memorial will take place at a later date.

Martha Reynolds

TYLER, Texas — Martha Reynolds passed away at the age of 85 on Dec. 5, 2007.

A memorial service for Martha will be held at a later date in Idaho. She was born Nov. 10, 1922, in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Lewis and Marie De Keyser, originally from Belgium. She later moved to Twin Falls and married John H. McDonald Sr., a farmer of Twin Falls and Kimberly. He preceded her in death on July 25, 1990.

John and Erma raised four children, two boys and two girls, Joann (Dorothy) Etherington, Kimberly, John (Lyle) McDonald Jr. of Ketchum, Jeannette Slinger of Kimberly and Jack (Charlene) McDonald of, Twin Falls.

Erma was grandmother to nine grandchildren. David McDonald, Michelle McDonald Choate, Johnny McDonald, Cathy Varice, Elizabeth Lec, James Etherington,

and owned a gift shop in Bellingham, Wash., years ago.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Henry William Mays and Richard Reynolds; and two sisters, Marel "Molly" and Sammie. Survivors include two daughters, Marel Hanks of Athens and Michelle Mays Gratton of El Paso, Texas; son, Henry William Mays Jr. of Tucson, Ariz.; sister, Paula Brown of Spokane, Wash.; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

If desired, memorials may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701.

SERVICES

Dean "Dino" Colvin of Jerome, graduate cemetery service at 11 a.m. today at the Jerome Cemetery (Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome).

Delbert Charles Hartley of Kimberly, funeral at 11 a.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Ronald Dean Keger of Medford, Ore., memorial service at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Perl Funeral Home at Siskiyow Memorial Park in Medford, Ore.

William "Bill" G. Mason of Buhl, memorial service at 10 a.m. Saturday at the First Christian Church at Poplar and Broadway in Buhl (Barner Funeral Chapel in Buhl).

Connie (Colleen) Timmons of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 909

Eighth St. in Rupert; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St., and one hour before the funeral Saturday at the church.

Doris E. Grimsman Todd Brown of Boise and formerly of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Red Rock Christian Church in Boise (Cremation Society of Idaho in Boise).

Thelma Mae Caldwell of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 1 p.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls.

Albert L. LaBrie and Barbara A. Darrell LaBrie of Buhl, combined memorial service at 11 a.m. Monday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Annual holiday home tour held Sunday

The Junior Club of Magic Valley will present the 18th Annual Holiday Home Tour Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Court Appointed Special Advocates or CASA. Each year the Junior Club organizes and sells tickets for a supervised, self-guided tour through homes decorated for the holidays.

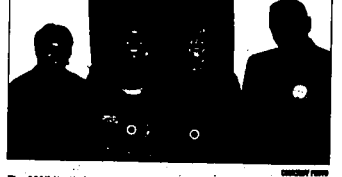
This year there are seven

homes on the tour.

Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the following ticket outlets: Everybody's Business, Forget-Me-Not (in Kimberly), Java Jungle, Just My Style, Kelly Garden Center, Kimberly Nurseries, Kuri's Pharmacy, Rosebud's Florist, The Little Red Hen and The Black Sheep Gallery.

For more information: Gretchen Scott, 732-0448.

YOUTH WINNERS



The 2007 Youth Appreciation winners for 2007, Emma Ward and Jordan Coats, were honored at a luncheon on Nov. 15. They were nominated by Twin Falls High School counselors. The annual award is given by the Twin Falls Optimist Club. The winners are great examples of community involvement and volunteerism. The award presentation is part of Youth Appreciation Week set aside by optimist clubs around the country to recognize the positive contributions made by youth to our local communities. Barry Knoblich, Youth Appreciation chairman and Karolyi Watts, Twin Falls High School counselor, presented the awards. Mayor Jo Ann Cline proclaimed the third week of November as Youth Appreciation Week in Twin Falls. From left, Karolyi Watts, Jordan Coats, Emma Ward and Barry Knoblich.

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For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., for non-day publication. The small address for obituaries is obit@magvalley.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.magvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

WA gov asks White House help; one lane of I-5 reopens

By Curt Woodward
Associated Press writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Gov. Chris Gregoire on Thursday requested a White House emergency declaration to trigger help for thousands of homeowners and businesses in flood-ravaged Washington state.

The initial request, backed up by video taken during the governor's aerial tours of the flooded regions in the past three days, will apply to Grays Harbor and Lewis counties. Other counties will be added as initial damage assessments are tallied.

The fast-track request, funneled through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will trigger money for temporary lodging, rental assistance, money for home repairs and crisis counseling and small-business loans.

The state also plans to offer disaster unemployment checks and food stamps.

Floodwaters were draining from the southwestern Washington state Thursday, as rescue and evacuation work ended and lights were coming back on in thousands of homes and businesses.

"We will get an idea," the governor told reporters. State Transportation

Secretary Paula Hammond said road crews were repairing Interstate 5, closed since Monday about 30 miles south of the state capital in Olympia, as the water recedes, and could reopen the freeway to one-lane traffic in each direction as early as Thursday night, probably limited to freight truck traffic at first.

Hammond said her agency has a camera trained on the submerged freeway section, and streaming video is posted on the agency web site, www.wsdot.wa.gov.

"You can watch the water go down with us," she said. Amtrak service between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., resumed and service to Portland was expected Friday or Saturday, she said.

The governor said about 640 people were still in shelters, 33,000 customers with out power, 16,500 without safe drinking water, and about 15 roads still closed. Fourteen water system were shut down and nine others under "boil-water" orders. Some areas were requesting vaccines, especially for tetanus.

Nearly 400 National Guard members were deployed.

Gregoire called it the largest mobilization of state and vol-



Carlos Anaya of Centralia, Wash., cradles one-month-old Elmer Jose Chavez in his arms and feeds the infant for his friend Maria Chavez Tuesday, as Anaya and Chavez surveyed a flood damaged neighborhood.

unteer relief efforts since the state helped Gulf Coast victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The heavy economic impact on families and businesses still is being tallied and the state has no good numbers, the governor said. Affected citizens have "very heart-wrenching stories," but also are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support, she said.

Gregoire told the cascade of

weather — sunny followed by high winds and then torrential rains — made it impossible to prepare any faster. She said she's been satisfied with FEMA response.

Cooler, drier weather aided the recovery effort.

"Mother Nature is still dumping gallons of rain," Grays Harbor County emergency spokeswoman Lynn O'Conner said.

A fourth storm-related death was reported and one man remained missing. Damages likely to reach into the billions of dollars remained to be tallied.

Gregoire said flooding hit record levels on the Chehalis, Skokomish and Elwha rivers.

Recalling scenes of blowdown trees, Gregoire said, "The visual is nothing like I've ever seen other than my recent lecture of Mount St. Helens"

after the volcano erupted on May 18, 1980.

Hoquiam police Detective George J. Kelly, a spokesman at the emergency command center in Grays Harbor County, said officials were relieved when an anticipated tidal surge that threatened to worsen flooding along the lower Chehalis River failed to materialize late Wednesday night.

Power was restored to all of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, the two largest towns in the county with a combined population of more than 25,000, but not without a hitch.

Along I-5, crews breached a dike near Centralia that had been overtopped at one point so water could drain more quickly back into the Chehalis River, a process that could take days, officials said.

Gregoire said she would lead a tour of storm damage Saturday with Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Rep. Norm Dicks, all D-Wash., to enlist their help in gaining federal aid.

By the time helicopter rescue operations ended Wednesday evening, about 300 people had been taken to safety in what Gregoire described as the state's largest aerial search-and-rescue operation in a decade.

It's a living — driving circles on the tundra

By Tomas Alex Tizon
Los Angeles Times

BETHEL, Alaska — A tiny, round-faced woman stands in a field of ice, a solitary figure in the tundra, waiting for a ride. From one hand dangles several plastic grocery bags. With her free hand she flicks a finger as if inscribing a single scratch in the air, an almost imperceptible gesture.

A taxi cab appears from a cloud of mist. It is an old, white Chevy, so splattered with mud there's hardly any white to see. On the roof glows a green sign that reads KUSKO.

"Hello dear," the driver says. "I'd like to go home," says Lucy Daniel, folding herself into the back seat among her bags.

Daniel, 65, a Yupik Eskimo who grew up riding sleds and seal-skin kayaks along the Bering coast, now takes a cab everywhere she goes: to her church or, like this after-noon, to the post office to pick up supplies, and then back to her house.

It's because of residents like Daniel that this village in Alaska's remote southwest has become the only taxicab capital of the United States. Bethel (pop. 5,800), or roughly 93 taxi drivers, or roughly one cab for every 62 residents.

That's far more taxi drivers per capita than anywhere else in the United States, according to Alfred LaGasse, executive vice president of the Limousine & Carriage Association of the Paratransit Association, the nation's largest cab organization.

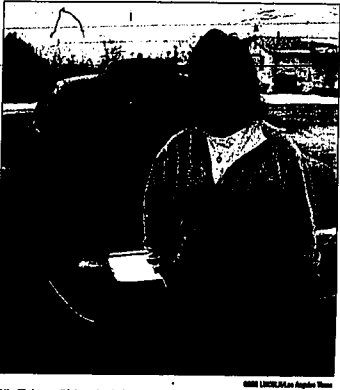
Furthermore, Bethel has only about 10 miles of paved roads, which means there are nine cabdrivers per paved mile. Dirt roads, branching off the main arterials, add another 20 miles. These side streets, speckmarked by pond-size lakes, are mostly unpaved, negotiable, sometimes not.

The taxi drivers spend most of their time on the paved roadways, which form a loop connecting the most popular destinations: two general stores, the post office, the hospital and the airport.

"That's what I do: go in circles," says Bilal Selmani, the cabdriver who has picked up Daniel. Everyone calls him Lincoln. "Every hour, every day, every month, Round and round. Thirty years."

The long-time drivers know everyone in town by face, first name or address. They know most everyone's stories.

They overhear arguments and love-struck whispers, they listen to confessions and tall tales and regrets. They pick up children from school. They shuttle travelers to and from the airport. They deliver everything — moose meat, groceries, heavy-machine parts. They chauffeur funeral services, wedding parties, and



Alla Tinkar, a lifelong Bethel, Alaska, area resident, is one of the few Yupik taxi drivers in town. The mother of two wants nothing more than to get out. 'One more year of this. Then I'm gone.'

sometimes the dead.

The majority of riders are Yupik Eskimos. The taxi drivers — most of them Albanian or Korean immigrants — have their own tales, spanning continents and oceans but ending here, in a spot on the American frontier that most Americans have never seen or heard of.

Lincoln stops in front of a small, square house in a subdivision of small, square houses called Tundra Ridge. Daniel exits out, hands him seven \$1 bills for the 5-minute drive. The flat rate is \$5 per passenger in town, \$7 per passenger to the outskirts.

"Bye," Daniel says. Like many who live in Bethel, she originally is from Tuntutlak, a nearby Yupik village that survives on fishing and hunting. Daniel moved to "the city" in 1971 because, she says, "there was nothing for me in Tuntutlak."

With her five children grown and her husband gone, Daniel spends her mornings working in a school cafeteria. She never learned to drive, because, she says, "big machines scare me."

In any case, she can't afford

a car, and even if she could buy a junker, she couldn't afford to have it transported to Bethel — it would cost between \$2,000 and \$4,000 by barge or plane.

No roads lead to Bethel. What Daniel calls a city is a dusty, disheveled conglomerate of shacks and warehouses in the middle of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, a treeless, permanently frozen plain the size of Utah. Culturally and geologically, the delta has more in common with far-eastern Siberia than with the rest of the United States.

Bethel, 40 miles inland from the Bering Sea and 400 miles east of Anchorage, is the hub for 55 Yupik villages that sprinkle the tundra like flakes of dried seaweed. A traditionally nomadic people, Yupiks began living in fixed villages such as Bethel only in the past 50 to 100 years.

They come to Bethel to work. It's also the only reason outsiders come here. Bethel, the governmental and commercial center of the region, is a no-frills working town, where people draw wages in construction, freight, govern-

ment administration and air taxis. Then there are the taxis.

For Lincoln, the path to the American Dream is a small farming town in eastern Albania, where he was born, to Connecticut and finally here.

"I ask friend, 'Where can I make money fast?' He tells me Alaska. I drive eight days to Anchorage." A friend in Anchorage told him he could make a killing driving a cab in the tundra.

Lincoln, 53, has been a taxi driver in Bethel since 1977. He is short and stocky, with deep-set eyes and a prominent Roman nose. When he first arrived in the town, he had a long, black beard. One of his earliest customers, a native, marveled at his facial hair.

"You look like Abraham Lincoln," the man said.

From then on, Bilal Selmani went by the name of the nation's 16th president. Most villagers don't know his real name.

For the first 25 years driving taxi, Lincoln worked 12-hour days, seven days a week, for nine months of the year. He would spend three months with family in Albania. Although his earnings might seem meager to many Americans, they represented a bounty for farmers in Albania. Word spread of his good fortune, and soon other Albanians trekked to Bethel to drive in circles for cash.

For a time, between the late 1970s and early 1990s, Albanians dominated the taxi business. Today, more than 100 two-wheeler people claim Albanian ancestry.

Six years ago Lincoln brought his wife and two sons here. One son, Pepparam, 24, drives graveyard. When Lincoln finishes his shift at 5:30 p.m., Pepparam takes over for the next 12 hours. When the car breaks down, his other son, Lumni, 27, an auto mechanic, fixes it.

Boise State looks to improve benefits for part-time teachers

BOISE (AP) — A commission formed by Boise State University officials is recommending ways to improve pay and benefits for part-time, untenured teachers.

About 57 percent, or 592 of the 1,031 teaching positions at the school, are not tenured or eligible for part-time, untenured teachers.

About 57 percent, or 592 of the 1,031 teaching positions at the school, are not tenured or eligible for part-time, untenured teachers.

Nationally, about 65 percent of all faculty appointments are not tenured or eligible for tenure in higher education, according to the American Association of

University Professors in Washington, D.C.

At the University of Idaho, about 25 percent of the 897 faculty or 229 are adjuncts or affiliate faculty, said Joni Kirk, a university spokeswoman.

Michael Fitzgerald, an author who teaches a fiction class at Boise State at night, said an adjunct teacher is "essentially a paid laborer, a temp."

"I think if you asked the majority of the adjuncts, they would prefer to be full-time," he told The Idaho Statesman.

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Congress drops legislation that would have expanded hate crime laws

By Anne Flaherty
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Congress has dropped legislation that would have expanded laws against hate crimes to include attacks on gays after it became clear the measure wouldn't pass the House, aides said Thursday.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was widely supported by Democrats and some moderate Senate Republicans. But because it was attached to a major defense policy bill that would have authorized more money for the Iraq war, many anti-war Democrats said they would oppose it.

"We don't have the votes," said one House Democratic aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity because conference negotiations on the defense bill were ongoing. "We're about 40 votes short, not four or six."

The development is a blow to civil rights groups which say that broadening federal laws are necessary to address a rise in crimes motivated by hate and based upon a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

The military bill was "the last clear chance this year for Congress to make a meaningful effort to stop hate crime violence," said Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

In a joint statement issued Thursday, Kennedy and Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said they were disappointed the House refused to attempt a vote on the legislative package, even if it would have failed.

Public information increasingly shaping intelligence

By Pamela Hess
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Governments have long prized intelligence gleaned by spies, satellites and wiretaps. But senior intelligence officials said key findings in a new intelligence report on Iran's nuclear weapons program were hidden in plain sight — on the Web, in newspapers and in non-governmental reports.

The National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear weapons program released Monday relied in important ways on pictures of Iranian nuclear sites snapped by reporters during government tours of the facilities. The first was in March 2005. At the time, a U.S. State Department spokesman derided the visit as a "staged media tour." Two years later, Iran opened a different facility to the press.

"We actually ended up with the photography of all the equipment there. So instead of having very extensive arguments about whether pipes were 12 inches in diameter or 12 centimeters, we have data," a senior intelligence official told reporters Monday.

He called the visit "astounding." The official spoke only on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. "That helped us understand what they had and might be capable of as well," he said.

These photos, along with unclassified reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency and intelligence gathered in clandestine ways, make U.S. intelligence agencies predict "technical problems" will prevent Iran from being able to produce enough enriched uranium to fuel a nuclear warhead for at least two years. The State Department's intelligence office believes the enrichment would not occur for at least five years because of "foreseeable technical and programmatic problems."

Jeffrey Lewis, director of the Nuclear Strategy and Nonproliferation Initiative at the New America Foundation think tank, found the admission remarkable. "If the press hadn't taken those pictures does it really mean they would not have had that?" he said. "It's really curious."

Another intelligence official said the 2005 photos were not factored into that year's intelligence estimate on Iran because the photos were not available to them then.

Some analysts believe publicly available information — known as "open-source intelligence" — is inherently untrustworthy, released by a government to deliberately mislead.

"If you have a photo in *Market* that was somehow anomalous to other intelligence you had, you would think the photo was a deception," said Mark Lowenthal, a former assistant CIA director for production and analysis, now the president of the Intelligence and Security Academy, a training and consulting company. "As you start doing more collection, you start getting other intelligence, and say 'Oh my god, that photo was real.'"

Lowenthal doubts the photos themselves made a critical difference on their own. "We don't have a lot of 'Aha!' moments in this business," he said. "We have small accretions of information."

Principal Deputy National Intelligence Director Donald Kerr said Thursday at a House intelligence subcommittee hearing that the Iran report was perhaps the most deeply sourced National Intelligence Estimate ever. The documents have over 1,000 footnotes, he said.

Open-source intelligence generally makes up between 80 percent and 90 percent of the information analysts use in their reports. But it has fallen in and out of fashion, and the cultural obstacles to its use inside intelligence circles can be high.

"There's an inherent bias in

the mid-generation of analysts toward believing there is greater credibility in classified information," David Shedd, the deputy director of national intelligence for policy, plans, and requirements, told the subcommittee.

"It used to be this use of this kind of material was not valued much because it wasn't secret," agreed Arthur Hulnick, who worked at the CIA for 28 years and is now a professor at Boston University. "Policymakers used to say, 'don't give me

something I can read in the *New York Times*. I want something sexier than that."

Hulnick's students have written their own assessments of Iran's nuclear program using only open sources. He said their conclusions are similar to what the U.S. intelligence agencies just produced.

U.S. intelligence agencies are increasingly incorporating open-source intelligence into their work, lured by the vast amount of information now available online and in spe-

cialized publications. "People are using it. They are seeing the value now," Kerr said.

Open source has become especially vital in the last few years because so many intelligence assets have been shifted to force protection missions, the senior intelligence official said.

"That means other forms of collection that used to dribble automatically to your computer aren't there. You need to go elsewhere to get that" information, he said.



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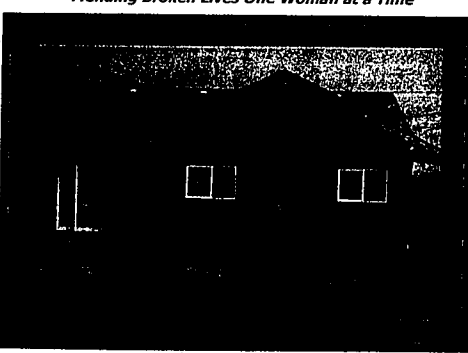


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for Jubilee House!

When: Saturday, December 8th
Time: 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Where: Jubilee House
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Door Prizes, Hog Raffle, Refreshments

Two homegrown hormone-free hog halves will be raffled off to two lucky winners. Tickets: \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00 at the event! Door prizes will be given every hour. A food item for our pantry would be most welcome. Come and tour this wonderful facility. Volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about Jubilee House.

Jubilee House receives no national, state or local government funding. We rely solely on individual, business, church, and corporate grants. Jubilee House is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible as is allowed by law.

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Bush sends letter to North Korean dictator, other leaders

By Deb Riechmann
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush's personal letter to North Korean leader Kim Jong Il urging him to fully disclose his nuclear programs by year's end is a turnaround from a president who has labeled the communist regime part of an "axis of evil."

The Bush administration sought to play down the diplomatic significance of the president's Dec. 1 letter to Kim — his first ever to the reclusive North Korean leader. Yet, it reflected how "U.S. policy toward the nation has shifted from the days when Bush shunned the dictator."

The letter might sate Kim's craving to be recognized by the U.S. as a player on the world stage. However, White House press secretary Dana Perino said it was intended to be a "reminder" to North Korea that it has pledged to provide — by the end of the month — a complete and accurate disclosure of its nuclear programs.

The United States is looking for a complete declaration of North Korea's nuclear facilities, materials and programs and also insists that it address any role that the North Koreans have played in spreading nuclear technology or know-how to others.

Bush sent similar letters on Dec. 1 to the leaders of Russia, China, Japan and South Korea — the other nations involved in the six-party nuclear talks — to reiterate his desire to resolve the nuclear standoff. He also spoke about the issue on the phone Thursday with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Under the watchful eye of U.S. experts, North Korea started disabling its plutonium-producing reactor at Yongbyon, which was shut down in July, and two other

facilities last month. Christopher Hill, the U.S. nuclear envoy who delivered Bush's letter to North Korea's foreign minister during a visit to Pyongyang earlier this week, says efforts to disarm the reactor by year's end are going as scheduled, but differences remain over the nuclear programs that the regime would declare.

Neither the White House nor the State Department would release the letters or

disclose their content. A U.S. official told The Associated Press that the letter to North Korea refers to a need to resolve three main sticking points: the exact amount of weapons-grade nuclear material the North produced, the number of warheads it built and whether and how North Korea may have passed nuclear material or knowledge to others.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to

describe details of the delicate diplomacy, said the letter underscored Bush's desire to resolve the nuclear dispute, and made plain that North Korea cannot skirt requirements to fully explain the extent, use and possible spread of nuclear material and technology.

Derek Mitchell, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the letter is evidence that U.S. policy toward

North Korea has changed "at least 150 degrees" from early in the Bush administration.

"Kim Jong Il is someone whom Bush famously loathed. It's quoted as saying he loathes Kim Jong Il and called him a pygmy, and the attitude was that you don't talk to evil, you end it," Mitchell said. "That Bush would, at this point, directly contact — send a personal letter to Kim Jong Il — is a remarkable turnaround from that."

Michael O'Hanlon, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, warned against placing too much significance on the direct correspondence.

"I think a presidential letter is a fairly restrained version of direct communication and appropriate to the stage of the negotiations," he said. "I think it's better for this sort of letter to be written than for the president to jump on a plane to Pyongyang."

U.S. gets European backing for new sanctions against Iran

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice won support from European allies Thursday for new U.N. sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program.

NATO foreign ministers agreed to stay the course in seeking fresh measures at the United Nations to persuade Iran to stop uranium enrichment and reprocessing despite a new U.S. intelligence report that concluded the country halted its nuclear weapons ambitions in 2003.

At a working dinner in Brussels, the alliance's headquarters, the ministers accepted the Bush administration argument that Iran remains a threat and needs to be treated as such, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht told reporters.

"On Iran, everybody around the table agreed we should not change our position," he said, after the dinner at which Rice presented Washington's position.

Leaders of France and Germany called for a two-pronged approach of pressure and negotiations with Iran.

"I think we are in a process and that Iran continues to pose a danger," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Paris at a joint news conference with French President Nicolas Sarkozy in response to the new U.N. findings.

Merkel, whose coalition government has been non-committal about a U.S.-led push for new U.N. sanctions on Iran, did not specifically support fresh punitive measures, but she said, "We and our partners would like to continue with the U.N. process."

Sarkozy, who supports Washington's view, said he still backed new sanctions. "The threat exists," he said.

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Pakistani lawyers stage protests

Sharif blocked from home of dismissed chief justice

By Paul Alexander
Associated Press writer

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Thousands of lawyers boycotted courts across Pakistan on Thursday, hoisting black flags and staging rallies to demand an end to emergency rule, and police blocked former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from meeting to the heavily guarded home of the deposed Supreme Court chief justice.

Riot police turned out en masse and blocked the route to the official residence of Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry with concrete and steel barriers and barbed wire. Sharif led his followers to the blockade and addressed them briefly before they dispersed peacefully, defusing a potential showdown.

Chaudhry has been under house arrest since Nov. 3, when President Pervez Musharraf declared a state of emergency and dismissed most of the Supreme Court justices just before they were to rule on the validity of his October re-election by a parliament controlled by his supporters.

Musharraf has since stacked the court with loyalists... who promptly dismissed... who promptly dismissed... who promptly dismissed...

Representatives of his two biggest rivals — former prime ministers and longtime political foes Sharif and Benazir Bhutto — announced they had finished work on a list of 15 demands for the government to ensure their participation in Jan. 8 parliamentary elections.

They would not specify the demands, but they are expected to include restoration of an independent judiciary and the constitution, as well as creation of a neutral caretaker government and independent election commission.

Speaking to his supporters outside Chaudhry's home, Sharif vowed to continue pressing for the reinstatement of the deposed chief justice and other judges.

"I want to tell the nation that past dictators were also used to ousting prime ministers, arresting them from their homes and hanging even one of them," said Sharif, who was ousted by Musharraf in a 1999 coup and returned from exile 10 days ago.

"Now a dictator has attacked the judiciary, and if the nation today ignores these actions of a dictator, history will not forgive it." Attorneys, who have called Musharraf's moves an attack on the judiciary's independence, boycotted court proceedings in Islamabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore, Karachi and elsewhere.

State media says death toll in China mine blast rises to 70

BEIJING (AP) — A gas blast at a mine in northern China killed at least 70 people Thursday, with 26 others still trapped, state media reported.



An additional 15 miners were rescued or managed to escape after the explosion at the Itui Zhijun coal mine in Hongtong county near the city of Linfen in coal-rich Shaanxi province, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The State Administration for Work Safety said earlier in the day that 40 bodies had been recovered, while 74 were still trapped. Another 13 had been rescued.

It was not immediately clear why the figures were different, but mine safety regulations are often loosely enforced, making it difficult to track how many people are working in a shaft. Mining companies, for example, often send in more miners than allowed in order to extract as much coal as possible to meet the country's voracious energy needs.

Xinhua said rescuer workers believed the mine's managers delayed in reporting the early morning accident "as they were trying to launch rescue operation by themselves, which magnified the number of casualties."

Telephone calls at the Linfen Administration for Work Safety and a local hospital rang unanswered. The state work safety administration said the mine was properly licensed, was owned by the local govern-

ment and had an annual output capacity of 210,000 tons of coal.

It said the mine's managers were being questioned by police and that its bank account had been frozen. China's coal mining industry is the most dangerous in the world, averaging 13 deaths a day from fires, explosions and floods. In August, 161 miners died when heavy rains flooded two mines in eastern Shandong province.

Many of the accidents are blamed on mine owners who disregard safety rules and fail to invest in required ventilation, fire control and other equipment.

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Parcel bomb explosion kills 1, seriously injures another at Paris law firm

By Jenny Barchfield
Associated Press writer

PARIS — A package bearing homemade bombs blew up Thursday in a lawyer's office on a tony boulevard in central Paris, killing one woman and seriously injuring another.

The building also housed an unrelated law firm co-founded by President Nicolas Sarkozy, as well as a Holocaust research foundation, although officials said they did not appear to be targeted.

"It is a truly atrocious act," Sarkozy's spokesman David Martinon said on France-Info radio.

A messenger delivered the package, a wooden box that turned out to contain two homemade explosive devices. Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said.

The office secretary opened the package and both explosives went off, killing her and seriously injuring a lawyer. Prosecutor Jean-Claude Marin said the secretary had had no reason to suspect anything out of the ordinary.

The package appeared to have been addressed to the law firm, which handles civil and commercial cases, Marin said. He said the nature of the explosive and its strength remained unclear.

Anti-terrorist agents were investigating. An official close to the investigation said the bombing did not bear the hallmarks of Islamic or Christian terrorists, who have staged attacks in France in the past but often use bigger bombs and different methods. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

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Vatican: Long-missing Michelangelo sketch found

By Frances D'Emilio
Associated Press writer

VATICAN CITY — A long-missing Michelangelo sketch for the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, possibly his last design before his death, has been discovered in the basilica's offices, the Vatican newspaper said Thursday.

The sketch, drawn in blood-red chalk for stonecutters who were working on the construction of the basilica, was done by the Renaissance master in the spring of 1563, less than a year before his death, L'Osservatore Romano reported.

"The sureness in his stroke, the expert hand used to making decisions in front of unfinished stone, leave little doubt, the sketch is Michelangelo's," the newspaper wrote about the discovery, which it said will be presented at a news conference at the Vatican on Monday.

The sketch shows that Michelangelo "on the threshold of 90 years of age, even though he wasn't coming regularly to the (busified) construction site, continued to take binding decisions" on how the work was being carried out, the Holy See's official newspaper commented.

"The sketch now becomes the last known design of the artist," the newspaper said.

Michelangelo, who began working on the basilica's construction in 1547, was in his late 80s when he did the sketch. The sketch is especially rare, the Vatican newspaper noted, because the artist ordered many of his designs destroyed when he was an old man.

In South America, 'Last Chance' to hunt down Nazi war criminals

By Monte Reel
The Washington Post

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Most of them would be in their 90s now, men who have kept their identities hidden for decades to escape punishment for their Nazi pasts. Concerns that they might succeed, and die without being held accountable, have led officials at the renowned Simon Wiesenthal Center to announce one final drive to locate elderly war criminals hiding in South America: Operation Last Chance.

"The natural tendency is to be sympathetic toward people after they reach a certain age, but these are the last people on Earth who deserve sympathy," said Efraim Zuroff, the center's top Nazi hunter. "I think that in no way does the passage of time lessen their crimes. Their victims deserve that an honest effort be made to find them."

The Wiesenthal Center's Nazi hunters have brought hundreds of war criminals to justice since the end of World War II, and South America has always provided fertile ground: Permissive immigration standards after the war allowed many Nazis to

escape prosecution in Europe and create new identities in South America. Some of the Third Reich's most infamous names ended up in countries such as Argentina, where the government of President Juan Peron aided Nazi war criminals fleeing postwar Europe and the Nuremberg trials.

In 1999, an Argentine government panel reported that at least 180 Nazis facing criminal charges in Europe had relocated to Argentina. That number, which other research groups have said is probably low, does not include rank-and-file Nazis who were not individually charged. No estimates are available for the number of Nazis who fled to other South American countries.

Adolf Eichmann, who oversaw the transport of Jews across Europe to concentration camps, was abducted by Israeli agents in Argentina in 1960 and hanged in 1962. Josef Mengele, known as the "Angel of Death" for his ghastly experiments at Auschwitz, spent most of his postwar life in Argentina before dying in Brazil in 1979. Klaus Barbie — "the butcher of Lyon" — was extradited

"The natural tendency is to be sympathetic toward people after they reach a certain age, but these are the last people on Earth who deserve sympathy."

— Efraim Zuroff, Nazi hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Center

from Bolivia in 1983 to France, where he died in prison, and Edward Roschmann — "the butcher of Riga" — died in Paraguay, in 1977.

In recent decades the rate of such discoveries has slowed, though there are still sporadic sightings. The Wiesenthal Center hopes one of the next to be found will be Arbert Heim, an Australian-born doctor wanted for killing hundreds of prisoners at the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria by performing lethal operations without anesthesia.

Heim has a daughter in Chile and is believed by Zuroff and others to be alive in either Chile or Argentina. Although Heim's family has said he is dead, German authorities have discovered a bank account with more than \$1.5 million that could be claimed by his children if

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Archaeologists find 2,000-year-old mansion linked to historic queen

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli archaeologists uncovered a 2,000-year-old mansion believed to have been home to Queen Helene of Adiabene, whose clan ruled a region now in Iraq.

The remains of the building were unearthed just outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City, underneath layers of a more recent settlement that was hidden until recently under the asphalt of a small parking lot in east Jerusalem.

Israel captured east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast War. Palestinians see the eastern part of the city as capital of a future state.

The dig site is in the Arab neighborhood of Silvan, built on a slope that houses the most ancient remnants of settlement in Jerusalem and is known to scholars as the City of David.

The building, which includes storerooms, living quarters and ritual baths, is by far the largest and most elaborate structure discovered by archaeologists in the City of David area, which was home 2,000 years ago almost exclusively to the city's poor.

Jewish historian Josephus Flavius mentions just one wealthy family living there — the family of Queen Helene.

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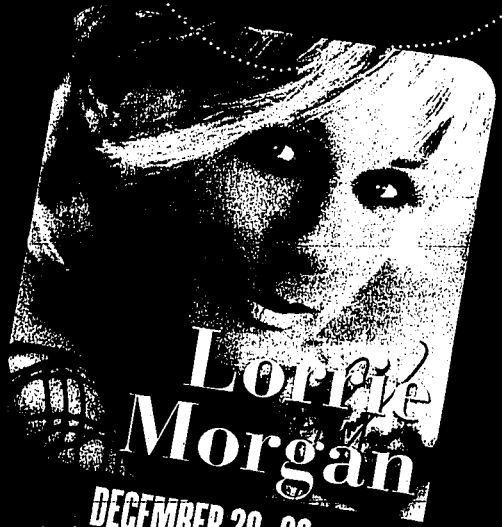
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Pay up, to help out

Parks and Rec fees help fund boating services and law enforcement

For the Times-News

As the time to renew boat registrations in Idaho draws near, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) would like to remind boat owners that Idaho boating registration dollars help fund the county recreational boating services and marine law enforcement activities through the registration designation process.

IDPR will be mailing Idaho boat registration renewals to registered boat owners this month.

The State of Idaho has a unique system in place that allows boaters to decide what county receives their registration dollars. Boaters are encouraged to designate the county where they choose to boat most frequently.

Boaters are also able to designate a second county. Designating certain counties will allow those counties to receive 85% of the registration fee for boating improvement projects and marine law enforcement activities.

Idaho's boating registration designation program

exists to offer enthusiasts the opportunity to "pay where they play" and support local waterways financially," said Dave Dahms, IDPR Boating Program Manager.

Annual registration fees are determined by vessel length. Boats 0-12 feet in length are \$20. Boats over 12 feet in length are \$20 plus \$2 per foot over 12 feet. Boats owned by nonprofit organizations are \$2.

Only sailboats and motorboats must be numbered and registered. A motorboat is a mechanically propelled boat using fuel or electricity.

Boats that do NOT have to be numbered or registered include boats propelled manually — rafts, kayaks, canoes, and other motorless boats — sailboards, documented vessels, float tubes and boats registered in another state which are using Idaho waters for 60 consecutive days or less.

New boats can be numbered and registered by visiting a local boat registration vendor, a county assessor's or motor vehicle office or the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). For information call IDPR at 334-4197.

To find the boat registration vendor location nearest you or for additional information on boating in Idaho, visit <http://www.parksandrec.idaho.gov>.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Gooding City of Rocks offers views similar to its well-known neighbor

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

Tucked into the Mount Bennett Hills, roughly eight miles north of Gooding, rests the hiking and bouldering paradise of the Gooding City of Rocks — not to be confused with the national reserve of the same name near Oakley.

Take Highway 46 north from Interstate 84 at Wendell, passing through both Wendell and Gooding. Eight miles north of Gooding, head west at City of Rocks Road, an unimproved and unmentioned road, and travel 8.5 miles to the beginning of City of Rocks, marked by a cluster of uniquely shaped rock formations.

At this point, a couple of options present themselves: Hiking enthusiasts can take advantage of the five or so miles of trails offered, while boulderers — or those just interested in the scenic views — can scale one of the hundreds of rock formations that dot the landscape nearly as far as the eye can see.

During this time of year, a four-wheel drive vehicle is an absolute must for access to the site, and with heavier snowfall it may not be accessible at all, but for those who can get there, it's



well worth the trip. As always, those who partake in this splendid area of Idaho's outdoors should remember to remain on existing trails and paths, so as not to spoil the habitat for those who will undoubtedly come in the future.

David Bashore may be reached at 735-3230 or dbashore@magicalvalley.com



This rock formation is one of hundreds that dot the landscape at Gooding City of Rocks.

AN ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE

Exploring the versatile Salmon Falls Creek Canyon

- Where to hunt
- Where to fish
- What to see

By Mike Cuthren
Times-News correspondent

One cannot think about Salmon Falls Creek without considering the narrow canyon that carries its water.

Between 300 to 400 feet deep, explorers on foot must search for occasional breaks in the vertical rim-rock for access downward. Public road crossings are even rarer — only two of them exist in the 40 miles between the dam near Rogerson and U.S. Highway 30 as the creek flows into the Snake River.

While maybe not in the same class as the Bruneau and Jarbridge drainages in terms of scenery and recreation, the country that Salmon Falls Creek formed is spectacular. The canyon is also right on the edge of civilization, giving it one edge over those Owyhee County attractions. And that fact makes the canyon even more wonderful. One moment a driver could be speeding through farm country near Castleford; the next might find a steep grade leading the vehicle quickly into the canyon's depths.

The Lilly Grade and Balanced Rock crossings both provide good access points for those willing to enter the canyon on foot. While usually little more than a faint trail exists, often requiring a scramble along rocky side slopes or through light brush, the area offers year-round opportunities.

HUNTING

While not exactly a duck hunting paradise, the waters between the crossings always hold birds. Mallards and teal can be found on slow, open sections of the creek or in pools amidst faster water. The hunting most often involves stalking behind a screen of anything from low sagebrush to mature juniper trees with the end result, given a little luck, a rewarding excellent jumpshooting.

Mirroring the rest of southern Idaho waterfowling, the best hunting is usually found after the northern flights arrive. Don't expect to find ducks above Lilly Grade much into December, however. Near this crossing, warm spring water gurgles into the creek and keeps it from freezing — everything upstream lies over until the spring thaw.

The canyon section that does hold ducks becomes an even tougher place to venture into, however. Winter's low sun leaves much of the narrow canyon bottom in permanent shade, often giving the rough-and-tumble route a snowy or frosty glaze. Also, boulders sometimes used for a creek crossing may be glazed with ice, providing an opportunity for an unwanted slip into the cold water.

In addition to ducks, chukars can be occasionally found near the creek and chased upward toward the rim. Hunters focusing on these birds exclusively usually stay on top, finding them in the canyon's shadow from Lilly Grade southward.

FISHING

Trout fishing might be broken into two categories. The first one consists of hitting, at the right time in the spring, the slow water at Balanced Rock Park. Doug Megargle, Idaho Fish and Game regional fisheries manager, reports that the department stocks this spot annually with hatchery-reared fish.

Anywhere upstream from the park, resident wild rainbows might be the target, seeing little pressure due to the canyon's inaccessibility. And in the wildest portions of Salmon Falls Creek, deep in the desert and well off the beaten path, Megargle notes another opportunity pursued by a limited number of anglers. Here the quarry might be the redband trout which, while not large, provide the unique experience of catching a native wild fish in a remote, beautiful setting.

EXPLORING

Hikers also simply explore the canyon without pursuing finned or feathered prey. Other wildlife found solely for visual enjoyment includes swimming mammals such as beaver, muskrat, or otter. And more than one hunting dog has encountered, much to their chagrin, a porcupine.

A few deer occupy the canyon, and as might be expected, the broken landscape is prime habitat for birds of prey, including an occasional golden eagle. On the down side, the country is a perfect place to cross paths with rattlesnakes, making a

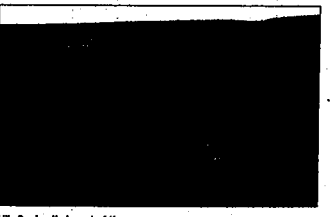
Please see CANYON, Page D2



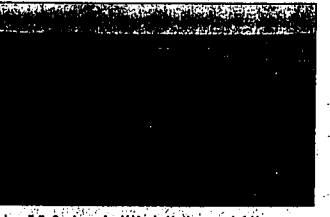
ABOVE: Water pours through a steep portion of Salmon Falls Creek. TOP: Lilly Grade offers a great view upstream.



Deck hunters often find access in the canyon.



Lilly Grade climbs out of the canyon.



Salmon Falls Creek rages hidden inside the canyon's folds.



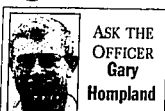
Amidst superb scenery above Balanced Rock Park, the trail gets a bit steep.

How to get there

To find City Grade, drive four miles south from Castleford. To find Balanced Rock Crossing, drive one mile north and four miles west from town. Public access into the canyon from the park is only available southward. The 1,100-foot Rogerson BLM may also show desert two-track roads that access the canyon rim from Balanced Rock to Salmon Falls Dam.

Are college students residents or nonresidents?

Question: "My son is going to college in another state and will be home on the holidays. I would like to purchase his hunting license for a Christmas gift. Is he a resident or nonresident?"



ASK THE OFFICER Gary Hompland

Answer: Your son's residency status may be either resident or nonresident. Idaho law defines a resident as "any person who has been domiciled in this state, with a bona fide intent to make this his permanent abode, for period of not less than six months immediately

preceding the date of application for any license, tag, or permit ... and who when temporarily absent from this state, continues residency with intent to return, and who does not claim any resi-

dent privileges in any other state or country for any purpose."

"The law goes on to say, 'Idaho residents shall not lose their residency in Idaho if they are absent from the state for religious (not to exceed 2 years) or full-time educational (not to exceed 7 years) purposes, full-time as defined by the educational institution attended, and do not claim residency or use resident privileges in any other state or country for any purpose.' This legislation suggests

that Idaho residents will keep their resident status for hunting and fishing while they attend an educational institution as a full-time student in another state so long as they do not claim any resident privileges of the other state.

Some of those resident privileges to consider include hunting licenses as well as business or sporting licenses in the state where they are attending school.

If your child has been living in another state less than six

months, is a full-time student, is not claiming resident tuition, and hasn't purchased a resident hunting or fishing license in the state they are attending school they are still a resident for the hunting and fishing.

We recommend the purchase of a gift certificate as the best method to purchase a sporting license for someone else. It can be redeemed by the intended recipient at your nearest Fish and Game regional office. What a great gift idea that lasts the

entire year! Reference Idaho Code 36-202(c).

If you have any further questions you may call the Magic Valley Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at (208)324-4350 or e-mail us at the Fish and Game web site at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

Gary Hompland is a Regional Conservation Officer for Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Moose on the move

Animals' numbers have risen, especially in Northwest

By Keith Ridler - Associated Press writer

MOOSE — When moose summered out of the last Ice Age, they left behind an array of extinct species. Woolly mammoths, sabertooth cats, dire wolves, huge short-faced bears, and the very similar stag moose.

Modern day moose are still on the move. Experts say they're now thriving in a new landscape where habitat changes spurred by increasing human influences — have allowed them to break out of isolated strongholds in recent decades.

"Forty years ago a moose was like an exotic. It was like a giraffe, nobody had any moose," said Ed Mitchell, information supervisor with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. "They've really spread since then."

Lewis and Clark never saw a moose when they crossed Idaho 200 years ago, and trappers' journals note moose as rare occurrences, said Ed Towell of Idaho Fish and Game.

In 1939, Idaho had 1,000 moose. Today, the state has an estimated population of

15,000 to 25,000 Shiras moose, more than any other state.

The Shiras moose is the smallest subspecies, inhabiting parts of the Rocky Mountain West. A bull averages less than 800 pounds — about half the size of an Alaska Yukon moose.

Experts say smaller moose have better cope with warmer temperatures and live farther south. The result is booming populations across the region. Wyoming now has up to 10,000 moose. Utah has about 4,500, Montana is home to 5,000, and Washington has about 1,000, mostly in the northeast corner of the state.

"Moose may have been at low densities (200 years ago)," said Joel Berger, a senior scientist with the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society and a professor at the University of Montana. "Certainly not at the densities we see today."

Logging and development are credited with opening up areas and allowing the growth of shrubs, the main ingredient in a moose diet. At the same time, predators were largely killed off from wide areas of moose territory.

"Habitat disturbance created by industry has favored some wildlife species, moose being one," said Berger, who conducted a

10-year study of moose in Grand Teton National Park. "And with the historic loss of grizzly bears and wolves, until the 1990s, there were huge areas of Idaho that had good vegetation and no large carnivores."

"Moose are all of a sudden like a kid in a candy store," he said.

Moose tend to be solitary animals that don't form herds. And despite a whimsical appearance that lends itself to cartoon characters and a brisk trinket trade in national parks, they have unique survival strategies that helped them outlive the fearsome beasts they coexisted with during the last Ice Age.

Females give birth at the same time but far apart from each other to limit how many calves are killed by predators, Berger said, and female moose will defend their young.

The population boom has been a boon for hunters, who have made them one of the most sought after big game animals in states where they are found. Hunting permits are distributed on a limited basis, and some states restrict them to once in a lifetime.

The question is how long the boom can last.

In states where wolves and grizzlies are rebounding, biologists wonder how many

moose are falling victim to these predators. Berger's study found that only 1 percent of moose deaths in Grand Teton National Park were due to wolves. About 15 percent died from grizzly attacks.

The rest fell victim to starvation, hunters or vehicle accidents.

Warming temperatures could hinder moose populations, particularly along the southern tier of their current range, since the animals don't care for temperatures above 55 degrees.

Changing logging practices also could mean changes for the moose, Berger said.

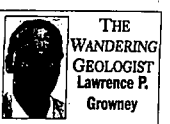
Logged forests tend to produce the kind of browse moose like for about 10 to 30 years, before it's not productive for moose. However, logging has slowed in some areas.

In Utah, most of the moose are in the northeastern part of the state, said Anis Aoudé, big game coordinator with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

"The population has been going up steadily since the 1930s or so," he said. "I think it's different land-use patterns. Logging and so on has created better habitat. But current land use has kind of changed, so we've reached the point where we're no longer growing our moose herd so much."

Geology is not always what it appears to be

Over the years, I have encountered a number of geological situations that, on the surface, appeared to be obvious, when in fact, they really weren't. How do you get pockets of sand out in the middle of the basin 20 miles from the nearest stream, or a shield volcano with a near vertical two hundred foot cliff on one side when the rest is spread out evenly? To understand how these features form requires more than reading a book or looking at some pictures of geology; they require understanding how geologic processes work, and how natural materials respond, to create the landscape observed.



THE WANDERING GEOLOGIST Lawrence P. Grouney

"This brings me to one of the many oddities encountered over my years of field work and personal travel. Just north of the Utah/Nevada border in southern Cassia County south of Oakes, Cook Banks Creek cuts through a thick section of water-laid white to light-gray compacted rhyolite ash. Covering this loose ash is the reddish-brown welded rhyolite typical of that seen around the Snake River Plain. This welded rhyolite has preserved much of the loose ash except where stream erosion has cut through it to form the numerous steep-sided canyons typical of the South Hills.

There are a number of interesting features in this area, sculpted hoodoos, suspended ledges, perite, ancient stream deposits, obsidian and its look-alike relative, lignite, and possible, canyon-filling, welded rhyolite flows. But the most unusual feature has to be the presence of the cave at Coal Banks Spring. A prominent hole eight feet across, six feet deep and about two feet high can be found at the head of the spring. To the uninitiated, this feature would appear to be a natural cave, formed as a result of the spring washing the loose ash from the site. While the loose ash is

admittedly, easy to excavate, the conundrum is, how can a cave survive if the material is so soft? Groundwater working its way through the loose ash of the hillside drips into the cavern creating a shallow pond in a setting that looks similar to those seen in limestone caves. For this cavern to have formed, something out of the ordinary had to have happened. Either, specific layers within the ash are more cemented, or something else, not related to the physical attributes of the material must have occurred.

As it turns out, this feature is not natural. It is the site of an exploratory lignite mine. Lignite is the lowest grade of coal a somewhat sooty, brown material that has a fairly low energy output. Its occurrence here fits well with the general geological clues found throughout the area that of a wet or swampy environment. But to form lignite, an abundant source of organic material is needed and apparently, very little existed. As a result, only a small amount of lignite was formed and thus, the small size of the excavation cavern.

This example points out the dangers of making quick assumptions regarding the true nature of geological features that appear to be out of place in terms of their setting, shape, or location. Always keep in mind that most features, and oftentimes, even entire landscapes, could have formed in more than one way.

Lawrence P. Grouney may be reached at larrypgrouney@aol.com.

OUTDOOR BRIEFS

Sun Valley to open more lifts Saturday

SUN VALLEY — Sun Valley Resort will open additional lifts and terrain Saturday.

The Christmas Quad No. 3 will open on Idaho and Fall Dollar on Dollar Mountain will also open.

Ski conditions and terrain are subject to change. Please call the Sun Valley Snow Report, 800-438-1150 or visit www.sunvalley.com for updated information.

Project WILD classes upcoming

JEROME — The Idaho Department of Fish and Game released its pair of Project WILD workshop dates for the winter season. Those participating in the programs can learn more about trout and how to raise them in the classroom, and about how mule deer survive in Idaho's rugged environment.

WILD about Trout in the Classroom is scheduled for Jan. 11 and 12, 2008, and WILD about Mule Deer is being offered Feb. 22 and 23. Both workshops will be held at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Regional office in Jerome. The classes will run from 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday with the Saturday session going from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Project WILD is a wildlife-oriented, multi-disciplinary set of activities developed for educators, youth leaders or anyone working with the youth. The activities develop awareness, knowledge, and skills concerning the relationships between humans, wildlife and the natural world. Wildlife concepts are related to social studies, mathematics, language arts

and other subjects and do not take time away from established curricula.

Each workshop actively involves participants in the learning activities and demonstrates techniques for integrating the supplemental material into classroom rooms and informal learning settings. Cost for the 15-hour workshop is \$20, and participants may opt to receive one hour of graduate or undergraduate credit for an additional fee of \$50.

Young people are fascinated by the study of wildlife, opening windows of learning into all subject areas. Project WILD is used in 50 states and seven countries, and is based on the premise that young people and their teachers have a vital interest in learning about the earth as home for people and wildlife.

More than 70 percent of Idaho teachers currently incorporate Project WILD activities into their curriculum. To register, contact Kelson Hatch at Magic Valley Regional Conservation Educator at khatch@idfg.idaho.gov or (208) 324-4389, or download registration form at http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cems/education/project_wild/.

CSI to host ski film today

TWIN FALLS — "Lost and Found," the 12th annual ski and snowboard film by Teton Gravity Research, Inc., will be hosted by the college of Southern Idaho's Outdoor Program at 8 p.m. tonight in the Rick Allen Community Room at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science.

The Herrett Center showing is one of 120 worldwide stops for the film, which features world class skiers and

snowboarders. Filmed almost entirely in North America, "Lost and Found" takes extreme snow enthusiasts heli-skiing at several British Columbia locations, mountains in Wyoming, Utah, and Montana, and in the Swiss and Switzerland. Those who attend will be able to enter the TGR sweepstakes. Prizes include a helicopter ski trip for two to Alaska, a winter vacation for two at Jackson Hole, an Aspen X-games vacation package, and a TGR gear package that includes skis, jackets, and other gear.

Admission to the film will be \$8 per person. CSI Outdoor Program coordinator Stacey Ward said the first 60 people through the doors at the Herrett Center will receive ski passes to Soldier Mountain. There will also be a raffle for Soldier Mountain season passes and other prizes. Tickets are \$1 each.

Parks and Rec offers group ski rates

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department is offering group rate packages for skiing and snowboarding through January and February.

A group skiing rate includes a one-hour ski clinic and lift ticket for four Sundays, Jan. 13 and 27 and Feb. 10 and 24, at Pomerelle Basin. The program starts open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and is designed for beginners or those who want to strengthen their skiing abilities. Cost is \$70 per person for the four Sunday program at 12 and up may travel alone, but ages 7 to 11 must be accompanied by a parent. Rental equipment is available at the resort for \$10 to \$15. Registration deadline is Jan. 4.

Those who prefer both skiing and snowboarding on Saturday may take advantage of a special rate on Saturdays, Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and 16, and March 1, at the Magic Mountain Ski Resort. The program is open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Cost is \$65 per person. Registration deadline is Jan. 11. Magic Mountain is offering a shuttle bus on Saturdays; visit the Web site at <http://www.magicmountainresort.com> for check-up times and locations. Ages 12 and up may ride alone.

For registration or more information contact the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department, 136 Maxwell Walk, 733-2265.

Cross country ski group to review avalanche safety

TWIN FALLS — Avalanche safety will be reviewed for members of the High Desert Nordic Association when it meets Wednesday.

The cross country ski organization will meet at 7 p.m. at Idaho Job's on Blue Lakes Boulevard North.

Information obtained through the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center will be reviewed for detecting avalanche hazards and for dealing with emergencies resulting from snow slides, Cross said.

Plans will also be made for a cross country ski trip on Saturday, Dec. 15 and for Ski Day at Magic Mountain Ski Area on Jan. 12.

The meeting is open to all persons interested in cross country or back country skiing. Further information may be obtained by calling Cress at 326-3172, Valdon Hancock at 734-5935 or David Duhaime at 733-8881.

Got a story idea? Share it with the Times-News

Share your outdoors tales or photos and you could be the talk of the town in next week's issue. Times-News Outdoors accepts the following:

- photos of big game/fish catches
- first-hand accounts (please keep these to 500 words maximum if possible) of hunting, fishing, hiking, etc. adventures

- suggestions for possible story ideas

All submissions should be sent to outdoors editor David Bashore at dobashore@magvalley.com or at Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303. Alternatively, photos may be brought to the Times-News at 132 Fairfield St. W.

Canyon

Condoed from page D1 warm-weather excursion an exercise in caution.

Even on days when wildlife might be absent, immersing oneself in the Salmon Falls Creek Canyon is still a rewarding experience. While its rugged interior extracts a price in

terms of commitment, the payoff is often superb. Finding a landscape characterized by such wildness bordering one so close to civilization, yet with wildness providing a feeling of being so far removed from the tamed, is difficult.

— from staff reports

Mule Deer Initiative in full swing

By Sven Berg
For the Times-News

In an attempt to bolster mule deer populations in the Sublett and Black Pine areas, Idaho Department of Fish and Game has unveiled the Mule Deer Initiative (MDI) as part of a series of projects aimed at increasing habitat in those units.

Fish and Game Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist Mike Todd said MDI's focus is to diversify habitats by eradicating invasive grass species like cheatgrass and crested wheatgrass and planting native species of grasses and shrubs that provide better forage and cover for mule deer.

The problem with cheatgrass and crested wheatgrass, he said, is they are so invasive they can out-compete almost all other species in the aftermath of fire, establishing a mono-culture. Also, neither of these species has much nutritional value for deer.

"The noxious weed problem is a serious, serious issue in Idaho and the whole country," Todd said. "Cheatgrass is probably the single biggest problem we've got in the West right now because it is so invasive."

To address the weed problem, MDI would provide a channel for Fish and Game to work with private landowners—in units 56 and 57—the Sublett and Black Pine areas—toward improving mule deer habitat.

Besides grasses, Todd said there will be efforts to plant bitterbrush—a mid-sized shrub that provides excellent forage and some cover for mule deer. MDI's main focus is landowners enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)—a federal program that "provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on their land," according to the Web site for U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

CRP landowners can enroll in MDI without cost, and other cost-sharing programs are available to landowners not enrolled in CRP. George Warrell, chairman of the Mini-Cassia chapter of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SPFW), said he is glad to see Fish and Game address the problem of what he believes are dwindling mule deer populations.

"I think anything to improve mule deer population is a step in the right direction," he said. "Certain things I like about (MDI) is they realize there's a problem, because I think they've been in denial for quite a while."

But Warrell said Fish and Game's approach to increasing mule deer populations is too narrow. "They're focusing too much on the unit itself—on building populations—instead of focusing on building populations in general," he said. "I just want to see more deer."

Warrell said he also believes making programs like MDI work will require input from federal agencies like Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service, not just private landowners.

"Until you have these certain people on board and have a good working relationship, you're not going to do anything," he said. "I feel like they haven't focused on that enough to build the relationship."

Student volunteers reseed area burned in 2006 fire season

By Mary Dudley
For the Times-News

The 2006 fire season didn't make headlines like this year's, but it was not less significant in its impact. In August alone, more than 60 square miles of wildlife habitat, in and around Squaw Butte north of Emmett, went up in smoke as a result of lightning strikes. The largest blaze—the Cherry fire—consumed more than 60,000 acres from Squaw Butte north beyond Ola on both sides of Butte ridge.

In the fire's aftermath, local volunteers responded, partnering with Fish and Game to collect seed, plant seedlings and donate time and money to the restoration effort. Gina Thornton of Black Canyon Sporting Goods in Emmett helped publicize the need to restore bitterbrush and sagebrush to the burned areas to the local community. Thornton collected donations from patrons to purchase native shrub seedlings and organized volunteers to help collect sagebrush seed last November. She then helped organize volunteers to plant bitterbrush and sagebrush seedlings on the burn in March.

Squaw Butte and Willow Ridge are well known for providing critical big game winter range for thousands of deer and elk. The "Butte," as locals call the long north/south ridge from Squaw Butte to Mill Creek Summit, provides critical transition range for deer and elk during their fall migration from the higher forested mountains to the east to the lower slopes on the west side of the Butte and Willow Ridge.

Each spring, beginning in March, the Butte provides critical transition range for those same animals moving back to West Mountain and other mountains to the east for the summer. These age-old cycles of movement through transition, summer and winter ranges depend upon healthy native habitats.

Emmett-area volunteers joined volunteers from other locations to collect sagebrush seed on Nov. 18, 2006 nearaddock Valley Reservoir. The volunteers' work produced 66 pounds of sagebrush seed; enough to grow thousands of seedlings at Lucky Peak Nursery which propagates the seed into young plants which volunteers plant later.

That same month, 46 Fayette High School students collected another 72 pounds of sagebrush seed near New Plymouth. Biology teacher Jerry Lunsford and his students have helped Fish and Game collect sagebrush seed every fall since 1996. Even Fayette High School Principal Sam Nelson beat the bushes alongside students and other community volunteers to help the cause.

"Students will forget a lot of what they hear in the classroom," Lunsford said. "But they will always remember the day they planted bitterbrush or collected sagebrush seed."

As winter retreated from the lowlands, volunteers were gearing up for the second stage of habitat restoration on Squaw Butte. In March, 140 volunteers worked with Fish and Game staff to plant more than 11,000 bitterbrush seedlings on a large portion of land scorched by the Cherry Fire. Lunsford's sophomore biology students and seven other volunteers planted another 5,000 bitterbrush seedlings later that month (bringing the total number of bitterbrush seedlings planted by Lunsford's students since 1997 to more than 50,000). That month, another 60



Volunteers plant new shrubs among boulders, rocks and charred skeletons of bitterbrush that burned in the Cherry Fire on Squaw Butte in August 2006.



Student volunteers help restore bitterbrush to an area north of Sweet burned in the 2006 Cherry Fire.



A volunteer plants bitterbrush seedlings on an area north of Sweet, burned in the August 2006 Cherry Fire.

As winter retreated from the lowlands, volunteers were gearing up for the second stage of habitat restoration on Squaw Butte. In March, 140 volunteers worked with Fish and Game staff to plant more than 11,000 bitterbrush seedlings on a large portion of land scorched by the Cherry Fire. Lunsford's sophomore biology students and seven other volunteers planted another 5,000 bitterbrush seedlings later that month (bringing the total number of bitterbrush seedlings planted by Lunsford's students since 1997 to more than 50,000). That month, another 60

volunteers, recruited by Gina Thornton, planted 6,000 bitterbrush seedlings among rocks, blackened bitterbrush, sagebrush skeletons and ash. It proved to be a true community effort, with the local Albertsons store donating drinks and snacks for weary volunteers.

Restoration of Squaw Butte and other wildlife habitats lost to wildfire will continue for years to come. Volunteers will partner with Fish and Game again this fall to collect sagebrush seed and follow up those efforts

by planting bitterbrush and sagebrush seedlings in March. Fish and Game could not accomplish native habitat restoration projects of this magnitude without the generous support and workforce provided by volunteers.

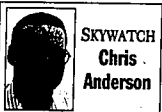
For those interested in volunteer work, Fish and Game has projects available every month of the year. Call 327-7095 or 327-7099 to receive a project schedule and to learn more about volunteering.

Summer stars haven't left the sky yet

Look high in the west about 6 p.m. and you'll see a large triangle of three bright stars. Together they're known as the Summer Triangle, which may seem a little peculiar with the start of winter just two weeks away.

The usual trick for seeing stars in the "wrong" season is to do your star gazing before dawn. For example, Hercules—a late spring evening constellation—currently appears in the eastern-northeast sky at the start of morning twilight. So why are summer stars still visible in the evening sky?

Two factors are at play here. One is that the Summer Triangle appears just above the eastern horizon at the end of evening twilight in late May. Earth circles the sun at the rate of about one degree per day (360 degrees per 365 days), so stars appear to move westward one degree per night. So you'll think that after six months the Summer Triangle would



SKYWATCH
Chris Anderson

have moved half way around the sky, putting it just below the western horizon at the end of evening twilight, and thus out of view.

The Summer Triangle hasn't yet faded into the sunset because the sun's been heading south ever since the Autumnal Equinox in late September.

The nights have been getting longer and, most importantly, the sun has been setting earlier. So the sky gets dark before the Summer Triangle has a chance to slip below the horizon.

The opposite effect occurs as well, making winter stars "appear" too early. While Taurus is currently visible in the early eastern sky at the

Sky Calendar
through Thursday

Planets:
Mercury: low
Venus: SE, low
Mars: SW, high
Jupiter: NW, low
Saturn: NW, low
One hour after sunset:
Mars: visible
Moon: New Moon
10:40 a.m.

end of evening twilight (about 6:45 p.m.), six months from now the northward-moving sun will be in the midst of Taurus, and needless to say they'll both be well below the horizon by dark.

Next week: Cosmic doom saying and the end of the world.

Chris Anderson is production specialist and observatory manager at the Faulkner Planetarium at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho.

Your chance to write

Ever read the Times-News and wondered what it would be like to write for your local paper? Here's your chance. Times-News outdoors or columnist in the weekly outdoors section. Correspondents and columnists must be dedicated to the outdoors, be able to write clean copy, and excel on strict deadlines. Columnists must demonstrate a level of expertise in the subject they wish to write about. Available column topics include fishing, hiking, rock climbing, skiing and a number of other subjects. Please send a letter of interest and writing samples to outdoors editor David Bashore at dbashore@magvalley.com or at Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

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QUESTION: Bobbi wrote: "I have a file in bankruptcy because of medical bills, but I have another problem: I haven't filed taxes in years and I'm sure I owe the government money. Can I get rid of my taxes in bankruptcy?"

ANSWER: The general rule is that income tax debts are dischargeable in bankruptcy only if the returns were timely filed and more than 3 years have passed since the last allowable filing extension date of the tax filing deadline for the years in question. Sometimes, even if you haven't filed a return, the tax debt can be discharged if the taxing authority has assessed your taxes based on information available and more than 3 years have passed since the assessment. However, you may have a larger problem. The bankruptcy code provides that your case be dismissed if you have not filed a return for each of the 4 tax years preceding the filing of your bankruptcy case. If your case were dismissed, you probably could not re-file for 6 months, and even then you might not receive the standard protections from your creditors imposed by the automatic stay. Therefore, you should first file tax returns for all years that you had a filing requirement. Then, because taxes in bankruptcy pose such complex issues, you should consult with a professional bankruptcy attorney before filing your bankruptcy case.

Bradley H. Rice
Attorney at Law
Free Consultation
212 2nd Ave. West, Suite 200
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FRIDAY
DECEMBER 7, 2007

Dangling incentives

Retailers offering deals for shoppers after uncertain start to holiday season

By Anne D'Innocenzia
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — One of the clearest signs that retailers are nervous this holiday season is likely to be found at Wal-Mart stores this weekend, stacks of Webkinz.

The fiercely popular Webkinz, plush toys that children collect and use the Internet to interact with, until recently were only sold in gift shops and other independent retailers. But Wal-Mart Stores Inc. scored a limited-time deal to sell Webkinz, hoping the cute little animals will draw shoppers and give the world's largest retailer a respectable season.

A difficult retail environment — evidenced by mixed sales reports retailers released on Thursday — has other retailers straining to come up with promotions. But retailers already know this is going to be a consumer-driven season, more so than usual. If the exclusives and special deals don't work,

Retail sales

Despite a Thanksgiving weekend full of discounts, consumers pulled back, leaving retailers with mixed sales results.

Percent change in major retailers' sales compared to Nov. 2006

November 2007

Saks Inc.	25.7%	▲
Macy's Inc.	13.4%	▲
Target Corp.	10.8%	▲
Nordstrom Inc.	8.7%	▲
J.C. Penney Co.	2.6%	▲
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	1.5%	▲
Limited	-7.6%	▼

NOTE: Sales include those from stores opened for at least one year. Reporting details vary slightly.
*On a calendar-adjusted basis, some store sales increased only 1.1 percent.

already planning big discounts between now and Dec. 25 will find themselves having to slash prices even more heavily — and possibly see their profits falter along the way.

Thursday's reports showed that retailers had a solid Thanksgiving weekend, but business has dropped off even more than normal in the days since. Target Corp. warned that it may not meet its earnings-per-share growth goal for the fourth quarter if sales don't improve significantly.

The "consumer splurge" on Black Friday and then she was spent," said Wachovia Capital Markets LLC analyst John D. Morris. "The question is, when will she resurface?"

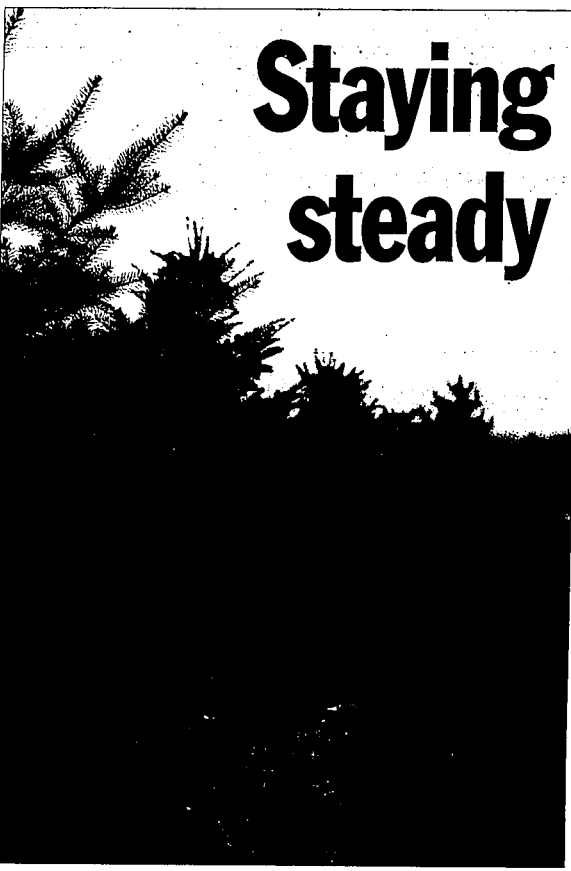
Deal reached with mortgage industry for 5-year rate freeze

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of strapped homeowners could get some relief from a plan negotiated by the Bush administration to freeze interest rates on subprime mortgages that are scheduled to rise in the coming months.

"There is no perfect solution," President Bush said Thursday as he announced an agreement hammered out with the mortgage industry. "The homeowners deserve our help. The steps I've outlined today are a sensible response to a serious challenge."

Bush has been accused of moving too slowly to address a crisis that has spread to the broader financial market. But he also was careful not to sound as if he were imposing a government solution and violating his free-market principles. He billed his plan as a voluntary, private-sector arrangement that involves no government money.

"We should not bail out lenders, real estate speculators or those made the reckless decision to buy a home they knew they could never afford," Bush said after meeting with industry leaders at the White House. "But there are some responsible homeowners who could avoid foreclosure with some assistance."



Trees grow in rows Tuesday afternoon at The Tree Field just east of Twin Falls.

Christmas tree vendors say sales remain consistent, but not growing

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

With thousands of new homes built in the Maple Valley, Christmas tree farmers and vendors hoped that their sales would mirror the trend.

Unfortunately that hasn't been the case, said John Lloyd of Lloyd Family Christmas Trees who have been hauling fresh-cut evergreens to Twin Falls for the past 57 years.

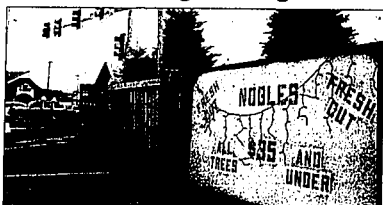
"Tree sales have held pretty even for the past five years," he said. "We expected, with all the new building, that sales would be up some but that just hasn't been the case."

Zon Lloyd, John's father and the company's originator said the business will sell about 5,000 trees each year. To maximize their exposure to potential clients they have set up shop in the parking lot of Bush Lite Aid, at five points; and at the Kmart parking lot.

"This year has been pretty normal so far. We've kept prices pretty tolerable; haven't raised them much over the years," Zon Lloyd said.

The story remains true at the Santa's Forest tree market on Addison Avenue. Dan McClain, of Bush, manages the stand and said that so far this year, they're doing alright.

"There are plenty of places people can get fresh-cut trees



Freshly cut trees wait to be picked at a tree lot on the corner of Blue Lake Blvd. and Falls Ave. Tuesday afternoon in Twin Falls.

anyone — Home Depot, Fred Meyer and at almost every grocery store. It wasn't that way years ago but now there are plenty of trees in town," McClain said.

In order to keep trees moving off the lot and remain competitive Santa's Forest has been weedy with raising prices.

"I've noticed people are looking for lower priced trees and we've kept prices reasonable. We haven't raised prices in years but this year the sales tax isn't included in the selling price like it was in the past," McClain said.

Lacey Smith, assistant team leader at Kimberly Nurseries explained their customers are looking for big fresh-cut and live trees to decorate but that sales, on a whole, are only increasing nominally.

"With Thanksgiving a couple

of days early this year people were slow to come in and get their trees but we're seeing sales increase. This year, so far, it's been pretty typical," Smith said.

"On any given year we sell about 250 cut trees and less than 75 live trees. Sales aren't declining, and that's good, but they aren't rising much either."

Black Friday may be when retailers scramble to make a profit but for Christmas tree vendors they are preparing for the busiest sale days of the season.

"Very rarely do we sell out but this coming weekend, and next weekend will tell the tale of how our year went," John Lloyd said. "These weekends are the busiest of our year so we are just sitting back and waiting to see what happens."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Rates on 30-year mortgages fall to the lowest level in 2 years

WASHINGTON — Rates on 30-year mortgages fell sharply again this week, dropping to the lowest level in more than two years.

Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, reported Thursday that 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages averaged 5.96 percent. That was down from 6.10 percent last week and was the lowest rate since the week of Sept. 29, 2005, when they averaged 5.91 percent.

Analysts attributed the decline to worries about what a severe slump in housing and a lingering credit crunch could do to consumer confidence and the overall economy.

Rates on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, a popular choice for refinancing, slid to 5.65 percent, from 5.73 percent last week.

For five-year adjustable-rate mortgages, rates fell to 5.75 percent, compared to 5.86 percent last week.

Rates on one-year adjustable-rate mortgages edged up slightly to 5.46 percent, compared to 5.43 percent last week.

Rates on one-year adjustable-rate mortgages edged up slightly to 5.46 percent, compared to 5.43 percent last week.

Rates on one-year adjustable-rate mortgages edged up slightly to 5.46 percent, compared to 5.43 percent last week.

Ford recalling 1.1M trucks and SUVs over possible engine stall

Ford Motor Co. said Thursday it is recalling 1.17 million trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans to fix an engine sensor that could lead to engine stalling.

The recalled vehicles are all from the

1997-2003 model years with 7.3 liter diesel engines, including the Ford F-Series van, Excursion full-size sport utility vehicle, and F-450 Super Duty and F-550 Super Duty trucks.

Dealers will inspect the sensor and replace it at a new one free of charge. The recall is expected to begin Dec. 17, with mailing of notification letters to be completed in phases by May 2008. Owners can contact Ford at (866) 436-7332.

Jobless claims drop by largest amount in three months

The number of laid off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits fell last week by the largest amount in three months.

The Labor Department reported that applications for jobless benefits dipped by 15,000 last week to a total of 339,000. The decline was the largest since the level of claims had dipped by 22,000 in the first week of September.

However, economists are still expecting the labor market to weaken under the impact of a variety of blows to the economy, including a downturn in housing, a growing credit crunch and rising energy prices.

— from wire reports

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	25.93	▲ 1.54	Dell Inc.	24.95	▲ .64	Idacorp	36.38	▲ .58
Lithia Mo.	15.55	▲ .65	Micron	9.26	▲ .31	Supervalu	39.79	▼ .46

COMMODITIES

For more see page D5

Live cattle	93.85	▲ .13	Jan. Oil	90.23	▲ 2.74
Jan. gold	804.1	▲ 3.4	(Light sweet crude by barrel)		

What to expect today in business

• WASHINGTON — Labor Department reports an employment for November. • WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve reports on consumer credit for October.

MUTUAL FUNDS

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with multiple columns listing various mutual funds, their performance metrics, and commodity futures prices for different contracts.

CHEESE

POTATOES

LIVESTOCK

BEANS

GRAINS

METALS/MONEY

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET SUMMARY

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table listing New York Stock Exchange data, including major indices like S&P 500, Dow Jones, and various sector indices.

NYSE

Table showing NYSE Most Active stocks, including company names, volume, and price changes.

AMEX

Table showing AMEX Most Active stocks, including company names, volume, and price changes.

NASDAQ

Table showing NASDAQ Most Active stocks, including company names, volume, and price changes.

INDEXES

Table listing various market indices and their current values.

STOCKS OF INTEREST

Table listing individual stocks of interest with their names, prices, and changes.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Text explaining how to read the market report, including symbols for gains, losses, and volume.

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AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table listing American Stock Exchange data, including various indices and stock prices.

Forest Service works to preserve U.S. open space

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — As homes and shopping malls proliferate, the United States loses about 6,000 acres of open space every day.

Now the Forest Service is developing a national strategy to protect and conserve open space.

The plan, announced Thursday, will use partnerships with private landowners and state and local governments to identify areas most in need of protection, said Forest

Service Chief Gail Kimbrell.

The Forest Service also will work with Congress to create tax breaks and other incentives to promote conservation and reduce development in ecologically sensitive areas, she said. The conservation plan takes effect immediately and does not require congressional approval.

The agency's vision stretches far beyond the 193 million acres of national forests, Kimbrell said, noting that more than half the nation's 800 million acres of forest land is privately owned.

"If people have an incentive to

hold on to wildlands (rather than develop them), we as a society benefit from that," she said in an interview. "We all benefit from keeping wildlands wild."

Kimbrell said she was "not looking to turn that world green on a map," but said private landowners, local governments and others look to the Forest Service for expertise to preserve forests and other wildlands.

"Our vision for the 21st century is an interconnected network of open space across the landscape — one that supports healthy ecosystems, renewable resources and high quality

of life for Americans," she said.

National forests and grasslands provide the largest single source of fresh water in the United States, habitat for a third of all federally listed or endangered species and millions of recreation opportunities, Kimbrell said. About 205 million visits are made annually to national forests.

Preserving open space is one of her top four goals, Kimbrell said. The others are improving forest health to reduce the risk of wildfire, controlling invasive species and managing outdoor recreation.

The Forest Service calls those the "Four Threats" and devotes most of its resources to address them.

The agency predicts that more than 21 million acres of rural private lands near national forests and 44 million acres of private forest land will be developed by 2030.

"Growth and development in wildlands increases the risk of wildfire for people and property, affects the Forest Service's ability to manage the public lands ... and reduces the capacity of privately owned land to provide water, recreation and habitat," Kimbrell said.



A Los Angeles County fireflycatcher battles a blaze engulfing a home No. 24 in Malibu, Calif.

Forest Service: Logging rule saved thousands of homes in California fires

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A Bush administration rule that allowed expedited logging on national-forests-saved thousands of homes during the recent wildfires in California, Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbrell said Thursday.

Kimbrell cited "some real vivid examples" in California where the Forest Service practice of logging without first analyzing its effect on the environment saved homes and lives.

"The hazardous fuel treatments were instrumental saving thousands of homes" in southern California during recent wildfires near San Diego and Lake Arrowhead, Kimbrell said.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the practice Wednesday, saying it violated the National Environmental

Policy Act. Kimbrell said the administration was considering whether to appeal.

The rule allowing expedited logging was "not a blanket to go through all of California" to thin forests, Kimbrell said. "We are very specific where we do it."

While the 2003 rule allows logging of up to 1,000 acres without environmental review, most projects are closer to 40 or 50 acres, Kimbrell said. "It's surgically selected" in areas with low environmental risk, she said.

The 2003 rule was billed as a way to reduce wildfires as part of the Bush administration's "Healthy Forests Initiative." It exempted from environmental review logging projects up to 1,000 acres prescribed forest burns up to 4,500 acres.

In its opinion Wednesday, the three-judge appeals court panel said the Forest Service had failed to properly analyze the rule, causing "irreparable

injury" by allowing more than 1.2 million acres of national forest land to be logged and burned each year without studying the ecological impacts.

"The justices ruled that the Forest Service can no longer exempt such projects from environmental analysis until the rule itself can be properly analyzed."

The ruling sided with the Sierra Club and Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign.

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., called the decision an assault on common sense and reason.

"The court's overzealous interpretation of environmental regulation is placing lives and personal property in danger," said Issa, adding that the appeals court "placed greater weight on the concerns of a special interest group than the lives and welfare of Americans threatened by wildfires."

Kempthorne due to sign Colorado River water pact in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A top federal official plans to sign a sweeping interstate water sharing agreement next week that could blunt the impact of drought on the Colorado River and secure more water for southern Nevada, officials said.

The document to be signed Dec. 13 by Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne would extend until 2026 guidelines for determining surpluses and shortages of river water and for operating the key Lake Mead and Lake Powell reservoirs during shortages like the drought that has gripped the region since 2001.

"It sets up the guidelines for how the secretary would determine and declare a shortage in the lower basin," Bob Walsh, a bureau of reclamation spokesman, said Thursday. "It also addresses the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead under a complete range of conditions."

Kempthorne is due to sign a record of decision formalizing the shortage agreement after addressing an annual conference of the Colorado River — "Water Users Association at the Caesars Palace hotel-casino, Walsh said.

Water authority General Manager Pat Mulroy said the

broad pact includes about two dozen smaller agreements among the seven Colorado River states: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming in the upper basin, and Arizona, California and Nevada in the lower basin.

Some would let the Las Vegas-based Southern Nevada Water Authority tap groundwater in the Coyote Springs basin north of Las Vegas and use existing Lake Mead intakes to exercise rights to draw almost 40,000 acre-feet of water from the Virgin and Muddy rivers.

Mulroy called the agreements "lucy important" to give the authority time to build a pipeline to tap groundwater in rural basins across eastern Nevada.

The \$3.5 billion project, still in review stages, is expected to provide up to 200,000 acre-feet of water a year by 2015 for a region now nearing 2 million people and 90 percent dependent on the Colorado River for its water supply.

An acre-foot, or about 326,000 gallons, is roughly the amount used by two Las Vegas homes in one year, water authority officials say.

The pact Kempthorne is due to sign has been in the works since 2005 and follows several other accords that have eased competition

between Western states that share Colorado River water.

Interim Surplus Guidelines in 2001 spelled out how extra water would be divided up during wet years on the river, and an agreement in 2003 got California to stop taking more than its share from the Colorado.

Mulroy said the new agreement could be especially important when the Colorado River returns to normal flows.

That's when the water authority would be allowed to start using a one-time reserve of at least 400,000 acre-feet of water it would get in exchange for building a new reservoir just north of the Mexican border in California that could cost as much as \$206 million.

The 8,000-acre-foot reservoir, costing as much as \$206 million, would capture canal water that now flows into Mexico.

Mulroy said the broad pact Kempthorne is slated to sign is made up of about two dozen smaller agreements among the seven Colorado River states.

At the heart of the overall agreement are rules designed to protect minimum water levels in lakes Mead and Powell through the year 2026.

Study: Fish less, make more money

By Jeff Barnard
Associated Press writer

At a time when a quarter of the world's fisheries are considered depleted, can commercial fishermen make more money by fishing less?

A study published in the Friday edition of the journal Science says they can, with one condition.

They must be in a cooperative fishery, like those operating in New Zealand and Australia, where individual fishermen own a share of the total harvest — known as individual transferable quotas — rather than the competitive fisheries more common in the United States, where it is a race to catch the most fish.

The idea is that when there are more fish and no race to catch them, fishermen spend less on fuel and other costs chasing far and wide to fill their nets, and can concentrate on delivering a high-quality product to the dock, said lead author Quentin Grafton, research director at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at Australian National University.


Leaving more fish in the sea — a fishery management target called maximum economic yield — leads to higher profits than the traditional target known as maximum sustainable yield,

the study said.

"We like to say it's a win-win," said co-author Rhy Hilborn, professor of fishery sciences at the University of Washington. "You have fishermen making more money. You have ecosystems that are healthier. And you have more

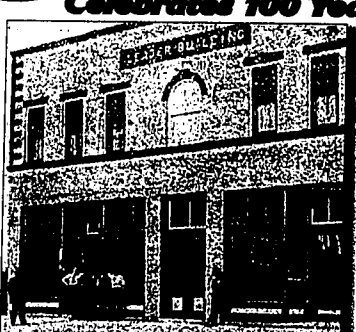
fish in the ocean."

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has classified 25 percent of the world's fish stocks as depleted, meaning populations are below a level that produces a maximum sustainable yield.



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NASA delays launch after finding fuel tank problem

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press writer

CAPE CANAVERIAL, Fla. — NASA called off Thursday's launch of space shuttle Atlantis after detecting problems with a pair of fuel gauges in its big external tank, a recurring problem ever since the Columbia disaster.

Shuttle managers said the new launch attempt would be no earlier than Saturday.

Preliminary indications are that the problem might be with an open circuit rather than the gauges themselves — perhaps a spliced line or had connector — which would be easier to fix.

"We're keeping all our options open," said launch director Doug Lyons.

Shuttle managers planned to meet in the afternoon to decide on a course of action.

Lyons said he was hopeful the launch team would get another crack at getting Atlantis off the pad before the

end of next week. Because of poor sun angles and computer concerns, NASA would have to wait until the beginning of January to launch Atlantis and the European Space Agency's space station lab, Columbus, if they aren't flying by next Thursday or Friday.

Thursday's postponement was a keen disappointment for the European Space Agency. The \$2 billion lab has been in the works for nearly a quarter-century, and was held up for years by NASA's repeated space station design problems and, more recently, the 2003 Columbia tragedy.

"Of course, we would love to fly on time, but we want to fly when it's safe," said Alan Thirkettle, the European space station program manager.

The three astronauts aboard the international space station also were disappointed by the news.

Shuttle commander

Stephen Frick passed on some consoling remarks through Mission Control.

"He says that he's sorry they're going to be a little bit late and they'll get there as soon as they can." Mission

Control radioed the space station crew. "Aw, that was sweet," commander Peggy Whitson replied from orbit.

NASA had begun filling Atlantis' fuel tank and was testing the four engine-cutoff

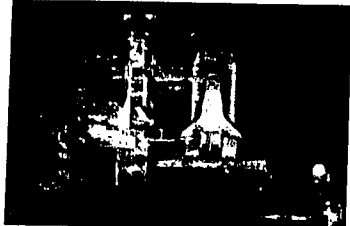
sensors in the liquid hydrogen section when two of them failed.

Even though they were commanded to indicate the tank was empty, the two kept showing the tank was

full, Lyons said.

At least three of these sensors must work properly to launch.

"Right then, we knew we had an issue and we stopped," Lyons said.



Space shuttle Atlantis sits ready on pad 39A after the rotating service structure was rolled back to prepare for launch at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Wednesday.

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Holiday Special!

Japanese spacecraft confirms solar magnetic wave theory

Los Angeles Times

Data from the Japanese Hinode spacecraft have confirmed that a set of long-theorized magnetic waves help power the solar wind that drives charged particles to the frigid boundary of the solar system.

Called Alfvén waves in honor of the Swedish scientist who proposed their existence 60 years ago, they play an important role in accelerating the solar wind to speeds of around 2 million mph, according to results to be published Friday in the journal Science.

"Until now, Alfvén waves have been impossible to observe because of limited resolution of available instruments," said Alexei Paschos, a Hinode scientist at NASA in Washington, D.C.

"With the help of Hinode, we are now able to see direct evidence of Alfvén waves."

Hinode was launched in September 2006, the latest in a string of spacecraft trying to unravel long-standing solar mysteries, such as the origin of the sun's huge magnetic field, and the explanation behind the fact that the sun's atmosphere — or corona — is nearly a million degrees hotter than the surface.

In many ways, scientists say, the solar wind behaves like a wind blowing on Earth. Instead of leaves and tree branches flopping around,

the solar wind propels a stream of electrically charged gas away from the sun in all directions.

The solar wind is part of a solar weather machine that generates sunspots, flares and big space storms called coronal mass ejections, which can knock power grids on Earth out of service. As human societies have grown more dependent upon technology, scientists have come to realize that understanding how the sun works is more than a matter of curiosity.

Lives can depend on being able to predict major solar events. A big radiation storm in 1972, during America's era of manned lunar exploration, could have had lethal consequences, according to Ron Zwickl, a spokesman for the Space Environment Center in Boulder, Colo.

Had there been astronauts on the moon at the time, "I doubt that any of them would have lived as long," Zwickl said.

Magnetic Alfvén waves have always been a leading candidate as the force behind the solar wind. Theoretically, they could efficiently transfer energy from the surface through the corona and into the solar wind.

With a suite of instruments including a 20-inch optical telescope, an X-ray telescope and a spectrometer, Hinode has been able to observe the sun's boiling exterior with unusual precision.

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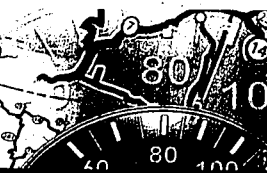
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The Times-News

Friday, December 30, 2007

Page E-1

2008 KIA AMANTI SEDAN

Flagship Quality, Budget Price!

HeadWorthy!
By Ken Chester, Jr.
Motor News Media Corporation

As the automaker's flagship sedan, the Amanti was the start of a shift in consumer impressions of the automaker as a maker of small entry-level cars to that of a company providing value in a broader range of segments in the American marketplace.

Impressively sophisticated and refined, Kia gave the Amanti a complete freshening last year inside and out. Changes, upgrades and enhancements to the exterior include: redesigned hood, radiator grille, head lamps, front and rear bumpers, alloy wheels, trunk decklid, dual exhaust (replaces single exhaust), and rear quarter panel. Standard 235/55R17 tires offer a choice between machined or chrome finish alloy wheels.

Interior changes and enhancements include: a redesigned instrument panel, center fascia, floor console, meter cluster, audio head unit, steering wheel controls, cloth fabric pattern, new white-blue interior illumination and standard tire pressure monitoring system. An available Premium package consists of a black interior, Supervision meter cluster, aluminum interior trim and 17-inch-tires with chrome finish alloy wheels. Power adjustable pedals are a new option.

The Amanti is powered by a velvety-smooth 3.0L V6 and joined to an electronically controlled five speed



Photo: Motor News Media Corporation

automatic transmission with overdrive and Sportmatic clutchless shifting.

On the road, the Amanti is very responsive -- plush, mannerable, and oh-so-smooth. Acceleration is strong and sure, with predictable, assuring handling.

A steel unibody serves as the foundation for the four-wheel-independent suspension system. The front suspension consists of a double wishbone system with coil springs and

an anti-roll bar. The rear suspension features a multi-link configuration with coil springs and an anti-roll bar.

The passenger cabin is a study in luxurious tastes, opulent appointments and occupant comfort. The interior is a world class environment for driver and passengers alike. Displays are easy to read. Switches and controls are intuitively simple to find and operate.

Controls for the power

mirrors, door locks, windows, front seating, fuel filler door and trunk release are built into the driver's side door. Built into the steering wheel are the controls for the cruise control and audio system. The center stack features dual zone climate controls. The armrest is both height and position adjustable, with the center console which is the essence of utility and convenience.

There are three power points located throughout

the cabin -- center of the dashboard, inside the armrest storage bin and at the rear of the center console for rear seat passengers. Speaking of rear seat occupants, Kia did not ignore them, designing in plenty of leg and hip room. The cavernous back seat features a center armrest with dual cupholders built in. Amanti's doors are big and open wide (almost 90 degrees) to facilitate entry and exit.

2008 Kia Amanti sedan by the Numbers

PRICING

The base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for the 2008 Kia Amanti sedan starts from \$25,495 with destination charges adding \$700

WHEELBASE:

110.2; overall length: 196.0; width: 72.8; height: 58.5 - all vehicle measurements are in inches.

ENGINE:

264 hp at 6,000 rpm and 260 lbs-ft of torque at 4,500 rpm.

TRANSMISSION:

electronically controlled five-speed automatic with overdrive and Sportmatic clutchless shifting.

EPA FUEL ECONOMY:

17 city/24 hwy.

CARGO CAPACITY:

15.5 cu. ft.

SAFETY FEATURES

Dual front airbags, head curtain side-impact airbags, seat-mounted side-impact airbags, tire pressure monitor, four-wheel disc brakes with anti-lock, engine immobilizer, remote keyless entry, fog lights, garage door opener, automatic headlamp control and alarm system. Optional safety features include electronic stability control, traction control and brake assist.

WARRANTY

Basic: 5-year/60,000-mile; bumper-to-bumper. Powertrain: 10-year/100,000-mile.

CORROSION:

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GMC other rebates and discounts. Payments do not include tax, title and doc fee. First 3 payments added to price of vehicle. Price may not include aftermarket add-ons. Rebates & low financing may not be combined with any other offers. Limited to stock on hand. Subject to prior sale. Pictures for illustration only. See dealer for details. Excludes some models.

1006 Trucks	1006 Trucks	1006 Trucks	1006 Trucks	1006 Trucks
CHEVY '95 ext cab, 417, 4WD, \$4,500 offer. JEEP '96 Grand Cherokee, \$3,000 offer. Call 539-5967	CHEVY '97 2500 ext cab. Only 71,000 mps. Almost new bro, 4x4, AT, AC, PW, PL, CD, CC, nice! \$10,200. 308-7743	CHEVY '97 Silverado ext cab, 4WD, white, 350 Vortec with shal, very nice condition, \$7900/offer, 969-0209	DODGE '04 2500 Heavy Duty Cummins, 4 dr, nice truck, lots of extras, 83K miles, \$24,500. 308-1320	DODGE '04 Quad cab, short bed, new rims, 60000, 89K mps, CD exc, crew, \$25,500 offer. Call 404-6503
				
CHEVY '99 Silverado 1500 ext cab, 4x4, LS, 5-0L V8, keyless entry, spray in bed liner. #71693A \$11,990.	DODGE '04 3500 Crew Cab, 4x4, flat bed, Cummins, low pig. CD, cruise. Assturd price \$23,213. Stock # 2811D	DODGE '06 Dakota 4x4, ext cab, cruise, CD, air, auto. Assturd price \$16,054. Stock #2820D	FORD '03 F-150 Crew Cab, leather, low pig. PW, PL, PM, PS, CD. Assturd price \$13987. Stock # 2824D	FORD '03 F-150 Super Crew, 4x4, Lariat, 5.4L V8, leather, chrome side bars. \$19,880. #71392AA
WILLS TOYOTA 208-733-2891 318 Shoshone St W, Twin Falls	SLUTHIA Chrysler Jeep Dodge Call 208-733-5776	SLUTHIA Chrysler Jeep Dodge Call 208-733-5776	SLUTHIA Chrysler Jeep Dodge Call 208-733-5776	WILLS TOYOTA 208-733-2891 318 Shoshone St W, Twin Falls

Thank goodness there's Coats for Kids



Idaho's long, cold winter is coming, and many children are without warm coats. The Optimist Club of Twin Falls needs new or gently used winter coats to help needy children in the Magic Valley keep warm this winter.

The annual Coats for Kids drive is underway! Children's coats may be dropped off at any of these locations: Times-News; Blockbuster, TF; US Bank, Filer; MV Bank, by Mall; KMMVT; First Federal, Washington & Eastland; Babel's; St Luke's MVRMC; Twin Falls Grocery Outlet; McDonalds, TF; Swensen's, South Washington; Fred Meyer.

Send donations to TF Optimist Club, PO Box 755, Twin Falls 83303

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

DECEMBER'S SPECIALS!!

WEEKENDER '500L	WILDWOOD 23 FBLE	WILDWOOD 25 RLS
NOW ONLY \$4,995	NOW ONLY \$11,595	NOW ONLY \$16,995

HURRY IN!

THE MOTORHOME THAT DRIVES LIKE AN SUV!

ROUTE 190 POPULAR NOW ONLY \$11,195

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Optimists Bring Out the Best in Children

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THE BIGGEST EVENT IS FINALLY HERE!

New 2008 Toyota Camry

- Available JBL Am/FM 6-disc In-dash CD changer with satellite radio capability
- Vehicle stability control (VSC) with traction control (TRAC)

New 2008 Toyota Corolla

- Vehicle stability control (VSC) with traction control (TRAC) and brake assist
- 28 MPG city/37 MPG highway*

New 2008 Toyota Matrix

- Rear cargo track system with 8 adjustable tie-down hooks and under-deck storage compartment
- 25 MPG city/31 MPG highway*

NEW 2008 TUNDRA

Customer Choice \$2,000**

Manufacturer's Suggested Cash Back on all new Toyotas

0.0% apr for 36 mos.*

3.9% apr for 48 mos.*

4.9% apr for 60 mos.*

The truck that's changing it all!

NEW 2008 CAMRY LE

Buy for \$20,880**

0.0% apr for 36 mos.*

3.9% apr for 48 mos.*

4.9% apr for 60 mos.*

33 mpg Hwy*

Includes: Automatic Transmission, Power Seat, Power Windows/Locks/Mirrors, Keyless Entry, ABS Brakes, Side Air Bags, CD/MP3 Player, Steering Wheel Audio Controls, and more!

NEW 2008 COROLLA CE

Buy for \$15,680**

0.0% apr for 36-48 mos.*

3.9% apr for 60 mos.*

35 mpg Hwy*

Includes: Automatic Transmission, Cruise Control, Power Windows/Locks, CD, and more!

NEW 2008 MATRIX

Buy for \$16,880**

0.0% apr for 36-48 mos.*

3.9% apr for 60 mos.*

31 mpg Hwy*

Includes: Automatic Transmission, Power Windows/Locks, Cruise Control, Power Windows/Locks, Keyless Entry, CD, and more!

NEW 2008 SIENNA CE

Buy for \$23,980**

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3.9% apr for 60 mos.*

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	3	9	2						
5									8
9	7								3 6
6		9	3	1					2
	1				8				
2		7	8	6					1
3	4								8 7
8									
		8	5	7					

MEDIUM #5

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for today's puzzle on page E-12.

1006 Trucks

GMC '06 Crew Cab
Duramax SLT, Allison Trans, 13K miles, one owner, \$34,500.
324-0069
2811 So. Lincoln
Jerome, ID.
SmalleyMotors

GMC '06 Sierra 1500
4x4, local, 9600, 18K miles, DVD, like new, \$26,900.
Assist
AUTO BROKFRAGE: 275 S. Idaho St.
Wendell 208-536-1900

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Wheels
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TOYOTA '01 Tacoma
SR5, exc. cab, off road pkg, 35,000K miles. \$17,950.
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2811 So. Lincoln
Jerome, ID.
SmalleyMotors

TOYOTA '06 Tacoma
SR5, exc. cab, off road pkg, 35,000K miles. \$17,950.
324-0069
2811 So. Lincoln
Jerome, ID.
SmalleyMotors

TOYOTA '01 Tacoma
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TOYOTA '06 Tacoma
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SmalleyMotors

TOYOTA '06 Tacoma
SR5, exc. cab, off road pkg, 35,000K miles. \$17,950.
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2811 So. Lincoln
Jerome, ID.
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1006 Trucks

TOYOTA '05 Tacoma
SR5 4x4, excellent shape, 69K miles. Call 208-316-0024.

1007 Truck Parts And Accessories
ENGINES Drop In Ready, 79 454 engine size, new cast and main, make of yr, 98 Volvo 250 \$1100, 96 Magnum 318, \$1100. All engines inspected and resealed. Will install! 420-2149

SNOW TIRE/IRMS for Chevy/GM, 31T plus 245/75R16. Live low \$550/each, 423-4420.

TIRES & WHEELS (4)
17" for factory 07 Ford F-150, \$350. Colby 208-280-0368

TIRES & WHEELS
Good Year Eagle LS, 75% left on local. Moza 12 spoke wheels, P275/55R20. Fits power F-150. \$1,100/each. 939-1375

1008 SUVs
CHEVROLET '05
Equinox, AWD, 4dr, LT* pkg, loaded with low miles! Only \$14,995. 491047
Call 208-780-2225

TOYOTA '06 Tacoma
4x4, nice, runs good, low miles. Must sell! \$7800/each. Call 208-404-6222 or 208-404-6314.

WANTED TRUCKS!
Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY! Buying of years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.

CHEVROLET '95
Suburban, "LT" pkg. 4x4, fully loaded! Only \$5,995. 492761
Call 208-780-2225

1008 SUVs

ALL SUVS WANTED!
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CHEVY '02
Suburban LT, exc. condition. Loaded, 107,000 miles. Financing available. \$16,500/each. 734-2322 / 948-0455

CHEVY '99 Tahoe LT
4x4, 4-door, 5.7L V8, leather, only 70,000 miles. MUST SEE! #776718 \$10,780.

WILLIS TOYOTA
208-733-2891
316 Shoshone St W, Twin Falls

CHEVY '04 Suburban
1500, 5.3L V8, tow pkg, PW, PL, cruise, one owner, new tires, 46K miles, GM Certified, 100K warranty. Only \$19,799. Stock #CJ348
208-733-3033

CHEVY '06 and '07, HHR's, both automatic with PW, PL, GM Certified with 100K warranty. Call for details. Stock# CP4430 and CP429.

CHEVY '97 Blazer, 1 owner, super clean, low miles. \$5,995. Call 208-420-3983

1008 SUVs

CHEVY '99 Blazer
S4805, '96 Tahoe S4695. Both 4x4, loaded, both low great. Call 208-308-5072.

FORD '00 Expedition
XL, 4x4, 5.4L, V8, 3" tow bar, 100K air, #77653A \$7,080.

WILLIS TOYOTA
208-733-2891
316 Shoshone St W, Twin Falls

FORD '04 Excursion
Powerstroke, Linth, DVD, 100K, cheap. \$20,500.
324-0069
2811 So. Lincoln
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SmalleyMotors

DODGE '04 Durango
4x4, SLT, 3rd seat, running boards, CD, rear air. Assured price \$15,102. Stock #2797D

GMC '03 Denali
leather, loaded, rear DVD screen, chrome wheels, super clean. \$18,498. Stock #4336.

CHEVROLET '05
Suburban, 4x4, leather, loaded, 100K miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-733-3033

1008 SUVs

DODGE '04 Durango
SLT 4x4, V8, CD, rear air, running boards, leather seats, 3rd seat, tow pkg, new tires, great car. \$15,102. \$4,600. 208-312-3558

GMC '03 Yukon Denali
one owner, DVD loaded, 68K miles, only \$20,900.

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FORD '04 Excursion
Powerstroke, Linth, DVD, 100K, cheap. \$20,500.
324-0069
2811 So. Lincoln
Jerome, ID.
SmalleyMotors

DODGE '04 Durango
4x4, SLT, 3rd seat, running boards, CD, rear air. Assured price \$15,102. Stock #2797D

GMC '03 Denali
leather, loaded, rear DVD screen, chrome wheels, super clean. \$18,498. Stock #4336.

CHEVROLET '05
Suburban, 4x4, leather, loaded, 100K miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-733-3033

1008 SUVs

FORD '02
Bronco, \$6,995.

Hertz
Call 208-312-3558

GMC '03 Yukon Denali
one owner, DVD loaded, 68K miles, only \$20,900.

Assist
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GMC '04 Yukon
fully loaded, 5.3L V8, SFI, Power package, Dual front and AC with automatic control for back passenger area. \$25,495. AM/FM Disc Changer, XM Radio, Top package, 3rd row seats, Gas guard, Gray cloth interior, onyx exterior. 107,000 miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-720-8822 FOR MORE INFO.

GMC '04 Yukon
49K miles, 4x4, leather, DVD, loaded, \$23,500.

Assist
AUTO BROKFRAGE: 275 S. Idaho St.
Wendell 208-536-1900

1006 Trucks

DODGE '06 2500 Cummins diesel, nice, exc. cab, 2WD, 88K miles, loaded, exc. cond., \$10,000. 316-3028

FORD '00 F-250 diesel crew cab, 4WD, clean \$11,000. Call 208-358-1022.

FORD '05 F-150 Super cab, exc. cond., 4x4 tow pkg., alum. wheels, REDUCED! \$18,750. 313-4691

FORD '04 F-150, XLT Crew Cab, 5.4 Triton V8, 25K miles, tow pkg., very clean. Only \$24,111. Stock #4375

CHEVROLET '05
Suburban, 4x4, leather, loaded, 100K miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-733-3033

FORD '06 F-150, XLT Crew Cab, short box, custom wheels and tires, 5.4L V8 engine, super clean. Car fax guaranteed. Only \$25,983. Stock #4290

FORD '73 4x4 High-boy, 3 1/2 ton, 4 speed, 360, drive train good, body fair, 103K original miles. \$22,000/each. 208-470-5870

FORD '74 1/2 ton, 4WD, Running, needs TLC, \$700 or best offer. Call 208-960-0697.

FORD '97 F-250, 4x4, automatic transmission, \$2,000. Call 208-312-2655

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FORD '96
F-150 CX, \$4,995.

FORD '98 F-150, 6 cyl, AC, PS, CD, AM/FM stereo, 87K miles, optional fuel tank, tow pkg., \$3900/each. Call 208-734-6584

FORD '97 F-250 4x4, Powerstroke diesel w/Garrett Turbo, long box ext cab, AT, PW, PL, remote locks. \$5,500. 308-5108

1006 Trucks

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F-250 Lariat Crew Cab, 4x4, 7.3L, 135,000 miles. \$16,500. Call 208-731-1900

GMC '03 Sierra 2500 pu HD, EX cab short box, 29,400 mls, V8 8.0 AT 2WD, \$18,500. 208-490-1273

GMC '04 Denali ext. cab, 4x4, leather, load. od., one owner. \$21,989. #C3427

GMC '06 Crew Cab, 1500, 4x4, PW, PL, cruise, new tires in exc. cond., GM Certified-with-100K-warranty. Now only \$21,989. Stock #C3427

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Suburban, 4x4, leather, loaded, 100K miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-733-3033

FORD '06 F-150, XLT Crew Cab, 5.4 Triton V8, 25K miles, tow pkg., very clean. Only \$24,111. Stock #4375

CHEVROLET '05
Suburban, 4x4, leather, loaded, 100K miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-733-3033

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GMC '03 Sierra 2500 pu HD, EX cab short box, 29,400 mls, V8 8.0 AT 2WD, \$18,500. 208-490-1273

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GMC '06 Crew Cab, 1500, 4x4, PW, PL, cruise, new tires in exc. cond., GM Certified-with-100K-warranty. Now only \$21,989. Stock #C3427

CHEVROLET '05
Suburban, 4x4, leather, loaded, 100K miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-733-3033

FORD '06 F-150, XLT Crew Cab, 5.4 Triton V8, 25K miles, tow pkg., very clean. Only \$24,111. Stock #4375

CHEVROLET '05
Suburban, 4x4, leather, loaded, 100K miles. \$12,500/each. Call 208-733-3033

FORD '06 F-150, XLT Crew Cab, 5.4 Triton V8, 25K miles, tow pkg., very clean. Only \$24,111. Stock #4375

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2004 TOYOTA CANYON LE 4-DR #10184 4 DOOR \$19,880	2006 TOYOTA SIENNA LE #10184 4 DOOR \$22,980
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GMC '06 Yukon, SLT loaded! Leather interior, exc. cond., 54K miles \$25,000. Call 208-737-1005



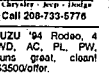
HONDA '03 Passport 4-dr, 4x4, auto, loaded! w/leather interior! ONLY \$8,995! 208-737-1005



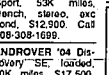
HYUNDAI '02 Santa Fe, auto, 4x4, 4 door, great. 78,000 miles, \$9,950. 324-0069. 2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.



HYUNDAI '05 Tucson 4x4, PW, PD, PM, cruise, CD. Assured price \$16,516. Stock # 2818D



ISUZU '04 Rodeo, 4 WD, AC, PL, PW, runs great, clean! \$3500/offer. Call 208-404-9490



JEOP '99 Grand Cherokee, runs great, loaded! \$3200/offer 733-4672



JEOP '99 Wrangler Sport, 53K miles, w/ach, stereo, exc cond., \$12,900. Call 208-308-1699.

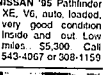


LANDROVER '04 Discovery "SE" loaded, 70K miles, \$17,500. Call 208-420-3454.



1008 SUVs

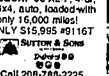
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Wheels
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NISSAN '05 Pathfinder XE, V6, auto, loaded, very good condition Inside and out Low miles. \$5,300. Call 543-4007 or 308-1159



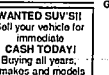
SUBARU '02 Forester S, AWD, heated cloth seats, 6 CD changer, 59K miles, auto, clean, local trade, only \$11,500



SUZUKI '06 XL7, 4-dr, 4x4, auto, loaded with ONLY \$15,995 #9116T



TOYOTA '06 Rave, 4-dr, auto, loaded with low miles! ONLY \$19,995 #92591



TOYOTA '93, 4 Runner, SR5, exc shape, sun roof, 1 owner, \$5,200 or make offer. Call 208-736-2225



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1009. Vans and Buses

ALL VANS WANTED! Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY! Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248



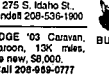
CHEVY '00 cargo van 1 ton, 350 eng. \$9,950. 324-0069. 2011 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.



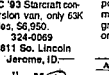
CHEVY '97 Astro van, runs well, good cond. \$3500/offer. Call 208-478-1699



CHEVY '99 Van/Lt van 3.4L, V6, PS, 6 passenger, rear air #X241A \$6,980



CHRYSLER '06 Town & Country, 25K miles, stow-n-go, power sliding doors & hatch, like new, \$19,500.



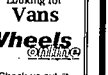
GMC '03 Starcraft conversion van, only 65K miles, \$8,950. 324-0069. 2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.



1009 Vans and Buses

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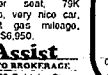
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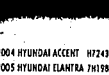
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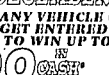
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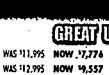
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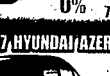
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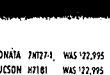
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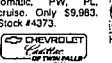
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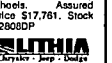
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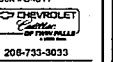
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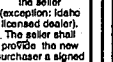
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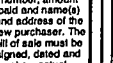


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When purchasing a vehicle, make sure that the title is in the name of the seller. Under Idaho motor vehicle code a vehicle cannot be sold unless the title is in the name of the seller (exception: Idaho licensed dealer). The seller shall provide the new purchaser a signed bill of sale showing the following: Full description of the vehicle, vehicle identification number, amount paid and name(s) and address of the new purchaser. The bill of sale must be signed, dated and show actual mileage at the time of sale. If you have any questions, please contact your local assessor's office.

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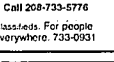
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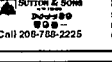
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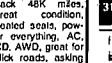
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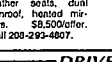
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